

Iran in a Week

As the US-Iran conflict enters its seventh month, Iran’s continued production of missiles, drones and air-defense systems is raising questions about its ability to sustain a prolonged war despite crippling economic pressure. Some analysts fear a “Vietnam scenario,” in which a militarily weaker adversary withstands superior US power over an extended period. Former Defense Secretary

Leon Panetta has warned that fighting could continue for another six months, while defense-industry researcher William Hartung says the financial consequences could last for decades. The Washington Post has likewise examined the potential cost of war, amid warnings that sustained operations could undermine the United States’ ability to address threats elsewhere. Inside Iran, a

targeted gasoline price increase has added to economic tensions and could fuel localized protests. At the same time, recent Iranian missile strikes against US targets suggest changes in Tehran’s deterrence strategy. Iranian commanders insist that domestic missile and drone production remains resilient, raising questions about the hidden infrastructure sustaining these capabilities.

News

Politics:



Hassan Qashqavi, spokesman for the Parliamentary Committee on National Security and Foreign Policy: “We fully acknowledge that Iran has targeted US warships with ballistic missiles. We are in an existential war with the United States.”



Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf: “There is no doubt that the Americans have understood that the period of ‘proportionate responses’ is over. From now on, any aggression against Iran’s interests and security will be met with a faster, harsher, and more painful response.”



Former President Hassan Rouhani: “The Strait of Hormuz must not become a strait of war. What are we supposed to do with a strait through which no ships pass?”



Javad Emam, spokesman for Iran’s Reform Front: “It is the people’s right to know what the way out of the cycle of war, sanctions and economic pressure is. Vital decisions must be made with the people’s participation and consent.”



The secretary-general of the Executives of Construction Party: “China told us very clearly: Open the Strait of Hormuz, do not charge fees, resolve your problems with Saudi Arabia and the United States, and then Ghalibaf can come to China.”



Iranian parliamentarian Mohammad-Taqi Naqd-Ali: “Urgent bills have been submitted to Parliament to withdraw from the NPT.”

Security and Military:



The IRGC Navy announced that it had seized control of a US underwater “smart submarine” in the Strait of Hormuz, equipped with the latest technologies used by the US military.



IRGC: “The IRGC Aerospace Force launched several ballistic missiles targeting a US aircraft carrier and destroyer that were obstructing the movement of Iranian vessels and participating in the naval blockade, forcing them to flee the combat zone.”



A senior Iranian political-security official issued a stern warning to South Korea against yielding to US pressure or participating in any military operations in the Strait of Hormuz.



Brig. Gen. Mohammad Reza Naqdi, senior adviser to the IRGC commander-in-chief: “Most of the commanders currently in Tehran favor and lean toward an offensive doctrine, viewing it as ‘a very interesting, feasible, and highly operationally effective’ option.”

Society and Culture:



Former parliamentarian Parvaneh Salahshouri: “Every day, we witness the execution of young people who are not given fair trials.”



Iran’s university professors’ union issued a statement warning that university professors will not attend their classes unless their salaries are adjusted.



A group of Social Security pensioners gathered in several Iranian cities, including Tehran, Isfahan, Shiraz and Hamadan, to protest their living conditions.

Economy:



Iranian Parliament Deputy Speaker Haji-Babai: “The pension funds are bankrupt, and the government pays 95% of retirees’ pensions. This is one of the main causes of inflation.”



The Iranian government has decided to double the free-market price of gasoline, representing a 100% increase.



Central Bank Governor Abdolnaser Hemmati: “I sincerely tell the people that economic conditions and the management of people’s livelihoods have become difficult.”

The Region and the World:



The US Treasury Department announced sanctions against a Turkish bank and two entities affiliated with it for allegedly facilitating financial transactions worth tens of millions of dollars for the IRGC’s Quds Force.



Rosatom CEO Alexei Likhachev: “Russia will build small nuclear power plants in Iran.”



Mai Sato, the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Iran, called on the Iranian authorities to withdraw the “Foreign Influence Bill,” warning that its implementation could place Iranians’ communications with individuals and institutions abroad under even greater intelligence-service control than before.

Editorials

1



Oil War to Reshape the Geopolitics of the Middle East
The battle and the economic pressure resulting from the closure of the Strait of Hormuz are still ongoing. What is happening in the Strait of Hormuz is an oil war, while what the Americans and Israelis have in mind is to reshape the region’s geopolitics in order to advance the policies of both countries toward Iran. As in the past, some in Iran continue to pursue an extremely costly approach to foreign relations based on threats and intimidation, closing the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab al-Mandab Strait, and blowing up undersea fiber-optic cables carrying internet traffic through the straits and seas. If such tactics were effective and had produced any results, we would not be facing sanctions, war, a naval blockade and economic problems today.

2



Living in a Circle of Unknowns
Iran’s legal system has been severely weakened over the years. Aside from the numerous flaws in the drafting and passage of many laws, the law and legal principles have also lost their importance at the implementation level. The importance of people’s fundamental rights has been diminished, the boundaries between the duties and powers of state institutions have become blurred, dreams have replaced reality in the drafting of laws and officeholders have become virtually immune from accountability and punishment. When the foundation of a system begins to disintegrate, order cannot be maintained. Chaos will prevail, tomorrow will become a great unknown, and even the simplest aspects of life will turn into major question marks. Without a legal system, we are lost and bewildered in a circle of unknowns, desperately trying to escape the fear of inevitable destruction.

3



The Need to Return to the Negotiating Table
These days, the value of the national currency has fallen sharply, and the government can do little unless the broader foreign-policy situation improves — something beyond its authority. At times, the president himself points to these problems and this lack of power. But I believe he should take greater steps behind the scenes and warn about the risks this situation has created for the people. If Pakistan’s Army Chief Asim Munir, during his visit to Tehran, proposed setting aside US disregard for paragraph 13 of the understanding, under which the other provisions are implemented, and immediately resuming nuclear negotiations thereafter, this is worth considering. What would be wrong with lifting the blockade so that our banks could directly access revenues from oil and petrochemical exports, while negotiating at the same time to free ourselves from the scourge of primary and secondary sanctions?

4



See Nothing, Say Nothing, Write Nothing
Iranian citizens have grown increasingly frustrated under the pressure of accelerating food-price inflation and overall inflation. They have gradually given up Iranian rice, meat, certain dairy products, fish and chicken, which have disappeared entirely from their tables. Perhaps some politicians do not care that Iranians increasingly rely on foreign media to voice their suffering. Does refusing to talk about people’s hardships change the substance of the story? Will people’s situation improve if officials and the media remain silent? When the government remains silent, showing no concern for the impact on the public of multiple increases in the prices of bread, eggs, potatoes, onions and tea, while simultaneously seeking to double gasoline prices, it becomes clear that the Iranian people have been plunged into a severe livelihood crisis.