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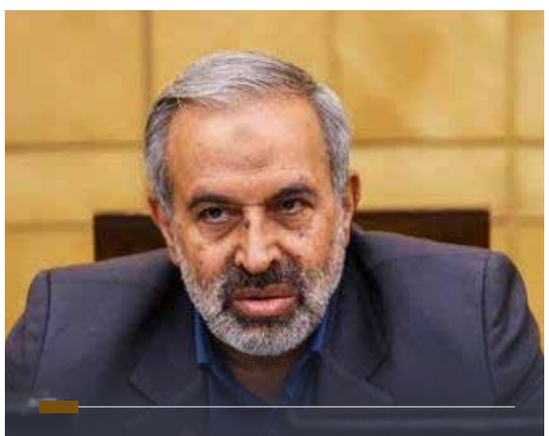
RASANAH
المعهد الدولي للدراسات الإيرانية
International Institute for Iranian Studies

Iran in a Week

Iran is seeking to turn its mounting crises into strategic leverage, but the economic costs of confrontation threaten to weaken its ability to sustain that pressure. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' (IRGC) claim to have struck US radar installations in Bahrain, which remains independently unverified, illustrates Tehran's expanding theater of engagement rather than a confirmed shift in the balance of power. Damage to civilian property and intercepted attacks have heightened concerns over Gulf security and maritime navigation. The Strait of Hormuz has become a mutual pressure point: disruptions would increase global energy and insurance costs while damaging Iran's own trade and encouraging alternative supply routes. Domestically, weakening employment, temporary contracts, wage disparities and electricity rationing are constraining Iran's resilience without necessarily threatening state collapse. Tehran is likely to combine military threats with conditional negotiations, seeking to avoid all-out war. Its ultimate challenge is securing a sustainable settlement without exhausting its economy or destabilizing neighboring states.

News

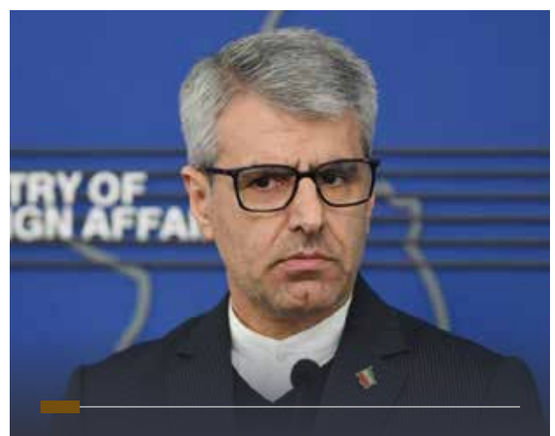
Politics:



Iranian Parliament Cultural Committee member Ali Yazdi-Khah: "If they do not allow us to export oil, we will set the region ablaze, and oil wells in the UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia will be targeted."



Iranian Parliament National Security Committee member Ahmad Bakhshayesh Ardestani: "Qatar is no longer a good mediator for negotiations."



Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei: "We have made clear that the presence of foreign powers near Iran's borders is unacceptable. We are monitoring developments in the Caucasus."



Iranian Parliament Internal Affairs and Councils Committee member Kamran Ghazanfari: "We must review our nuclear doctrine and acquire nuclear weapons to defend our people."



Iranian Parliament Deputy Speaker Hamid Reza Haji Babai: "We have concluded that, in response to the blockade of Iran, we should impose a counter-blockade. Our Yemeni brothers are also providing assistance in this regard."



Former Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif: "Even if we have the upper hand in the war today, we should not assume that this advantage will last until the end of the war."

Security and Military:



Fars News Agency: The IRGC launched an attack on the US-operated Sheikh Isa and Juffair bases in Bahrain.



IRGC Commander-in-Chief Major General Ahmad Vahidi: "The enemy must understand that the next battle will not be regional."



Ibrahim Sadeghi, a judge at the Piranshahr Court, was killed in a shooting by gunmen in the city of Tabriz.



The IRGC Aerospace Force showcased a dual-launch missile platform capable of firing two missiles simultaneously.

Society and Culture:



Iranian Deputy Health Minister Sajjad Razavi: "Toxic alcohol consumption has resulted in 20 deaths and 356 hospital admissions."



Mohammadollah Dad, CEO of Iran's electricity company Tavanir: "Scheduled power outages began across Iran on Sunday, November 22, and could reach two hours a day if temperatures drop further."



Mohammad Hossein Javadi, head of the Social Care Department at the Ministry of Health: "Iranian medical centers recorded 11,611 cases of child abuse over the past year."

Economy:



Iranian Parliament Health Committee member Homayoun Najafabadi: "Declining household incomes have driven meat and chicken off the tables of many citizens, who have also begun gradually removing eggs from their food baskets."



Economy Minister Ali Madanizadeh: "Despite US efforts and the land blockade, all the country's land borders remain open, except for one crossing that is closed for security reasons."



Statistical Center of Iran: "The Producer Price Index (PPI) rose by 120.9% in summer 2026 compared with the same period last year."

The Region and the World:



The US Treasury Department announced new sanctions targeting eight individuals and 21 companies and entities linked to the Iranian republic. The sanctions include several companies involved in foreign exchange and gold trading, as well as entities based in the UAE, Türkiye and Hong Kong.



The US Treasury Department announced sanctions against four Iranians, including Majid Taj, the brother of the president of the Iranian Football Federation. The department said they had played roles in selling Iranian oil or supporting sanctioned companies.



Rob McGowan, a senior British Army officer: "The Islamic Republic, Russia, China and North Korea are active in cyberspace against the UK and must understand that these activities will not go unanswered."

Editorials

1

Kayhan newspaper

If War Is Inevitable, Why Not Strike First?
Developments on the ground, US military movements, fabricated intelligence dossiers and threats from White House officials all point to a clear conclusion: the US-Israeli enemy has adopted a military posture and is simultaneously completing logistical preparations and manufacturing pretexts for a new round of aggression against Iran. Tehran must change the equation by taking the initiative on the ground and delivering the "first strike" against the enemy.

2

Hammihan

Operation Fereydoun
Iran is in a difficult position because of an unjust maritime blockade that, under international law, amounts to a declaration of war. Clearly, this situation cannot continue. Under these circumstances, Iranian officials have found themselves compelled to take action to break the deadlock. At the same time, there is no doubt that such an operation carries substantial political and military risks. Although its outcome is unpredictable, an intermediate scenario can be envisaged between the two extremes: breaking the blockade and allowing the oil tanker fleet to pass, on the one hand, and decisive enemy intervention to prevent its passage, on the other. Under this scenario, the United States might opt for limited confrontation, take temporary measures and adopt varied approaches to dealing with the oil tankers, hoping to avoid pushing Iran into a position where it feels compelled to launch a decisive and uncompromising confrontation.

3

Setar-e Sobh Newspaper

Iran: The Subject of the Three Major Powers
China and the United States conduct 500billion–600 billion in annual trade, which is why Beijing avoids confrontation with Washington, frequently resorting to evasive tactics and backing down in the face of US pressure. Russia, meanwhile, stands to benefit from continued tensions, wars, sanctions and the maritime blockade imposed on Iran. As long as sanctions hang over Tehran and it remains unable to export its oil and gas, Moscow can increase its own energy exports and boost its revenues. Experience has shown that Russia does not want Iran's relations with the West to improve, as this would allow Tehran to enter the energy market and compete with Moscow. It cannot be ruled out that Russia and China could strike a deal with the United States, sacrificing Iran in pursuit of their own interests.

4

Jahan-e Sanat Newspaper

We Have Become Venezuela; Let Us Beware of Suffering Greece's Fate
The economic consequences of the war for Iran's national economy and its citizens have so far been extremely painful and distressing. Declining GDP growth, accelerating inflation and the depreciation of the national currency against the US dollar, euro and British pound are among the damaging consequences of the country's current trajectory. The Iranian rial is now one of the world's weakest currencies. Years ago, economic experts and activists warned the country's decision-makers that the rial could suffer the same fate as Venezuela's currency. Officials dismissed those warnings, but the scenario they predicted is now unfolding. Today, it is impossible to buy any commodity in the markets for 1,000 rials, let alone a single rial, and citizens are deeply frustrated by the situation.