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Iran in a Week

Developments in Iran reflect a persistent political deadlock, with Tehran increasingly viewing its confrontation with Washington and Tel Aviv as existential. Iran is pursuing diplomatic and legal avenues to ease external pressure, while internal debate over acquiring nuclear weapons to strengthen deterrence intensifies. Criticism of its dependence on Russia, China and regional intermediaries also spotlights its limited political options. Security and military challenges are mounting at home and abroad, with clashes in Kurdish regions and Balochistan coinciding with renewed tensions in the Strait of Hormuz. Plans to restructure the Ministry of Intelligence and remove geographical restrictions on military responses point to heightened security concerns and growing escalation risks.

On the economic front, war and sanctions are worsening fuel and gas crises, flour shortages and unemployment, while limiting the government's capacity to finance subsidies. Winter threatens further hardship and social unrest.

Regionally, Iran has proposed a Gulf Union encompassing the eight coastal Gulf states while facilitating a dialogue between Saudi Arabia and the Houthis. Yet, the continuous hostile rhetoric against Saudi Arabia, accompanied by support for Houthi activities near the Bab al-Mandab Strait, while raising doubts about Saudi policies and strategic alliances, sheds light on the gap between Iran's diplomatic ambitions and regional behavior. Tehran will likely seek rapprochement with the Gulf states to reduce its isolation and the US presence without relinquishing its regional bargaining chips, undermining prospects for sustainable security cooperation based on mutual trust.

News

Politics:



Iranian Parliament National Security Committee member Mohammad Reza Mohseni Sani: "The necessary measures have been taken to counter any potential military attack. If the United States resorts to using nuclear weapons, Iran's response will be on the same level."



Iranian Parliament Defense Bloc Spokesman Ahmad Rastineh: "We are close to achieving absolute deterrence, and this capability can be demonstrated in response to any American miscalculation involving the use of unconventional weapons."



Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Mohsen Rezaei: "We are working on designing nuclear-powered ships and submarines, and we need our enriched materials. Accordingly, not a single atom, however small, will be removed; it will all remain at our disposal."



Assembly of Experts: "Discussing withdrawal from the NPT, reviewing the country's defense doctrine and establishing the necessary deterrence have become an inevitable necessity and a general national demand."



Iran's Mission in Vienna: "The implementation of routine safeguards cannot and will not be resumed under abnormal circumstances. The Board of Governors must address the root causes of the current situation."



Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi: "In view of the positions put forward by the Americans, we are still far from reaching the stage where we can sit at the negotiating table and finalize the text of an agreement."

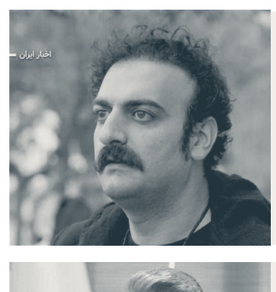
Security and Military:



Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Public Relations: "Early on Tuesday, November 17, the IRGC's combat drones carried out precision strikes targeting a radar system belonging to the US forces, described as aggressors, at Sheikh Isa Air Base on Bahrain Island."



IRGC: "We successfully brought down an MQM-170 drone belonging to the US military, described as aggressors, during a successful electronic warfare operation."



Blogger and comedian Saeed Shakiba, who is imprisoned at Greater Tehran prison, has been sentenced to five years in prison for publishing a video in which he imitated the voice of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei.



Iranian Parliament National Security Committee member Mohammad Mahdi Shahriari: "There is no doubt that Mossad plays an indirect role and constantly uses its domestic operatives to sabotage negotiations and prevent problems from being resolved."

Society and Culture:



Mohammad Javad Gholamreza Kashi, a political science professor at Allameh Tabataba'i University in Tehran: "Until the Pahlavi era, Iranian society had remained under the protective umbrella of religion. However, the Islamic Republic dismantled this shared umbrella and turned it into a private tent reserved for a specific minority group."



Ministry of Sports and Youth: "More than 18 million people of marriageable age in the country remain unmarried."



Tehran Province Civil Registration Department: "The demographic crisis is worsening, with the capital entering a demographic trap. Statistics show that, alongside a decline of approximately 10% in births, the death rate is also following an upward trend."

Economy:



Iran ranks fourth globally in the Misery Index of the world's most economically distressed countries.



Iranian MP Pour Dehghan: "We will witness a 30%–40% increase in commodity prices in the near future."



Vice-President for Executive Affairs Mohammad Jafar Ghaem-Panah: "The gas deficit has reached 530 million cubic meters."

The Region and the World:



The US Department of Justice announced that Asif Merchant, a Pakistani national and an agent of IRGC, has been sentenced to more than 27 years in prison for his role in a plot to assassinate US President Donald Trump and other US officials.



French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot: "France expects the European Union to approve new sanctions against Iran in December."



The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has called for monitoring and inspection activities in Iran to resume immediately.

Editorials

1 — Jahan-e Sanat Newspaper

The Industrial Sector Is Heading Toward a Standstill

The statistics presented on Iran's industrial growth offer little reason for optimism, as industrial activity continues to follow a downward trajectory in terms of production volumes. The recession affecting this vital sector, which accounts for a substantial share of the national economy's added value, has persisted for an extended period, with the industrial sector remaining firmly mired in recession for four consecutive quarters. The 14% contraction in industrial output recorded in the spring of this year has sounded the alarm more loudly than ever. Rather than competing with South Korea and Türkiye in industrial development, Iran and its people now find themselves competing with countries that are far less industrially advanced, and may even lose out to them.

2 — Javan Newspaper

Iran's Security Does Not Depend on Building Trust With America

The most dangerous miscalculation in dealing with the United States is turning negotiations into a strategy for achieving security and placing hopes on the possibility of changing the enemy's nature. The November 4 letter established a clear benchmark for officials and public opinion: expecting changes in US behavior as a result of partisan shifts or making concessions is a mistake; the path to deterrence lies in making Iran stronger. Today, more than ever, it is essential to guard against the country being subjected once again to the bitter experience of trusting the enemy's promises, repackaged in new language and under the banner of peace. Iran's security does not lie in the illusion of trusting the United States, but in strength, vigilance and resistance. Optimism toward the enemy is forbidden.

3 — Jomhouri Eslami

You Can Do It, So Get to Work

Prices are rising at an extraordinary pace. If this trend continues, many essential food items will soon disappear from people's tables as well. Meat, chicken and fruit have already been eliminated from the tables of some families and have become less available to others. Dairy products, following several rounds of price increases this year, are also on the verge of disappearing from the tables of low-income households, and have already been removed from those of some families. Eggs are facing a similar situation to chicken.

4 — Setar-e Sobh Newspaper

Equal Legal Rights for All

When a minority is entitled to assemble, does the majority, dissatisfied with the current situation, particularly the economic conditions, also have the right to take to public squares, roads and streets and hold protest gatherings under Articles 27 and 109 of the Constitution to voice its demands? The root of the dispute and public discontent lies in the point at which some people are required to abide by the law while others are exempted from doing so. Some Iranian newspapers openly attack various individuals and institutions without facing any consequences, while other media outlets are summoned to the prosecutor's office whenever they criticize officials.