

# Iran in a Week

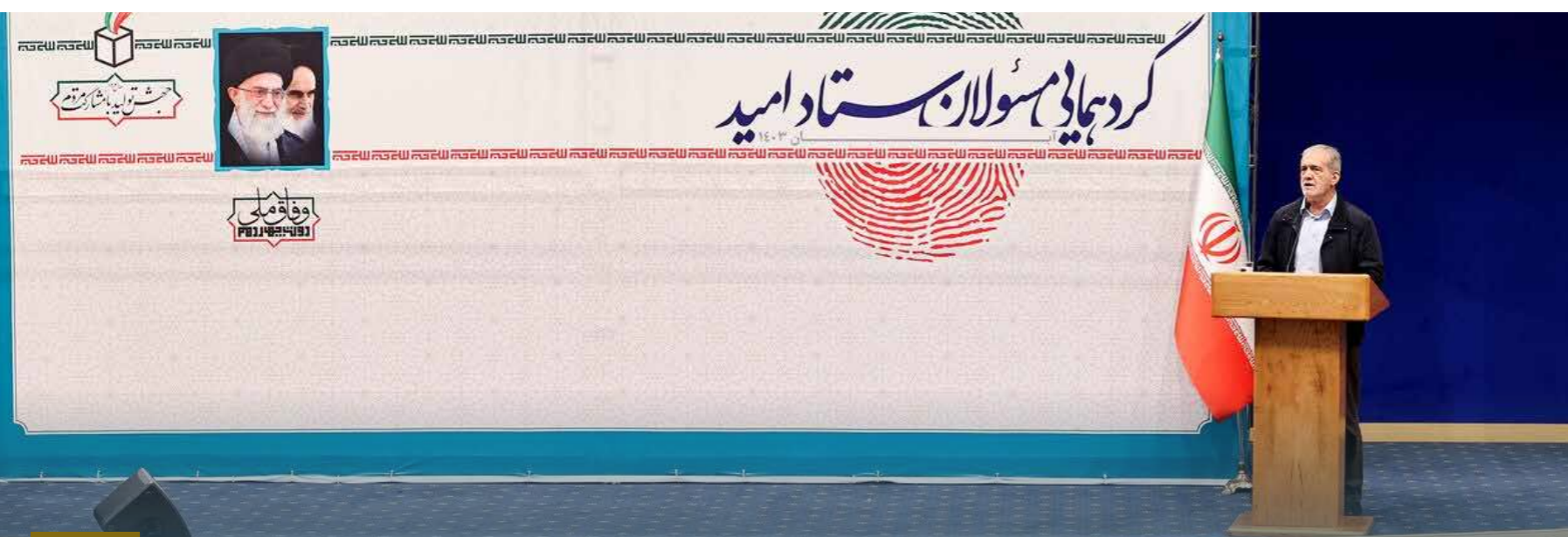
The Saudi army chief met with his Iranian counterpart in Tehran, a rare move praised by Iranian media as the first of its kind in years, considering it a step towards enhancing defense diplomacy. This visit followed a phone conversation between Iran's army chief and the Saudi defense minister last December, during which both sides agreed to strengthen defense and security cooperation in the Gulf

region. Both countries seem eager to reduce tensions and expand cooperation within the framework of the agreement signed in China last year. Moreover, Iran seemingly aims to leverage its improved relations with Saudi Arabia to deepen cooperation with the Gulf countries, recognizing Saudi Arabia's pivotal role in the Gulf Cooperation Council. Tehran's concerns over the future policies of US President-elect

Donald Trump is another factor driving greater collaboration with Saudi Arabia. Despite Iran's special interest in economic and trade cooperation with Saudi Arabia, expanding cooperation to include the military dimension underscores the importance of regional security for both Saudi Arabia and Iran, as well as concerns about the impact of regional tensions on the security and stability of both countries.

## News

### Politics:



**Pezeshkian: "It makes no difference to us who won the US elections, as our country and system rely on their internal strength and on our dear people."**



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman express hope for further expansion of Iran-Saudi relations.



Iranian Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref meets with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on the sidelines of the second emergency meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

### Security and Military:



**1 Deputy Commander of the IRGC Brigadier General Ali Fadavi:** "Our weapons depots contain sufficient types of weapons and power to strike the Zionists. The Zionists should await our response."



**2 Parliament Member Ahmad Naderi:** "They claimed that Iran conducted an intercontinental missile test from the Shahroud base. This is nothing new, but what remains delayed so far is the nuclear test and its official announcement."



**3** Chief of the General Staff of the Saudi Armed Forces Lieutenant General Fayyadh bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili visits Tehran and meets with Chief of the General Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Mohammad Bagheri.

### The Region and the World:



Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency Rafael Grossi visits Tehran at Iran's invitation to meet with senior officials.



The United States accuses an individual linked to the IRGC of plotting to assassinate Trump, an allegation Iran denies.

### Economy:



Deputy Head of the Parliament's Planning and Budget Committee **Mehdi Lahouti:** "Next year's budget will not improve people's livelihoods, as taxes have increased by 40%."



Member of the Expediency Discernment Council **Ali Larijani:** "Such a budget deficit is unprecedented, and sanctions have become a barrier to development."



**Government spokesperson:** "The government has decided to implement scheduled power outages across Iran."

### Society and Culture:



Vice President for Legal Affairs **Majid Ansari:** "Banning the virtual space is equivalent to confronting a rational and practical phenomenon."



**Social Harm Expert Saeed Saffatian:** "A study in Iran shows that the tendency toward drug use among individuals over 16 years old is at 17%."

## Editorials



**Is There Really No Difference?** Some Iranian politicians have repeatedly stated, "We don't care who becomes the US president," signaling that Iran is unwilling to change its stance, even if US policies shift. Diplomacy, however, requires flexibility and an understanding of current circumstances.



**Thousands of Wounds, No Cure:** Many Iranians — teachers, workers, and retirees — struggle daily with basic needs as infrastructure deteriorates, and essential services like electricity and gas are scarce. Despite this, Iran's foreign policy seems unlikely to lead to peace or reconciliation with global powers in the short term.



**Grossi's Talks in Tehran:** IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi visits Tehran amidst a longstanding dispute over inspections and claims by Israel regarding damage to enrichment facilities. One key topic will be Iran's decision to increase enrichment if others fail to fulfill their commitments, raising concerns for the agency.