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RASANAH
المعهد الدولي للدراسات الإيرانية
International Institute for Iranian Studies

Iran in a Week

Over the past week, Iran's political, economic and military landscape has focused less on Benjamin Netanyahu's election troubles or Donald Trump's embarrassing midterm results than on raising internal alert levels for any eventuality, as though war's zero hour had arrived.
The clearest sign came when Iranian Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei met senior military commanders, following talks with legislative, judicial and security chiefs. He called for deterrence beyond geographical limits and authorized the armed forces to determine the timing and conditions of retaliatory strikes.
Meanwhile, "reformist" President Masoud Pezeshkian said Khamenei had authorized negotiations on previously non-negotiable issues, stressing that dialogue remained the preferred approach.
By contrast, parliamentary officials discussed NPT withdrawal and developing nuclear weapons. A security official confirmed that a comprehensive military response plan had been finalized.
These developments show messages Mojtaba Khamenei conveyed to military leaders, not election repercussions in Israel or the United States.

News

Politics:



Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei: "Smart combat readiness for a major confrontation with the enemy is one of the requirements of maximum deterrence. An immediate and effective response, without geographical restrictions, to threats of any kind or level is essential."



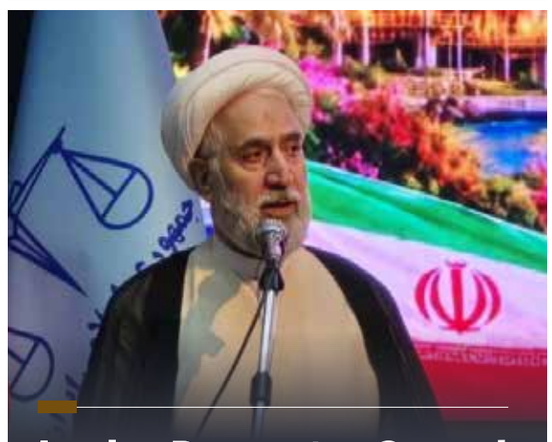
Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi: "Iran remains a long way from restoring cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to normal levels."



Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Mohsen Rezaei: "No new decision has been made to change Iran's nuclear doctrine. However, if war breaks out again, the issue will be brought up for discussion."



Tehran Friday Prayer Leader Mohammad Javad Haj Ali Akbari: "Changing the nuclear doctrine is a demand of the Iranian people. We have witnessed a wave of calls for and support for this move from various segments of society, including university and school students, university professors, intellectuals and professionals and tradespeople."



Iranian Prosecutor-General Mohammad Movahedi Azad: "Some enemy vessels and their oil shipments have been seized and sold, with the proceeds distributed to some people affected by rare diseases."



Chairman of the Iranian Parliament's National Security Committee Ebrahim Azizi: "The parliamentary bill on withdrawing from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is ready."

Security and Military:



Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Ali Abdollahi: "Iran will respond to any act of aggression with overwhelming force, without geographical limits."



Iranian parliamentarian and member of the "hardliner" Stability Front Kamran Ghazanfari: "We have intercontinental missiles capable of reaching the United States, and we can develop nuclear weapons. We can also enrich uranium to levels exceeding 90%."



Iranian Army Spokesman Brigadier General Mohammad Akrami-Nia: "We have purchased Su-35 fighter jets and will receive them after the war."



A senior Iranian security official: "Enemies and their regional supporters should exercise patience. The scale and force of Iran's future response will exceed their expectations and will undoubtedly be shocking."

Society and Culture:



Iranian Statistical Center: A comparison of the birth rate in the spring of this year with the same period last year shows that the number of births in spring 2026 fell by approximately 4.3% year over year.



Iran's National Population Monitoring Center: The rate of progression from the first child to the second fell from 82% in 2006 to 62% in 2026.



Iranian lawmaker and member of the National Security Committee Ahmad Bakhshayesh Ardestani: "The Atomic Energy Organization has prepared videos explaining the spread of radioactive materials and the relevant procedures and guidelines to familiarize the public with the subject. These videos will be made available to the public at the appropriate time."

Economy:



Chairman of the Iranian Parliament's Planning and Budget Committee Gholamreza Tajgardoon: "Around 75% of government employees receive salaries and benefits below 30 million tomans to 35 million tomans, a deeply alarming figure that does not correspond to the cost of living index. Some government employees earn as little as 15 million tomans to 16 million tomans.



Iranian Statistical Center: The overall inflation index recorded monthly inflation of 4.4%, year-on-year inflation of 88.7%, and annual inflation of 76.8% in October. Year-on-year inflation reached 107% in rural areas and 85.5% in urban areas, a gap of 21.5 percentage points.



Deputy Labor Minister for Entrepreneurship and Employment Development Malek Hosseini: "If the economic downturn persists and the economy contracts by 7% to 8%, between 1.2 million and 1.4 million jobs will be lost in Iran by next March.

The Region and the World:



Axios, citing an informed official: Iranian forces fired a missile at a US fighter jet. The US aircraft subsequently struck the missile launch site and radar installations on Qeshm Island.



The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has kept Iran on its blacklist.



Lithuania's Foreign Ministry announced that Iranian authorities had acknowledged the detention of two Lithuanian nationals. However, the reason for their detention remains unclear, and Lithuanian diplomats have so far been unable to establish direct contact with the two women.

Editorials

1 Hammihan

An Emotionless Society: A Greater Danger Than War
A strange form of passivity and silence has taken hold among the vast majority of Iranian society: a widespread state of numbness, apathy, helplessness and frustration, mixed with suppressed anger and resentment. Naturally, no one is unaware of the reasons and underlying factors behind this state of affairs.
The catastrophic consequences of the gradual weakening of civil society and the stripping away of the various intermediary forces within society are becoming apparent during these difficult and sensitive days. While US and Israeli aggressors threaten Iran and its people with destruction every day, society has failed to produce a response commensurate with those threats. Night-time gatherings cannot fill the vacuum left by the absence of the comprehensive national response that might have been expected. At best, these gatherings amount to a reaction by one segment of society to current events.

2 Jahan-e Sanat Newspaper

Total Darkness
The worst-case scenario for the Iranian people and Iran's ancient land is a swift, large-scale, all-out war launched by the United States. Iran must do everything in its power to prevent such a war from breaking out and, as far as possible, keep new channels of diplomacy open.
We know full well that the losses caused by previous wars have yet to be made good, while Iran's petrochemical, steel and road infrastructure has suffered extensive damage. The energy crisis has also placed Iran in extremely difficult circumstances and brought hardship to its citizens. The public is unhappy with war and hopes Iran can avoid its devastating consequences. In these days shrouded in uncertainty, confusion and total darkness, no one can afford to proceed without a plan.

3 Javan Newspaper

America Ensnared in Iran's Strategic Trap
Washington has placed itself in a position where every move it makes leaves it increasingly worse off. For several months, everyone has been talking about a third war: Trump issues threats, Netanyahu promises destruction, and Western media report an imminent attack, yet no war begins.
The simple answer, one rarely voiced in the media, is that this is not due to Washington's restraint, but rather to Iran's strategic double-bind, in which every available option amounts to inevitable defeat. After four decades of sanctions and maximum pressure, the United States has reached a point where both attacking and refraining from an attack carry an unbearable price.
If it attacks, it will face Iran's strategic depth, which places the vital infrastructure of its allies within firing range. If it refrains from attacking, the cost of maintaining the status quo will continue to rise day by day. This is the trap of cost and positioning, in which every decision brings the United States one step closer to defeat.

4 Setar-e Sobh Newspaper

Diplomacy's Final Stop
The conflict between Iran and the United States is escalating by the day. Mediators arrive in Iran one after another, then depart. Strangely, all these mediators have failed in their efforts and returned home empty-handed, conveying the outcome of their mediation attempts to the United States, only to become critics and opponents themselves. When mediators fail to achieve results, their positions begin to converge with those of the United States and Israel.
The bitter truth is that every time mediators come and go empty-handed, the dangers of sanctions, a naval blockade and war grow more severe. Dangerous and frightening days lie ahead. The Iranian people are already weighed down by economic crises and want to make a living, not wage war.