

Iran in a Week

A quadrilateral meeting in Tehran involving Iran, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Türkiye offered a rare diplomatic opening amid mounting fears of another regional war and ahead of Israel’s Knesset elections and the US midterms. The gathering represented a structured security dialogue between Tehran and the Makkah Alliance. The meeting coincided with Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei’s efforts to consolidate authority through

consultations with senior officials, even as Iranian leaders intensified their warnings against potential attacks. Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf vowed an overwhelming response to any aggression. Conversely, veteran military officer Mohsen Rezaei called for regional security cooperation, stressing that West Asian security must be achieved from within. Nevertheless, Iranian military officials continued issuing

threats amid Israeli and Western predictions of renewed conflict. Their statements emphasized Iran’s military preparedness, including its aerospace and air defense capabilities, while Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) adviser Mohammad Reza Naqdi highlighted the country’s ability to challenge adversaries despite its comparatively limited military spending. Tehran’s strategy combines deterrence with diplomatic engagement.

News

Politics:



Iranian MP Manouchehr Mottaki: “If we cannot export oil, no other country across the entire region will be able to export it either, not only through the Arabian Gulf but also via the Gulf of Aqaba and the Red Sea. Not a single drop of oil will leave this region.”



Saeed Solh Mirzaei, Tehran's representative on the Assembly of Experts: “The will of the ‘martyred’ supreme leader is unavailable. There is no other copy of it.”



Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, during a meeting with Pakistani Army Chief Asim Munir: “We have nothing new to say. The United States will not be able to earn Iran's trust unless it implements the seven conditions.”



Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Major General Mohsen Rezaei, during a meeting with Pakistani Army Chief Asim Munir: “Not a single atom of enriched nuclear material will leave Iran under any circumstances.”



Tehran hosted a quadrilateral meeting on Monday, October 26, attended by the Saudi defense minister, the Pakistani army chief and the head of Türkiye's intelligence agency.



Iranian National Security Committee member Ahmad Bakhshayesh Ardestani: “If Pickaxe Mountain is attacked, Iran will attack the Dimona nuclear reactor.”

Security and Military:



Major General Ali Abdollahi, chief of staff of Iran's armed forces: “No vessel will be allowed to pass through the strategic Strait of Hormuz outside Iran's arrangements.”



Alaeddin Boroujerdi, a member of Iran's National Security Committee: “One of the key areas of US interests in our region is investment in advanced technologies and artificial intelligence. We are monitoring all these interests and facilities, and in any potential war, we will undoubtedly strike these sites.”



The IRGC attacks a training center belonging to the Kurdistan Free Life Party (PJAK).



A security source told Tasnim News Agency: “Ukraine has deployed drone units, as well as small drones, in several countries across the region surrounding Iran.”

Society and Culture:



Etemad newspaper: A report by the UN Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat) states that 30 million people in Iran live in informal settlements.



Economist and co-founder of Eghtesad Novin Bank Hossein Abdo Tabrizi: “Twenty-seven percent of young people aged 15–24 in Iran are not in education, employment or training.”



Leopoldo Maldonado Gutiérrez, the UN special rapporteur on freedom of thought and expression, warns that more than 100 political prisoners and protesters in Iran face the risk of execution.

Economy:



Majid Akhlaghi, head of the Association of Airline Companies: Domestic airfares have increased by 45%.



The US dollar surpasses 273,000 toman on Iran's currency market.



Iranian telecom operators Hamrah-e Aval and Irancell raise prices for calls, text messaging and internet packages by up to 40%.

The Region and the World:



The UK government ends banking exemptions granted to four Iranian banks: Bank PLC, Bank Saderat, Bank Tejarat and Persia International Bank.



UK counterterrorism police arrest two suspects, one of whom holds British-Iranian dual citizenship, as part of their investigation into the incident at RAF Fairford.



Germany's Federal Financial Supervisory Authority (BaFin) revokes the operating licence of Bank Saderat Iran's Hamburg branch and orders its dissolution.

Editorials



1

Etemad Newspaper

Rising Prices Undermine National Cohesion
Regardless of their rationale, some government measures are currently undermining national unity and cohesion, fueling public grievances and resentment while creating opportunities for adversaries to exploit. Last week saw successive price increases across goods and public services, placing additional pressure on household budgets and businesses. Why are these measures being pursued, imposing an even heavier burden on the public under such circumstances? Continued inflation deals a severe blow to national cohesion, deepens public discontent, erodes social capital and creates opportunities for various forms of exploitation.



2

Arman Melli Newspaper

The Challenge of Marriage and Starting a Family
Regrettably, in recent years, young people have increasingly postponed marriage, one of life's most significant milestones. Large numbers of men and women approaching 40 remain unmarried and continue living with their parents. Experts identify the sharp rise in living costs as the principal reason for delayed marriage. Even when both partners work, they struggle to afford rent for an ordinary home and cover other living expenses. Political leaders and negotiators engaging with the United States are undoubtedly aware of the many consequences of war and, hopefully, remain mindful of them. There is hope that a viable agreement can be reached to restore some balance to people's lives.



3

Jahan Sanat newspaper

The Final Stop for the Train
After nearly half a century of ideological and material confrontation between the Iranian republic and the United States, the conflict has reached a point where the two countries stand on the brink of a major war. Military officials, who effectively run the country, believe Iran can once again withstand the United States and Israel militarily. They also assume that the Iranian people can endure another confrontation, which explains their declarations that they are not afraid of war. However, their confidence in the public's capacity to endure is not grounded in rigorous scientific polling but largely reflects speculation. The train carrying nearly five decades of conflict between Iran and the West has reached its final stop, and it is time to get off.



4

Setar-e Sobh Newspaper

Endurance and the Costs of War
From a semiotic perspective, all signs point toward a third war. President Donald Trump has expanded the US naval deployment, the USS Roosevelt is expected to arrive in the region and Israel has declared its readiness to enter the conflict. Pro-war factions have welcomed the prospect of hostilities, seeking to turn them into a war of attrition that exhausts their adversaries and secures further concessions. The national currency's 99.993% loss in value over the past 47 years, particularly during periods of crisis, exposes the country's economic shortcomings. Forecasts of negative economic growth this year further illustrate the erosion of Iran's economic capacity. This weakening economic foundation casts serious doubt on the country's ability to sustain a prolonged war of attrition.