

Iran in a Week

Two elections scheduled a week apart — the Israeli Knesset vote on October 27 and the US midterm congressional elections on November 3 — are unfolding amid growing concerns about war and regional hegemony. Recent threats by President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have raised the possibility of renewed strikes against Iranian nuclear facilities or a wider war, potentially before or after either election. Such a conflict could

spread to Yemen, southern Lebanon, Iraq and the occupied Palestinian territories, while threatening shipping through the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz and Bab al-Mandab. Inside Iran, civilian and military leaders are emphasizing preparedness. Parliament approved Defense Minister Mehrdad Akhlaghi, whose background includes overseeing missile and drone production. Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf warned that even a

signed agreement would not guarantee protection from another US attack, pledging to pursue both negotiations and military deterrence. Meanwhile, Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) adviser Reza Naqdi claimed Iran had recovered an unexploded US bunker-busting bomb and used reverse engineering to develop a comparable weapon. Akhlaghi warned that Iran was preparing for a “fourth war” against its enemies.

News

Politics:



Ahmad Naderi, a member of the Iranian Parliament's Presiding Board: “Based on my knowledge of the current supreme leader, his fatwa on nuclear weapons will be different. We must build an atomic bomb.”



Gholamhossein Karbaschi, “reformist” politician and former mayor of Tehran: “Inviting experts onto television every night to say that we have taught America a lesson it will never forget will do nothing to alleviate the suffering of our people.”



Former Iranian President Mohammad Khatami: “The United States is a great power, and its people should be respected, just like all other peoples.”



Haj Ali Akbari, Tehran's interim Friday prayer leader: “Our people expect us to reconsider our nuclear doctrine. Why are we still committed to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)?”



Ebrahim Rezaei, a member of the Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee: “More than 10 draft bills have been prepared to withdraw from the NPT.”



Former Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif: “We do not even have enough uranium to be able to build a nuclear bomb.”

Security and Military:



Fierce clashes took place between forces of the Kurdistan Free Life Party (PJAK) and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) in the heights of Mount Shahu and the surrounding areas in Kurdistan.



Reform Front: Former Roads and Housing Minister Abbas Akhundi survived an assassination attempt following a lecture in which he criticized the policies of the Iranian republic.



Iranian news agencies: A police officer was killed in an armed attack on a police vehicle, and Afsaneh Aqila, a female commander in the Basij women's forces, was assassinated outside her home in the city of Mehrastan, Sistan and Balochistan Province.



Brigadier General Yadollah Javani, deputy for political affairs to the IRGC commander: “Internet cables in the Strait of Hormuz will be targeted in the event of an attack on Iranian infrastructure.”

Society and Culture:



Salman Es'haghi, spokesperson for the parliamentary Health and Treatment Committee: “The United States and Israel will attack us soon, and we must raise public awareness about potential nuclear incidents.”



Ahmad Nejatian, head of the Nursing Council: “Iran faces a shortage of nearly 100,000 nurses. Because of difficult working conditions and financial hardships, a number of nurses leave the healthcare system every year.”



President Masoud Pezeshkian: “Our police forces do not even have a place where they can be stationed around the clock. They move around in their vehicles and on the streets. I now want to resolve this problem.”

Economy:



World Bank: Iran's gross domestic product (GDP) is projected to contract by approximately 7.7% this year, marking one of the sharpest recessions in the entire Middle East.



Mohammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, deputy head of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran: “Statistics for the six-month period from April to September 2026 indicate that 40% of the volume of maritime exports has been recovered.”



Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref: “We will not import gasoline this year, and the savings generated by this will be allocated to paying subsidies and providing commodity coupons.”

The Region and the World:



Norwegian citizen Johannes Kongsnes Natland was sentenced to 20 years in prison on charges of communicating with the Foxtrot network, which is accused of carrying out acts of violence on behalf of Iran.



Amnesty International: At least 20 people are at risk of imminent execution in connection with last January's protests. Iranian officials have so far executed at least 34 people in connection with these protests.



The US Treasury Department announces new sanctions on Iran, targeting 16 individuals and 11 companies and entities, including the International Development Bank for Investment and Finance, headquartered in Baghdad.

Editorials



Kayhan newspaper

Your “Mother of All Bombs” and Our “Father of All Missiles”!
Iran will not leave any attack by its enemies unanswered. The infrastructure of the United States and its allies in the region and Europe, and even in the United States itself, will not be safe from an attack by Iran's “Father of All Missiles.” US military personnel anywhere in the world, the pilots who took part in the attack on Iran — many of whom have been identified — the nuclear facilities of the Zionist entity and those of other countries allied with the United States, among others, are all legitimate and designated targets for us. Send your “Mother of All Bombs” so that our missiles can teach it an unforgettable lesson... Here is the arena, and here is the battlefield.



Hamdeli

Commodity Coupons: A Toxic Painkiller Injection Into a Dead Economy
News about the possible removal of commodity coupons from the shopping baskets of broad segments of society, restricting them to only the lowest-income groups, amounts to the final bullet of mercy for what little trust remains. Decision-makers pursuing a gradual series of harsh policies, guided by short-term thinking and with the sole aim of containing protests, are in fact storing up energy that could fuel a massive explosion. Based on a range of evidence and indicators, it can be said that we are on the verge of a situation in which economic insecurity will erode the fear of consequences. When hunger and humiliation come together, the ability to control social movements will disappear entirely. Under these circumstances, the consequences will fall primarily on those who created this situation and caused it to take shape.



Jahan Sanat newspaper

Poverty's Dagger in the Heart of the People
The latest statistics released by the International Monetary Fund, based on statistics published inside Iran, show that large numbers of Iranian citizens continue to plunge into the abyss of poverty as the trend toward impoverishing Iranians continues to rise. We are witnessing the spread of poverty across Iran: the number of Iranians living in extreme poverty has now doubled, rising from 16 million to 34 million people, while 40% of Iran's population lives below the extreme poverty line. It must be acknowledged that economic sanctions and the tense situation with the world's leading power over recent years are the main reasons poverty has spread so rapidly among Iranians.



Setar-e Sobh Newspaper

Is Another War on the Horizon?
What extremists and those with an “end-times” mentality have failed to see and have overlooked is life itself. Those beating the drums of war should first ensure that the people have bread to eat and water to drink. Then they can go and fight the United States, fight Israel too, and do whatever they please — but they must not do anything that worsens the people's problems. Society has become helpless and besieged by problems because of the actions of a minority and extremists. Land, housing, rents, medicines and essential goods are becoming increasingly expensive, while the people's purchasing power has collapsed. Pezeshkian and Ghalibaf must step onto the field and resolve the economic problems, because if they do not act today, tomorrow it will be too late.