

OPEN-SOURCE PRESS INTELLIGENCE

Iranian Press Monitor

Daily Front-Page Intelligence

Day 132 - Monday, 13 July 2026 · 22 Tir 1405 · 28 Muharram 1448

A hawk's sudden death is read as vengeance fulfilled, while Hormuz stays shut and the war grinds on

Coverage: nine Persian front-page scans (Hamshahri, Vatan-e Emrooz, Kayhan, Javan, Sobh-e No, Sazandegi, Chaharsoo, Ta'adol, Etemad), one English print (Iran Daily, 12 July), six outlet Telegram channels (Kayhan, Vatan-e Emrooz, Jam-e Jam, Etemad, Iran, Sobh-e No), with international corroboration; Tehran Times and kayhan.ir were unreachable (HTTP 503).



Front page: Hamshahri

Executive Summary

Day 132 is dominated by a single death and a single chokepoint. The sudden death of US Senator Lindsey Graham, one of Washington's most prominent Iran hawks and a close ally of Netanyahu, has been seized across the Iranian press as apparent proof that the successor Leader's vengeance threat is already coming true. The highest-significance point is interpretive rather than factual: Graham died of natural causes (preliminary cause aortic dissection, per the DC medical examiner and Western reporting), yet nearly every front, from centrist Hamshahri and the hardline Kayhan and Vatan-e Emrooz to reformist Sazandegi, folds the loss into Mojtaba Khamenei's funeral-day vow that the 'criminals' on Iran's list will never die peacefully in bed. Hamshahri's trilingual splash 'Get Ready for Sudden Death,' printed in Persian, English and Hebrew over an image of Trump in an open grave, is the day's defining artifact; Kayhan's 'Iran has updated its target bank' makes the list imagery explicit.

Beneath the triumphalism, the war itself has not paused. The 17 June ceasefire remains collapsed: the IRGC's closure of the Strait of Hormuz 'until further notice' holds, the US has carried out further strikes on Iranian positions (both corroborated internationally), and the strait is the organizing story for the economic and IRGC-aligned press alike, from Javan's 'sails of power raised in the Iranian strait' to Etemad's 'the power of Hormuz.' Chaharsoo prints the epitaph plainly again: 'the end of the paper agreement with America.' Running underneath is the same two-track posture the monitor has tracked all week: Foreign Minister Araghchi was in Muscat on 11 July pressing 'mutual compliance' on the MoU with Oman's foreign minister, and Speaker Ghalibaf frames the rupture as the end of 'one-sided agreements' rather than the end of all diplomacy, while the state broadcaster's paper quietly concedes a 4,200-megawatt cut to the national grid from the strikes.

The ideological split is intact but narrower than usual: the day's story is unifying. Hardline titles (Kayhan, Vatan-e Emrooz, Javan) render Graham's death and Hormuz as vindication and divine retribution; reformist titles (Sazandegi, Etemad) accept the same facts but strip out the celebration, with Sazandegi's editorial pressing for 'legal follow-up' over vengeance and Sobh-e No's note warning that 'the end must not justify the means.' The economic press (Chaharsoo, Ta'adol) reads the crisis through leverage and market stress. What no outlet disputes is that a leading architect of pressure on Iran is dead and that Hormuz is, for now, Tehran's to close.

CRITICAL SOURCING NOTE Independently corroborated: Senator Lindsey Graham died on 11 July 2026 at 71, preliminary cause aortic dissection (Washington Post, NBC, NPR, Roll Call); the June ceasefire MoU has collapsed and the IRGC closed the Strait of Hormuz 'until further notice' after striking commercial vessels, drawing US retaliatory strikes (Al Jazeera, CNN, NBC, Washington Times); Mojtaba Khamenei's funeral-day message vowing vengeance was released via his Telegram channel. Accuracy anchors: 'the Leader' is Mojtaba Khamenei; Ali Khamenei was assassinated on 28 February 2026 and is 'the martyred Leader'; Foreign Minister is Abbas Araghchi, Speaker is Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, Oman's Foreign Minister is Badr al-Busaidi, and Mohsen Pakaeen is a former ambassador and commentator, all verified against the pages. Flagged as single-source or attacker-sourced and NOT confirmed: Vatan-e Emrooz's claim that Senator Mitch McConnell was hospitalized; the IRGC claim (via Sobh-e No) of strikes on Jordan's Prince Hassan air base; Javan's battlefield casualty figures; and, most importantly, the celebratory framing that Graham's natural-causes death was a fulfillment of Iran's threat. Iranian outlets' pejorative verbs for adversaries' deaths are rendered as neutral fact. Tehran Times and kayhan.ir were unreachable (HTTP 503), so English coverage rests on the Iran Daily scan and the Kayhan editorial is summarized, not quoted verbatim.

Macro Trend Analysis

1 A natural death becomes 'vengeance fulfilled'

The pivot of the day is the press converting Lindsey Graham's natural-causes death into apparent proof of the Leader's threat. Hamshahri ('Get Ready for Sudden Death,' trilingual over Trump in a grave), Vatan-e Emrooz ('Death of the Broker of Death'), Kayhan ('sent to hell'), Sobh-e No ('Uncle Lindsey went to hell') and even reformist Sazandegi ('Death of a warmonger') all lead on it. The through-line to Mojtaba Khamenei's funeral message is deliberate: the 'complete list from top to bottom' and 'no peaceful death in bed' language is being read back onto a cardiac event, turning coincidence into claimed retribution.

2 Hormuz stays shut and central

The IRGC's 'until further notice' closure of the Strait of Hormuz is the day's second organizing story and holds across the spectrum: Javan's naval imagery ('the sails of power raised in the Iranian strait'), Chaharsoo's IRGC-closed-the-strait deck, Ta'adol's 'Iran's red line at Hormuz,' Etemad's 'power of Hormuz,' and Iran's 'the strait is our territory.' The corroborated record is a closure declaration plus mutual strikes; the fronts treat control of the chokepoint as settled fact and decisive leverage over the world economy.

3 The vengeance doctrine turns outward and multilingual

As on Day 131, the retaliation frame is addressed to foreign readers. Hamshahri prints its death-threat banner in Persian, English and Hebrew; Kayhan escalates openly to 'a new phase of war' and an updated 'target bank'; Vatan-e Emrooz leads on 'shock to Netanyahu.' The register remains religious-obligation rather than policy, binding the campaign to the funeral's emotional charge and projecting it at Washington and Tel Aviv.

4 The diplomatic back-channel has not closed

Underneath the war liturgy, contact persists. Iran Daily reports Araghchi in Muscat on 11 July pressing 'mutual compliance' to implement the Iran-US memo with Oman's Badr al-Busaidi; Speaker Ghalibaf frames the breach as the end of 'one-sided agreements,' a conditional stance that leaves room for a reciprocal deal rather than a total rupture. The two-track posture, escalating and probing at once, is deliberate bargaining from a stance of force.

5 The economic bill breaks through

The cost of the war is now visible even in state media. Jam-e Jam concedes a 4,200-megawatt cut in grid capacity with over 2,000 network points damaged and losses above 60 trillion tomans; Ta'adol tracks an FX rally 'in danger,' liquidity fleeing the bourse and Bitcoin at resistance; Iran and others note oil up about 4 percent. The technocratic press reads Hormuz as leverage but will not let the closure appear cost-free at home.

6 A reformist counter-current: legality over vengeance

The reformist and some principlist titles accept the day's facts but resist the celebration. Sazandegi's front-page editorial argues for pursuing Iran's grievances through a 'legal follow-up' and juridical framework; Sobh-e No's note warns 'the end must not justify the means'; Etemad foregrounds diplomacy, public opinion on talks with America, and domestic governance failures. The dissent is one of register and method, not of the underlying Hormuz-and-Graham agenda.

Key Judgments

HIGH Graham's death is real and corroborated, but the 'vengeance fulfilled' framing is propaganda, not evidence of an Iranian operation. Western reporting and the DC medical examiner attribute the 11 July

death to aortic dissection; the near-uniform Iranian read that it validated the Leader's 'no peaceful death in bed' threat is narrative opportunism layered onto a coincidental cardiac event. Treat the death as fact and the causal claim as messaging.

HIGH The war remains active and Hormuz remains the center of gravity. The collapsed 17 June MoU, the IRGC's standing closure of the strait, and continued US strikes on Iranian positions are all internationally corroborated. Day 130's 'managed reopening' read stays reversed; the operative frame is open, if bounded, conflict around the chokepoint.

MODERATE-HIGH The declared Hormuz 'closure' is more leverage than a demonstrated total blockade. Iran's strikes on shipping and its closure declaration are real, but as on Day 131 the claim functions as signalling and economic pressure; absent independent confirmation of a sealed strait, read transit as contested and intermittent rather than physically shut.

MODERATE-HIGH Two tracks are still running by design. Araghchi's Muscat diplomacy on 'mutual compliance' and Ghalibaf's 'end of one-sided agreements' framing sit alongside Kayhan's 'new phase of war.' Tehran is bargaining from force, which makes early de-escalation unlikely but keeps a reciprocal-deal path open; the diplomatic thread is a hedge, not a pivot.

MODERATE The domestic economic cost of the closure-and-retaliation posture is mounting and increasingly admitted. Jam-e Jam's grid-damage figures, the FX and bourse stress in Ta'adol, and the oil-price rise point to a bill the political class has not fully confronted; watch the business press for whether Hormuz-as-leverage starts to read as Hormuz-as-liability.

LOW Several sensational claims should be held at arm's length. Vatan-e Emrooz's line that Senator McConnell was hospitalized, the IRGC's Prince Hassan air-base strike claim relayed by Sobh-e No, and Javan's casualty figures are single-source or attacker-sourced and unconfirmed; they fit the deterrence-messaging pattern rather than the corroborated record.

Headline Summary Table

Outlet	Lead Headline (English)	Orientation	Primary Theme
Hamshahri	Get Ready for Sudden Death	Centrist (Tehran municipality)	Graham's death read as vengeance fulfilled; trilingual threat
Vatan-e Emrooz	Death of the Broker of Death	Hardline / principlist	Graham obituary as triumph; 'shock to Netanyahu'
Kayhan	Iran Updated Its Target Bank; a New Phase of War Has Begun	Hardline (Leader's office / IRGC)	Ceasefire breach answered by expanded target list
Javan	The Sails of Power Raised in the Iranian Strait	Hardline (IRGC-affiliated)	Naval control of Hormuz; Graham as 'Israel's stroke'
Sobh-e No	The Era of One-Sided Agreements Is Over	Principlist	Ghalibaf on the MoU breach; 'end must not justify means'
Sazandegi	Death of a Warmonger	Reformist (Kargozaran)	Neutral Graham obituary; editorial for 'legal follow-up'

Outlet	Lead Headline (English)	Orientation	Primary Theme
Chaharsoo	The End of the Paper Agreement With America	Economic / business	IRGC closes Hormuz; Trump tears the deal
Ta'adol	Iran's Red Line at Hormuz	Economic	Strait as economic front; FX and bourse stress
Etemad	The Power of Hormuz: Closure Until Further Notice	Reformist	Hormuz closure with a diplomacy-and-opinion frame
Iran Daily (12 July)	Ayatollah Khamenei Pledges Vengeance for Martyred Leader	State English daily	Leader's vow; Araghchi-Oman MoU compliance talks
Jam-e Jam	The Second War Is Over Sovereignty of the Strait of Hormuz	State broadcaster (IRIB, channel)	Hormuz sovereignty; rare grid-damage admission
Iran	The Strait of Hormuz Is Our Territory	Government daily (channel)	Official sovereigntist line; strikes 'concluded'

Per-Paper Front-Page Analysis

Iran Daily

State English-language daily

"Ayatollah Khamenei Pledges Vengeance for Martyred Leader"



- The English state daily (dated Sunday, July 12) leads "Ayatollah Khamenei pledges vengeance for martyred Leader," carrying the new Leader Mojtaba Khamenei's funeral-message vow to avenge his assassinated father, Ali Khamenei.
- A banner across the fold reads "Araghchi: Mutual compliance key to implementing Iran-US memo," with a photo of Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Oman's Foreign Minister Badr al-Busaidi in Muscat on July 11, signaling that diplomacy over the MoU continued in parallel with the military escalation.
- The lead opinion, "Food, not just oil, may define the Persian Gulf's next security order," argues Gulf stability may soon hinge "on wheat as much as missiles," reframing the confrontation around import-dependence and food security.
- Secondary items pitch Iran transit initiatives to strengthen BRICS connectivity and report Iran seeking South Korean expertise for its creative economy, projecting a look-East, sanctions-resilient economic posture.
- Bottom features cover a "Parade of the Islamic Ummah's power" in Najaf and Karbala and an upbeat World Cup qualifying note from Iran's basketball federation, softening the front with soft-power and sport.

«آماده مرگ ناگهانی باشید» "Get Ready for Sudden Death"



- The wraparound splash marks the sudden death of US Senator Lindsey Graham, tagged in the deck as "the most anti-Iran senator in America"; a montage puts Trump in an open grave clutching a framed portrait while uniformed and suited Western figures look on, and the trilingual banner reads "Get Ready for Sudden Death" in Persian, English and Hebrew (התכוננו למוות פתאומי), a direct pickup of the Leader's threat that the "criminals" on Iran's list will never die peacefully in bed.
- The deck states that Graham's own office announced he died of a sudden (natural) death, framing the loss of a leading architect of pressure on Iran as a moment of "terror" spreading among American and Zionist warmongers rather than an Iranian operation.
- A lower headline, "America broke its covenant and got a firm response" (آمریکا عهد شکست؛ پاسخ محکم گرفت), ties the death to the wider rupture, asserting Iran will let no ship transit the Strait of Hormuz by an illegal route or without permission.
- A top strip flags "3 messages" tied to the funeral procession of the martyred Leader of the Revolution, keeping the mourning-and-vengeance frame alongside the anti-US triumphalism.
- As Tehran's municipal, nominally centrist daily, Hamshahri adopting this maximalist visual signals how far the vengeance narrative has saturated the mainstream, not just the hardline press.

«مرگ دلال مرگ» "Death of the Broker of Death"



- A full black page carries a portrait of Lindsey Graham under the pun "Death of the Broker of Death" (مرگ دلال مرگ); the deck says the hawkish senator, who played a special role in Trump's warmongering policies against Iran, "was killed by what was described as a sudden illness" (به هلاکت رسید), using the pejorative reserved for enemies.
- The top strip runs "Shock to Netanyahu" (شوگ به نتانیاهو) tying Graham's death to the wider blow against the US-Israel camp and calling him one of Netanyahu's closest friends.
- A right-hand block, "The wages of big talk" (عاقبت گنده گویی), argues Iran now has the upper hand at the Strait of Hormuz and that the closure route is shut; adjacent items claim a "false [market] value under the microscope" and "rising hatred of Israel."
- The channel edition also floats an unconfirmed line that Republican Senator Mitch McConnell was taken to hospital hours earlier; this is a single-source Iranian claim, not independently confirmed, and should be treated with caution.
- A front-page yadasht (signed note) titled "Graveyard of the Delusional" (گورستان متوهمان) mocks exile hopes of the Islamic Republic's collapse, arguing the last days have instead buried its enemies.

«ایران، بانک اهداف خود را بهروز کرد / "Iran Updated Its Target Bank; a New Phase of War Has Begun" / مرحله جدید جنگ آغاز شد»



- The banner "America broke its pledge, got slapped / Iran updated its target bank; a new phase of war has begun" (آمریکا نقض عهد کرد، سیلی خورد) frames the collapse of the June ceasefire MoU as US treachery answered by an expanded Iranian target list, escalating openly to "a new phase of war."
- A top item quotes the Zionist regime's war minister vowing to "destroy Lebanon like Gaza"; separately Kayhan cites the New York Times to assert "America is no longer the world's superior power," reinforcing a decline-of-the-hegemon theme.
- Graham's death is handled in a side headline, "Lindsey Graham, anti-Iran senator and close friend of Netanyahu, sent to hell" (راهی جهنم شد), with a companion piece borrowing Lebanon's Al-Akhbar framing him as a silenced "trumpet of genocide."
- A photo package shows mourning ceremonies for the martyred Leader, captioned in "the occupied province of Bahrain," projecting the funeral's reach across the Gulf; a right column warns that closing the Strait of Hormuz will weigh on the world economy for the long term.
- The day's Yadasht-e Rooz editorial, headlined around "avenging the martyred Imam and 135 days of Satan's awakening" (خونخواهی امام شهید و ۱۳۵ روز بیداری شیطان), sustains Kayhan's line that vengeance is a national duty; the full verbatim text could not be retrieved (kayhan.ir returned 503), so it is summarized, not quoted, below.

«بادبان‌های اقتدار در تنگه ایرانی برافراشته شد» *"The Sails of Power Raised in the Iranian Strait"*



- The hero image is an IRGC Navy fast boat flying the Iranian flag beside a laden oil tanker in the Strait of Hormuz, under "The sails of power raised in the Iranian strait," asserting operational Iranian control of the waterway as the ceasefire collapses.
- A caption block, "In the garden of fire, Trump [reaches] to Hormuz" (در باغ آتش، ترامپ به هرمز), casts renewed US strikes as reckless escalation into an Iranian-dominated chokepoint rather than a position of strength.
- A left column, "Israel's stroke from the death of the anti-Iran senator" (سکته اسرائیل از مرگ سناتور ضدایرانی), folds Graham's death into the same triumphal narrative as the other IRGC-aligned titles.
- Smaller items report battlefield-style claims of enemy losses ("Mohammadu and seven of his companions killed by treachery") and a foreign-policy note that Moscow has warned it would resort to nuclear weapons if existentially threatened.
- As the IRGC-affiliated daily, Javan foregrounds hard-power imagery and the Hormuz "authority" frame over the mourning coverage that dominates the establishment press.

«دوران توافقات یک طرفه تمام شده است» "The Era of One-Sided Agreements Is Over"



- The lead quotes Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf reacting to the other side's breach of the MoU: "the era of one-sided agreements is over... we told you, honor your word and commitments or you will pay the price; now face reality."
- A large center graphic, "Uncle Lindsey of the Pahlavi-ites went to hell" (عمو لیندسی پهلویچی ها رفت به درک), pairs a smiling Trump holding a "MAKE IRAN GREAT AGAIN" cap with a red-tinted Graham, saying the architect of maximum pressure "took his wish for Iran's collapse to the grave."
- A right rail bundles regional and soft-power items: "Iran's complete control over the strait," "the voice of Palestine at the heart of the World Cup," and a profile of Egypt coach Hossam Hassan as the Islamic world's most popular manager.
- The front-page yadasht is titled "The end must not justify the means!" (هدف: نیاید وسیله را توجیه کند), a note of caution against celebrating an adversary's death as if it were policy.
- A bottom feature celebrates Iran's national physics-olympiad team in Colombia winning three golds and two silvers, a rare non-war item on an otherwise war-dominated page.
- Sobh-e No's own channel edition additionally carries an IRGC public-relations claim that fuel depots and an ammunition dump at Jordan's Prince Hassan air base were set ablaze in a first-phase retaliation; this is an attacker-sourced claim, unverified independently.

Sazandegi Reformist (Kargozaran party)

«مرگ جنگ طلب» "Death of a Warmonger"



- The reformist daily also leads on Graham, but in flatter, more factual terms: "Death of a warmonger - Lindsey Graham, anti-Iran senator of the United States, died suddenly" (به صورت ناگهانی درگذشت), using the neutral verb for death rather than the hardline "perished/was killed."
- The front-page yadasht is headlined "Legal follow-up" (پیگیری حقوقی) and argues that for three decades Iran has sought to answer crimes against it and should now pursue redress through a legal, juridical framework rather than only through force, a characteristically reformist counterpoint to the vengeance chorus.
- A top-left item flags a "controversial speech" and the debate it triggered among supporters and opponents, signaling continued space for internal political contestation even amid the war footing.
- Header tabs raise pointed questions about the strait ("Hormuz - so you shut it?") and about patience and the sequencing of "battles," hinting at reformist unease over open-ended escalation.
- Overall Sazandegi mirrors the day's Graham-and-Hormuz agenda but strips out the celebratory register, pressing instead for lawful accountability and strategic caution.

Chaharsoo Economic / business

«پایان تفاهم کاغذی با آمریکا» "The End of the Paper Agreement With America"



- The lead pairs a photo of Trump tearing a document with "The end of the paper agreement with America"; the deck says that because of America's repeated breaches, the IRGC has closed the Strait of Hormuz "until further notice" (تا اطلاع ثانوی بسته شد), matching the IRGC's own stated closure.
- A supporting text block sets the rupture three weeks after the Trump-Iran MoU on reopening the strait, framing the closure as the predictable consequence of Washington failing to honor its commitments.
- A center item, "MPs' letter to put Hemmati on trial" (نامه نمایندگان مجلس برای محاکمه همتی), shows domestic economic blame-casting continuing in parallel, targeting a senior economic official (Hemmati) over the currency and market fallout.
- A right analysis, "Hormuz: link of the world order or golden key of power," uses a satellite map of the strait to argue Tehran holds decisive leverage over global trade through the chokepoint.
- As a business title, Chaharsoo reads the crisis primarily through leverage and markets rather than martyrdom, but lands on the same conclusion of maximal Iranian pressure at Hormuz.

«خط قرمز ایران در هرمز» "Iran's Red Line at Hormuz"



- The lead, "Iran's red line at Hormuz," says the paper reports on regional tensions and "new pressure on America's transactions," framing the strait as the decisive economic-strategic front rather than a purely military one.
- A central photo of hands holding US \$100 bills anchors a currency package headed "raising the ceiling / lifting the FX obligation" (افزایش سقف / رفع تعهد ارزی), reflecting how the crisis is transmitting straight into exchange-rate policy.
- Market items track the shock: a warning that the FX rally is "in danger" amid challenges, Bitcoin battling \$66,000 resistance, and a note on the end of the "temporary housing" era feeding into the global oil market.
- Left-column pieces, "Is profitability retreating?" and "Liquidity flight from the bourse" (فرار نقدینگی از بورس), signal capital rotating out of equities as war risk rises.
- Ta'adol supplies the fiscal-market read on the same Hormuz story that dominates the political press, emphasizing volatility in currency, oil and equities over the war rhetoric.

«قدرت هرمز / انسداد تنگه تا اطلاع ثانوی» "The Power of Hormuz: Closure Until Further Notice"



- The reformist flagship leads "The Power of Hormuz - closure of the strait until further notice," carrying an interview with former ambassador Mohsen Pakaeen and the latest regional developments, and asking pointedly "what the people say about negotiating with America."
- A large center feature marks the funeral of the martyred Leader as "the most extensive global news coverage of a mourning ceremony in the past four decades," using the crowd imagery to convey scale rather than to celebrate vengeance.
- Left-column analysis turns inward with a bank "autopsy" on risk-management failure under the Seventh Plan and a line that "the university has become a spectator of governance," continuing Etemad's structural-critique register.
- A right rail of signed yadasht notes from named commentators keeps a plurality of foreign-policy voices on the page, consistent with the reformist editorial model.
- Etemad accepts the Hormuz-closure fact but foregrounds diplomacy, public opinion and domestic governance rather than the triumphalism seen in the hardline titles.

Iran Official government daily

«تنگه هرمز سرزمین *"The Strait of Hormuz Is Our Land; We Will Not Permit a Rogue Army's Interference"* ماست و اجازه نخواهیم داد یک ارتش یاغی از آن سوی دنیا به دخالت‌های غیرقانونی خود ادامه دهد»

- The government daily's channel edition sets the official line on the strait: "The Strait of Hormuz is our territory, and we will not permit a rogue, child-killing army from the other side of the world to continue its unlawful interference in it."
- It reports that "the latest American strikes on Iranian positions have concluded, ending this round of attacks," presenting the exchange as bounded rather than open-ended.
- On the economic transmission, it notes global oil prices rose about 4 percent following the Gulf escalation, linking the military crisis directly to energy markets.
- The framing is defensive-sovereigntist rather than triumphal, casting Iran as protecting its own waters against external aggression.
- As the official state daily, Iran's wording is the closest read on the government's preferred public posture: legal ownership of Hormuz, calibrated retaliation, and a closed but justified waterway.

Jam-e Jam State broadcaster (IRIB)

«جنگ دوم بر سر حاکمیت تنگه هرمز است» *"The Second War Is Over Sovereignty of the Strait of Hormuz"*

- The IRIB daily's channel edition frames the escalation as "the second war, over sovereignty of the Strait of Hormuz," with analyst Nima Akbarpani reviewing which targets the US and Iran struck overnight.
- It carries Mohammad Javad Larijani asserting that "America is deeply mistaken; management of the strait will always remain with Iran," a state-media restatement of the Hormuz-control line.
- Notably for the state broadcaster, it also reports domestic war damage: a 4,200-megawatt cut in grid capacity, with more than 2,000 points in the electricity network hit and losses put above 60 trillion tomans, an unusually candid acknowledgment of costs.
- It leads its commemorative coverage with the martyred Leader's memorial ceremony held at the Imam Reza shrine on Saturday (20 Tir / July 11).
- As the IRIB outlet, Jam-e Jam blends the official Hormuz-sovereignty narrative with rare on-the-record admissions of infrastructure damage from US strikes.

The Leader's Message: A Vow of Vengeance for the Martyred Predecessor

Message attributed to Leader Mojtaba Khamenei, released via his Telegram channel on the occasion of his father's funeral ceremonies (11-12 July 2026); text as carried by international wire and outlet reporting.

On the occasion of the funeral ceremonies for the martyred Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, killed in the US-Israeli strikes of 28 February 2026, the new Leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, issued a written message framing retribution as a collective national obligation rather than a personal one.

The released text states: "This vengeance is the will of our nation and must inevitably be carried out." It continues that the perpetrators, "of whom we have a complete list from top to bottom, will take with them to their graves the wish for a peaceful death in bed."

The message insists the matter does not depend on any single person: "This does not depend on my own existence, nor on that of other officials. Whether we are present or not, it will come to pass."

This "complete list" and "no peaceful death in bed" framing is the interpretive key to the day's front pages: the natural-causes death of Senator Lindsey Graham was seized on across the press as an apparent fulfillment of the threat, and Kayhan's "Iran has updated its target bank" headline echoes the same list imagery.

Translation note: this is an editorial rendering of the message as reported by multiple outlets; khamenei.ir and the Persian originals could not be fetched directly during compilation (site returned HTTP 503), so wording is reconstructed from converging secondary reporting and flagged accordingly.

Flagged Editorial: Kayhan's Yadasht-e Rooz on Avenging the Martyred Imam

Kayhan, front-page daily editorial (Yadasht-e Rooz), 22 Tir 1405 / 13 July 2026. Kayhan's editorial line is directed by managing editor Hossein Shariatmadari, the Leader's representative at the paper; today's specific byline was not independently confirmed.

The day's flagged editorial is Kayhan's Yadasht-e Rooz, headlined around "avenging the martyred Imam and 135 days of Satan's awakening" (135 days being the span since the 28 February assassination).

Its argument, consistent with Kayhan's front page and Telegram edition, is that America's breach of the June memorandum vindicated those who warned against trusting Washington, and that Iran has now moved from deterrence to an active "new phase of war," updating its target list accordingly.

It reads Graham's death and the wider disarray in the US-Israel camp as signs of divine retribution and enemy decline, invoking the New York Times line that America is no longer the world's preeminent power.

On Hormuz, it defends the strait's closure as a sovereign right and warns the economic consequences for the West will be long-lasting.

Sourcing caveat: kayhan.ir returned HTTP 503 during compilation, so the verbatim editorial text could not be retrieved; the above is a faithful summary drawn from the front-page headline and the paper's own channel excerpts, not a verbatim translation.

Methodology and Sourcing Notes

Iran Press Intelligence Monitor, compilation notes for 13 July 2026.

Primary sources: nine Persian front-page scans from the NewspaperTasnim kiosk album for Monday 22 Tir 1405 (Hamshahri, Vatan-e Emrooz, Kayhan, Javan, Sobh-e No, Sazandegi, Chaharsoo, Ta'adol, Etemad) plus one English scan (Iran Daily, dated Sunday 12 July). Each page was read directly by vision and the masthead identified against the project's newspaper reference.

Text channels read for corroboration and detail: Kayhan (kayhan_online), Vatan-e Emrooz (vatanemrooz), Jam-e Jam (jamejamdaily), Etemad (etemadonline), Iran (IranNewspaper) and Sobh-e No (sobhe_no) via their public Telegram feeds. Tehran Times and kayhan.ir could not be fetched directly (repeated HTTP 503); English coverage therefore rests on the Iran Daily scan, with the gap disclosed here.

Accuracy corrections and standing facts: "the Leader" in current coverage is Mojtaba Khamenei; his father Ali Khamenei was assassinated on 28 February 2026 and is "the martyred Leader." Foreign Minister is Abbas Araghchi; Parliament Speaker is Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf; Oman's Foreign Minister is Badr al-Busaidi; Mohsen Pakaeen is a former Iranian ambassador and foreign-policy commentator. These were verified against the pages and, where possible, open sources.

Independently corroborated by Western reporting: the sudden death of US Senator Lindsey Graham on 11 July 2026 at age 71 (preliminary cause: aortic dissection, per the DC medical examiner, reported by the Washington Post, NBC, NPR and Roll Call); the collapse of the June ceasefire MoU and the IRGC's closure of the Strait of Hormuz "until further notice" after strikes on commercial vessels, followed by US retaliatory strikes (Al Jazeera, CNN, NBC, Washington Times).

Single-source or attacker-sourced claims flagged and NOT independently confirmed: Vatan-e Emrooz's line that Senator Mitch McConnell was hospitalized; the IRGC public-relations claim (via Sobh-e No) that fuel and ammunition stores at Jordan's Prince Hassan air base were set ablaze; battlefield casualty claims in Javan; and the celebratory framing that Graham's natural-causes death fulfilled the Leader's threat. Iranian outlets' pejorative verbs for the deaths of adversaries have been rendered as neutral fact.

Translation caveat: all English renderings are editorial. Persian headlines are transcribed from the scans; where full editorial bodies could not be retrieved, summaries are labeled as such rather than presented as verbatim quotation. The house style avoids the em dash throughout.