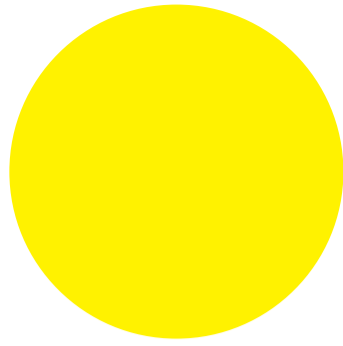


Ministry backs concert comeback, holds off on ticket price rise



8 >



Iran Daily

Vol. 8108 • Monday, May 04, 2026 • Ordibehesht 14, 1405 • Dhu al-Qadah 16, 1447 • 100,000 rials • 8 pages



> irandaily.ir

newspaper.irandaily.ir

> IranDailyWeb

Iran proposes 30-day plan to end war, rejects extended ceasefire

2 >

IRGC: Trump has to choose between 'impossible' war or 'bad deal'

The ball is in the United States' court, deputy FM says

2 >



A speedboat of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps sails near a cargo ship as Iran seizes two vessels at the Strait of Hormuz on April 21, 2026.

TASNIM

US war on Iran faces fragile, contested political backing

INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE

The war launched by the administration of Donald Trump against Iran has not only run into opposition from military and intelligence officials, but has also been met with growing public dissent. This has called the political legitimacy of the decision into question. Mehdi Paknia, an expert on US affairs, told Iran Daily that although this situation does not necessarily indicate a total lack of legitimacy, it suggests the political and social backing for the move was fragile and contested from the outset. Under such conditions, the longer or more costly the war becomes, the more these legitimacy gaps are likely to come to the fore and turn into a source of political pressure on the government.



Mehdi Paknia

IRAN DAILY: According to polls, the Trump administration's war against Iran has been described as the most unpopular military intervention in US history, with public opposition rising to over 60% in a short period. What factors have driven such widespread opposition in public opinion?

PAKNIA: The broad public opposition should be understood as the result of several factors unfolding simultaneously. First, the threat narrative has failed to convince; when society does not see a clear link between military action and an immediate threat to national security, doubt and distrust quickly set in. Second, the costly legacy of prolonged wars in the Middle East has generated a kind of strategic fatigue within American society, heightening public sensitivity to any new conflict in the same region. Alongside these factors, concerns over economic and human costs—especially at a time when domestic priorities have taken center stage—have played a significant role in shaping opposition. Finally, the deep polarization of the domestic political environment has meant that major national security decisions are less likely to be viewed through the lens of national consensus and more as subjects of political contestation between the Democratic and Republican parties. Taken together, these dynamics have caused social opposition to the war not only to build up quickly, but also to reach a broad scale. During the war, several senior military and security officials were dismissed or resigned, and reports also emerged of sharp disagreements within the Pentagon—apparently over the assessment that "Iran did not constitute an immediate threat to the United States" or over how the war should be conducted on the ground. How are these divisions within the US decision-making structure interpreted?

These divisions should rather be seen as a sign of the absence of genuine consensus at both the intelligence and strategic levels. When serious disagreements emerge within the Pentagon and security institutions over the nature of the threat, its urgency, and even the conduct of operations, it indicates that the war was not launched on the basis of a coherent assessment, but rather in an atmosphere marked by doubt and fragmentation. In such a context, dismissals and resignations are not merely administrative side issues; they serve as clear indicators of tension between the political will of the White House and the professional assessments of military and intelligence bodies. From this perspective, the issue was not limited to disagreements over battlefield tactics; rather, it is believed that there was no consensus even on the fundamental necessity of the war. If parts of the security establishment held that Iran did not pose an immediate threat to the United States, this suggests that the very foundation used to legitimize the war was contested from the outset.

Page 2 >



CBI vows no shortages, tighter liquidity control as inflation surges

3 >



ANALYSIS

Sudden exit of Emiratis from OPEC

Disagreements, antecedents, and ramifications

4 >



Three slots up for grabs as Iran names

Greco-Roman squad

6 >

