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Iran in a Week

Developments in Iran over the past week point to a continued state of political and military alert amid stalled negotiations with the United States and growing concerns over a renewed confrontation. Politically, Tehran remains committed to its seven conditions for ending the war and refuses to enter direct negotiations until Washington responds to its demands, despite ongoing regional mediation efforts, particularly by Qatar and Pakistan. The debate over expanding nuclear capabilities and purchasing Russian fighter jets reflects efforts to strengthen deterrence, alongside attempts to use the outcome of the US elections to highlight Washington's diminishing ability to impose its terms.

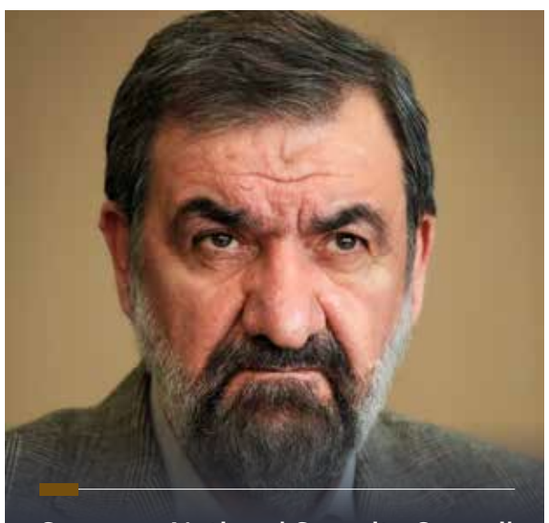
Militarily, Tehran has reiterated its readiness to broaden its response to any new attack, stressing the interconnectedness of the confrontation fronts stretching from the Strait of Hormuz to the Bab al-Mandab Strait. Explosions on Qeshm Island and in the Strait of Hormuz, along with reports of US drones being shot down, underscore the continued risk of military friction. The unveiling of new missile facilities also appears intended to demonstrate military readiness and reinforce deterrence.

Economically, high inflation, particularly in the industrial and food sectors, points to mounting pressure on household finances and declining purchasing power, despite government efforts to subsidize essential goods and secure foreign currency. These conditions further increase domestic vulnerability in the event of renewed escalation.

Regarding Saudi Arabia, Iranian discourse reveals a clear contradiction. Official diplomatic channels maintain contact with Riyadh and call for a settlement of the Yemeni crisis, while political and security figures issue direct threats against Saudi and Gulf oil infrastructure and other vital facilities. This discrepancy reflects Tehran's continued use of regional threats as an instrument of deterrence and negotiating pressure, placing prospects for de-escalation under considerable strain despite ongoing bilateral communication and cooperation.

News

Politics:



Supreme National Security Council Secretary Mohsen Rezaei delivered a message from Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei to Russian President Vladimir Putin.



President Masoud Pezeshkian: "The supreme leader has once again expanded our authority to allow negotiations on issues that he had previously opposed negotiating. Neither side will benefit from this war."



Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei: "America's power and hegemony, in both dimensions of hard military power and soft power internationally, have suffered an irreversible collapse, and their decline has accelerated."



Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei: "Any understanding is contingent upon a firm commitment to ending the war on all fronts, including Lebanon."



Iranian Vice-President Mohammad Reza Aref: "The United States is currently threatening our country to influence its domestic public opinion, while simultaneously sending messages to Iran through intermediaries and acknowledging our superiority."



Kamran Ghazanfari, a member of Parliament's Internal Affairs Committee: "We will not allow Britain, France, Germany or similar countries to engage in hostile actions against us. From now on, we will respond to them on their own soil."

Security and Military:



US strikes targeted Qeshm Island with no reports of casualties.



Ismail Kowsari, a member of Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee: "If the supreme leader decides that we need to possess nuclear weapons, we will certainly produce them in the shortest possible time."



Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) unveiled a new underground missile city belonging to its Aerospace Force.



IRGC Spokesman Brigadier General Hossein Mohebi: "Restrictions on the range of our missiles have been lifted."

Society and Culture:



Food and Drug Administration Spokesman Mohammad Hashemi: "Most essential and life-saving medicines are adequately available, but there are supply problems affecting fewer than 40 of the 700 medicines in total."



Farhikhtegan newspaper: Following a decline in the rankings of the University of Tehran and 43 other universities in the latest QS Asian University Rankings, no Iranian university remains among Asia's top 100.



Parliamentary Social Affairs Committee Chairman Ali Babaei Karnami: "The flawed implementation of the decision to abolish the preferential foreign exchange rate has pushed 8 million people into extreme poverty and malnutrition, while 50 million people are struggling to afford food."

Economy:



Iranian government Spokeswoman Fatemeh Mohajerani: "We expect a daily gas deficit of 430 million cubic meters, and gas supplies could potentially be cut off across the entire country, including Tehran."



Mohammad Qasemi, deputy head of the Plan and Budget Organization: "The government must prepare for a scenario of 'zero oil revenues' when drafting the new fiscal year's budget."



Statistical Center of Iran: Industrial-sector inflation reached 147% in the summer.

The Region and the World:



French authorities hold the IRGC responsible for recent cyberattacks targeting the cooling systems of hundreds of stores belonging to retail chains across France, warning that the attacks will have consequences for Tehran.



US Central Command announces the establishment of a special task force, dubbed Task Force Iron Gate, to prevent the transfer of advanced weapons, military equipment and sanctioned goods across Iran's land borders and the Caspian Sea.



The US Treasury Department targets a network operated by Sunil Kumar Sharma and his wife Jaspreet Preeti Shah, who are based in India and supported Iran's shadow fleet through fraudulent maritime operations conducted virtually.

Editorials

1 — Javan Newspaper

America's Defeat in Tehran: An Earthquake in Washington

The United States attacked Tehran to impose its will, but the consequences of the war, from the battlefield to Washington's domestic politics, ran counter to that strategy. America's defeat in Tehran reverberated in Washington. This experience must become a permanent lesson: Iran must be strong enough to make its adversaries abandon not only the idea of attacking it, but even the thought of threatening the country.

2 — Hamdeli

Neither War nor Peace: The Public Pays the Price for Policy Confusion

The problem is not merely the possibility of war breaking out or an agreement being reached. Rather, it lies in why the lives of an entire society are so heavily tied to decisions in which the public has no role. In this climate, people have neither confidence that an agreement will be reached nor any assurance that war will not break out. Both possibilities loom like a heavy shadow over the economy and society, with no clear vision being offered for a way out of this situation.

The public must not be held hostage to foreign policy agendas. The impact of sanctions, regional tensions and disagreements between Tehran and Washington on Iran's economy cannot be denied. But should all of Iran's problems remain on hold until this issue is resolved?

3 — Arman Emrooz

The Repercussions of the Republicans' Defeat

The Republicans' defeat in the 2026 US midterm elections and the Democrats' takeover of both chambers of Congress could have far-reaching implications for the international order. In Europe and Ukraine, these developments could mean more sustained support and greater coordination. A Democratic-controlled Congress generally tends to favor continuing military and economic assistance to Kyiv and could ease Trump's pressure to impose swift and undesirable settlements. NATO allies would also have greater room to pursue more independent policies toward Russia without fearing a sudden shift in US policy. In the Middle East, congressional constraints could prevent conflicts from escalating. Should Trump seek to launch a foreign adventure to compensate for his domestic political defeat, Democrats would have tools at their disposal to exercise control through budgetary powers and oversight.

4 — Ettelaat Newspaper

Stop the Price Hike Express

The price-hike express is moving at breakneck speed, and apparently no one wants or is able to stop it. Over the past 10 days, a sweeping wave of increases has hit the prices of essential goods and services. Moreover, another wave of inflation appears to be on the way. Hossein Samsami, a member of Parliament's Economic Committee, said that the Ministry of Industry had recently asked the Central Bank, in a letter, to abolish the allocation of foreign currency at the official rate through the Exchange Center for 4,533 goods and allow their imports using foreign currency at the free market rate. According to the MP, this move would increase the cost of foreign currency for importing these goods by 100,000 tomans, triggering a new wave of price rises. Failure to apply the brakes to the price-hike express will have a serious negative impact on social capital and public trust.