

OPEN-SOURCE PRESS INTELLIGENCE

Iranian Press Monitor

Daily Front-Page Intelligence

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PAPER COALITION EDITION

16 front pages surveyed: 14 Persian print titles plus Al-Wifaq (Arabic) and Tehran Times (English)

Front pages published the morning of Saturday 8 August, reflecting events through late Friday 7 August local, including the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement signed that day; Iranian dailies did not publish Friday, so these fronts are the press system's first response to the pact.

Defensive open-source press-intelligence. Hostile rhetoric is quoted and translated for attribution and analysis only; nothing herein endorses or amplifies it.



Front page: Javan

Executive Summary

The 8 August front pages carry two stories at once. One is loud and external: the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement that Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan signed the previous day, committing in public to treat an armed attack on one as an attack on all. The other is quieter and internal: a system working to hold itself together on the eve of a Hormuz arrangement that its own hardliners read as surrender. The press meets the pact with a studied contempt that does not quite cover the unease beneath it: Vatan-e Emrooz reduces it to "Paper Coalition!"; Javan brands the signatories as men "who despair of Washington"; Shariatmadari's Kayhan column mocks Shehbaz Sharif for lavishing praise on Trump while signing a pact that, in his telling, exists to shield American and Israeli interests. Only Shargh (a possible new regional security architecture) and Farhikhtegan (the old Middle East reassembling around a reactionary idea) treat it as an event worth analyzing. The dismissive chorus is worth reading as a tell: when eight of sixteen fronts spend their energy explaining why an agreement does not matter, the agreement has landed.

Tehran's counter-frame runs on three claims: the pact is hollow because it published no command structure or force commitment; it is illegitimate because its members stayed silent on Gaza; and it is unreliable because large parts of the Turkish and Pakistani officer corps supposedly sympathize with Iran and the Axis, an assertion no outlet substantiates. The pact is not yet an operational alliance, but it is a structural response to doubts about American guarantees and to the demonstrated Iranian ability to threaten Gulf energy from several directions at once. Its danger to Tehran is not this week's combat power; it is the platform it creates for joint air defence, maritime patrol and defence-industrial work over the coming years.

Beneath the external story, the papers show a leadership managing its own cohesion. Ayatollah Javadi Amoli's appeal runs across Javan, Hamshahri and, in softer form, Jomhuri-e Eslami: fight the divider, he says, even if the man wears my own turban, a senior marja's warning against the factional splintering the Hormuz question has exposed. Pezeshkian, in the third instalment of his televised conversation with the public, promises to defend the Oman memorandum "with power" and insists reform will not stop; No-Bonyad answers that his was a "performance report without a single statistic." Sazandegi reports that the president has refused the resignation of Mohammad-Baqer Zolqadr, keeping a hardline hand on the Supreme National Security Council. The public performance of unity sits directly on an unresolved argument about whether the coming Hormuz deal is a national achievement or a capitulation dressed as one.

The Hormuz file itself advanced and did not close. Iran and Oman have converged on a traffic-management formula, with inbound vessels routed through Iranian-side waters and outbound traffic on the Omani side, but no jointly published text, map or notice to mariners existed in the window. Washington's position hardened into conditional reciprocity: a US official told Reuters that once an arrangement restores commercial shipping "without impediments," the United States will lift its blockade of Iranian ports, and not before. The unresolved fault lines are the ones that matter: Iran has floated transit-related service charges reported at 5 to 7 percent of cargo value, which Oman wants lower and Washington rejects as a toll; Reuters counted only 33 vessels crossing Hormuz Monday through Thursday against roughly 130 to 140 in a normal pre-war week; and oil eased as traders priced in a settlement (all figures as reported, unverified here). None of that is normalization: it is a negotiation that is advanced, coerced and unfinished. Running under it is the register of victory: Quds leads with "America ran short of munitions," Hamshahri reports "the Pentagon's big secret leaked," Tehran Times and Vatan-e Emrooz carry the single-sourced claim that Mossad's new chief sacked the architects of a failed regime-change plan, and from the Leader's office comes an hourglass draining blood over pictures of Trump, captioned "the reverse countdown of revenge." Because 8 August is Iranian Journalist Day, the state

papers fold the press into the same story: Jam-e Jam's "Narrators of Victory," Shargh's answering "Wounded Narrators," the war correspondent inducted into the martyr-canon.

Net assessment: this is a dismissal-as-confession edition. The triumphalism is not decoration: it raises the domestic price of any Hormuz text that can be read as a return to the status quo ante, and it keeps maximalism and victory speaking with one voice, most explicitly in Aarabi's Kayhan column demanding tolls now and strikes on host-state facilities in place of "a few pieces of paper." Against that, a pragmatic counter-narrative is forming in the reformist lane (Etemad's currency-crisis warning, No-Bonyad's question asked from the opposite direction), and the sharpest internal dissent comes from Kayhan's own economic desk, which accuses the government of running a peacetime economy in wartime. The signals to watch are whether a joint Iran-Oman text actually publishes, whether the IRGC camp's sovereignty bar migrates from No-Bonyad to the flagship fronts, and whether the vengeance register escalates if the sign-off stalls.

BOTTOM LINE On the day Sunni powers formalized a hedge against both Iran and an unreliable Washington, Tehran's press worked hard to make the hedge look weightless while the leadership quietly braced its own ranks for a Hormuz compromise it has not yet admitted it is making: the external confidence and the internal caution are the same story told from two directions.

CRITICAL SOURCING NOTE This edition was compiled from the office's manual morning survey of 16 front pages (14 Persian print titles, Al-Wifaq in Arabic, Tehran Times in English) with primary-channel and wire cross-checks; page scans are the survey copies, against which mastheads and original-script headlines were verified. The kiosk aggregation channel's 17 Mordad batch was posted in a format its public web preview cannot render, so the usual automated pull was unavailable at compile time. Transit-fee percentages, traffic counts, oil benchmarks, unreturned-currency totals, munitions-depletion and poll figures are asserted in the Iranian or foreign press and are not independently verified here. The Mossad-dismissals story is single-sourced and is treated as an information operation regardless of its underlying truth.

Macro Trend Analysis

① The Mecca pact and the manufacture of weightlessness

The organizing task across most of the fronts is to make a real event feel like nothing: "paper coalition," "Islamic NATO" as a sneer, "a Saudi cautionary document," a trilateral of those who "despair of Washington." The argument has three moves, each with its own weakness: the pact is hollow because it named no command or forces (true today, silent about tomorrow); illegitimate because its members abandoned Gaza (a moral charge, not a strategic rebuttal); and doomed because the Pakistani and Turkish rank and file allegedly love the Resistance (asserted, never substantiated). The intensity of the dismissal is the real signal: a bloc that mattered less would have earned less front-page space.

② Hormuz: achievement or surrender

The same underlying event, an Iran-Oman route arrangement edging toward announcement, splits the press along the system's main fault line. Jomhuri-e Eslami frames a framework Iran is finalizing on its own terms; Javan puts Iran "on the threshold of a Hormuz-control agreement"; against them No-Bonyad asks whether "temporary" is a euphemism for "gradual surrender" and reframes the question from lane coordinates to the degree of sovereignty Iran actually exercises; Etemad occupies the middle, crediting Iran as the strait's new architect while warning that leaving it closed boomerangs into a currency crisis at home. The disagreement is not about facts on the water: it is a proxy for the factional contest over the war's endgame, continuing the announced-but-not-sealed thread this monitor has tracked since 6 August.

3 Cohesion under strain

Three items that look unrelated point the same way: a marja tells the public to fight "dividers" even at his own expense; a president refuses to let his security-council secretary resign; a head of state promises to defend a contested memorandum "with power" while a critic dismisses his account as statistics-free. Read together, they describe a leadership spending political capital to keep its wings aligned through a decision that could fracture them. The Zolqadr story matters most as a marker: keeping a hardline security figure in place is a concession to the camp most likely to reject a soft Hormuz text, and a hedge by a president who needs that camp's acquiescence.

4 The economy the victory narrative does not mention

Kayhan's own economic desk supplies the sharpest dissent on any front page, and it comes from the right, not the reformists: the 14th government is behaving as though conditions were normal, freeing exports of sugar, eggs and chicken while a naval blockade holds ("exporting from the people's table"), with 111 billion euros of export earnings unreturned and price shocks traced to the abrupt removal of preferential foreign exchange (the paper's figures, unverified). The demand is a "war footing": halt essential-goods exports, force repatriation, prosecute profiteers. That a flagship hardline paper is this scathing about economic management, on a day the rest of the press celebrates military victory, is the most revealing internal signal in the file.

5 The martyr-press and Journalist Day

Because the survey falls on Iranian Journalist Day, the war correspondent is folded into the martyr-canon across the state titles: Jam-e Jam's "Narrators of Victory" and Shargh's "Wounded Narrators" frame the same figure from opposite moods, one triumphal and one traumatized, with Quds, Iran and Jahan-e Sanat running the theme. The subtext is a claim on the war's meaning: the press did not merely report the fight, it fought it, and its dead belong beside the military's. Jahan-e Sanat's counterpoint, journalism in the age of high prices, quietly reads the same day through economic hardship rather than glory.

6 The triumphalist register and its purpose

Munitions depletion, Mossad's claimed regime-change failure, US warships that "fear approaching," and the Leader's office blood-hourglass all serve a single domestic function: they convert the war's ambiguous outcome into a settled victory and make any Hormuz text that resembles the old normal politically expensive to sign. The claims travel from the hardline core outward: Kayhan asserts the Pentagon depletion is "real" and stages photographs of downed drones, Aarabi builds the TACO chronology of claimed Trump climbdowns, and the wire of it reaches even the reformist mastheads as ambient background. Victory is being locked in as a premise so that the negotiation cannot be judged against it.

Key Judgments

KJ-1 [HIGH] The Mecca pact is the window's most consequential development, and the dismissals prove it. Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan committed in public to treat an armed attack on one as an attack on all; the Iranian answer arrived as ridicule rather than analysis: a "paper coalition," a club of the disappointed, a Sunni bloc whose soldiers secretly favour the Resistance. Significance: ridicule on this scale, across this many mastheads, is what a serious strategic surprise looks like when a press system has decided in advance how it must feel about it.

KJ-2 [MODERATE-HIGH] The pact is not yet an alliance, but its trajectory is what should worry Tehran. The public text disclosed no standing command, force package, basing rights or nuclear umbrella, and Turkish

and Saudi officials stressed its defensive, non-sectarian character; its weight today is political and deterrent. Significance: the consequential horizon is longer: a framework that could acquire integrated missile defence, maritime patrol, intelligence sharing and joint production, steadily reducing Iran's ability to pick off Gulf states one bilateral vulnerability at a time.

KJ-3 [HIGH] Hormuz is close to an arrangement but was unsigned in the window, and that gap is analytically load-bearing. The Iran-Oman formula is real, yet no joint text, navigational map or binding notice to mariners had appeared; Washington's line is sequenced and conditional: restore unimpeded commercial shipping first, lift the blockade second, with every US step tied to observed Iranian performance. Significance: "deal expected soon" is not an implemented reopening; this extends the announced-but-not-sealed judgment carried from the 6 August edition.

KJ-4 [MODERATE-HIGH] The IRGC remains the internal brake on a rapid settlement. Mediator reporting has the Guard-linked camp holding out for firmer recognition of Iranian control, transit fees, sanctions relief and removal of the US naval blockade before the draft clears the Supreme National Security Council; no standalone IRGC endorsement of the emerging text surfaced in the window, a negative finding recorded as such. Significance: the Guard's posture, and not the negotiators' progress, remains the decisive variable in whether the announced arrangement becomes an operative one.

KJ-5 [MODERATE-HIGH] The leadership is visibly bracing its own ranks for a compromise it has not yet named. Javadi Amoli's warning against "dividers," the refusal of Zolqadr's SNSC resignation and Pezeshkian's pledge to defend the memorandum "with power" are three moves in a single effort: keeping the hardline and pragmatic wings inside the tent through a decision each distrusts. Significance: elite-unity messaging at this volume usually precedes a contested choice, not a settled one.

KJ-6 [MODERATE] Victory framing and Hormuz maximalism are the same message aimed at the same audience. The munitions-depletion story, the Mossad-failure story and the Leader's office "reverse countdown of revenge" all raise the political cost, at home, of any strait arrangement that looks like the pre-war normal; Aarabi's Kayhan column makes the link explicit, cataloguing claimed Trump climbdowns as proof that Iran can now dictate terms and should start charging tolls at once rather than sign "a few pieces of paper." Significance: the vengeance register that had receded from the fronts on 6 August has been re-armed through the Leader's office imagery, and it is now working in tandem with the anti-memorandum camp.

KJ-7 [MODERATE] A cautious pragmatic counter-narrative is forming in the reformist press. No-Bonyad asks whether the deal is a "temporary agreement or a gradual surrender"; Etemad warns that a strait left closed turns an energy crisis into a global currency crisis and casts Iran as the "architect of a new Hormuz order" that still needs a functioning economy behind it; Sazandegi's "economy of fear" registers the same constituency. Significance: a bloc is consolidating that wants the war ended and the corridor opened, and is willing to call an over-sold victory by its name; its purchase on the sign-off is unmeasured, so the judgment is held at moderate.

Named-Figure Tracker

Figure	Role / relevance	Today's framing	Flag
The Leader (Mojtaba Khamenei)	Supreme Leader	Present through his office's "reverse countdown of revenge" image (an hourglass draining blood over pictures of Trump) and, in Tehran Times, Pezeshkian's praise of "the new Leader's virtues"; cast as the guarantor of the revenge and unity lines.	WATCH
Masoud Pezeshkian	President	Dominates the state and reformist fronts: defends the Oman memorandum "with power," says reform will not stop, and that completing the corridors is "more essential than bread"; criticized by No-Bonyad for a statistics-free account.	WATCH
Abbas Araghchi	Foreign Minister	Author of the message to the neighbours urging self-reliance and "genuine brotherhood"; assessed as the senior negotiator who transmitted the Hormuz draft as recognition of Iranian control.	WATCH
Mohammad-Baqer Zolqadr	SNSC Secretary	Sazandegi's lead: his resignation refused by the president, keeping a hardline security hand in place through the Hormuz decision.	NEW NAMED FIGURE
Ayatollah Javadi Amoli	Senior marja	His unity appeal, fight the divider "even if he wears my turban," anchors Javan and Hamshahri and appears on Jomhuri-e Eslami; deployed as clerical cover for cohesion.	NEW NAMED FIGURE
Hossein Shariatmadari	Kayhan managing editor	His Nokteh column mocks Pakistan's Sharif and the Mecca signatories as defenders of American and Zionist interests, and questions Islamabad's fitness to mediate.	COERCION SPOKESMAN
Seyed Mohammad-Emad Aarabi	Kayhan columnist	His "When will the war end?" column converts the victory narrative into operational advocacy: tolls now, strikes on host-state commercial and oil facilities for any stoppage, no reliance on the "misunderstanding-memorandum."	COERCION SPOKESMAN
Mohammed bin Salman / Erdogan / Shehbaz Sharif	Mecca pact signatories	Photographed together across Farhikhtegan, Shargh and Quds; framed as a bloc of the pro-Western	TARGET FRAMING

Figure	Role / relevance	Today's framing	Flag
		and the disappointed, silent on Gaza, unfit and hollow.	
Donald Trump	US President	The day's antagonist and punchline: claimed "TACO" climbdowns catalogued by Aarabi, blamed for the arms crisis, drowned in the Leader's office blood-hourglass image, and knifed in a Hamshahri caricature.	TARGET FRAMING
Roman Gofman	Named as Mossad chief	Named in Tehran Times and implied in Vatan-e Emrooz as the man who sacked the architects of a failed Iran regime-change plan; used to stage an Israeli intelligence humiliation (single-sourced naming, unverified).	TARGET FRAMING
Ansarallah (Houthis)	Axis actor	Quoted via Shariatmadari vowing to sink the ships of every coalition member equally; Vatan-e Emrooz headlines their "slap" to Saudi "mercenaries."	COERCION SPOKESMAN
IRGC command	Institutional actor	No standalone IRGC endorsement of the emerging Hormuz text appeared on any front in the window, while Guard-credited battle-damage imagery ran on Kayhan; the silence on the deal against the noise of the trophy display is itself the signal.	absence noted

Headline Summary Table

Outlet	Lead Headline (English)	Orientation	Theme	Threat signal
Vatan-e Emrooz	Tremor in the rats' nest; Paper Coalition!	Hardline / principlist	Mossad-failure claim; Mecca pact dismissed	HIGH: staged intelligence-humiliation claims
Javan	Fight the divider even if he wears my turban (Javadi Amoli)	Hardline / IRGC-affiliated	Clerical unity appeal; Hormuz maximalism	MODERATE-HIGH: Hormuz-control framing ahead of any text
Quds	America ran short of munitions	Hardline religious (Mashhad)	US munitions depletion; pact as weakness	MODERATE-HIGH: depletion-collapse narrative
Kayhan	The empty place of a war economy in wartime conditions	Ultra-hardline flagship	War-economy indictment; escalation advocacy	HIGH: toll-and-strike advocacy in columns
Tehran Times	Mossad sacks architects of its failed regime-change dream	State (English)	Mossad claim for foreign readers; tempo framing	MODERATE: outward information operation

Outlet	Lead Headline (English)	Orientation	Theme	Threat signal
Jam-e Jam	Narrators of Victory (Journalist Day)	State broadcaster (IRIB)	Journalist Day martyr-canon; hedged pact test	MODERATE: victory canonization
Shargh	The Mecca Pact: code for a new security order in the region?	Reformist	Pact as new security order; wounded narrators	LOW-MODERATE: realignment analysis
Farhikhtegan	The Mecca Agreement? The old Middle East	Principlist-intellectual	Pact as reactionary relic; Hormuz leverage	MODERATE: chokepoint-leverage dramatization
Jomhuri-e Eslami	We defend the memorandum with power (Pezeshkian)	Clerical / traditional	Memorandum defended; Oman framework near	LOW-MODERATE: establishment cover
No-Bonyad	A temporary agreement, or a gradual surrender?	Hardline-critical	Hormuz deal as possible surrender	MODERATE-HIGH: surrender-framing pressure
Etemad	Reforms will not stop; Iran, architect of the new Hormuz order	Reformist	Reform continuity; currency-crisis warning	LOW-MODERATE: pragmatic case for a deal
Iran	I stand and speak to the people against the sabotage (Pezeshkian)	State / government	Presidential dialogue; memorandum as pride	LOW-MODERATE: anti-sabotage framing
Al-Wifaq	Relations with neighbours are far better than before (Pezeshkian)	State (Arabic)	Neighbourhood reassurance; resilience claim	LOW: regional reassurance
Hamshahri	Completing the corridors is more essential than bread (Pezeshkian)	Municipal / conservative	Corridors over bread; depletion echo	MODERATE: depletion amplification plus caricature
Sazandegi	Still the Secretary (Zolqadr's resignation refused)	Reformist / Kargozaran	Zolqadr kept at SNSC; elite cohesion	LOW-MODERATE: cohesion-management signal
Jahan-e Sanat	Journalism in the age of high prices; Military coalition in Mecca	Economic / centrist	Journalist Day as economic hardship	LOW: economic-distress counterpoint

Per-Paper Front-Page Analysis

Vatan-e Emrooz

Hardline / principlist

HIGH: staged intelligence-humiliation claims plus pact dismissal

«لرزه در لانه موش‌ها» "Tremor in the rats' nest"



- Main: "Tremor in the rats' nest": the new Mossad chief is reported to have dismissed two senior officials over the failure of an operational plan to change the regime in Iran; a satellite image captioned as Mossad headquarters anchors the page, staging a single-sourced claim as documentary fact.
- Right rail: "Paper Coalition!" on the Saudi-Turkish-Pakistani Mecca defence pact, beside "Ansarallah's slap to the Saudi mercenaries."
- Sub-item: "Empty warehouse and hollow threat" and "Collapse in the mirror of narcissism" extend the US munitions-depletion line.
- Sidebar: quotes "Telegraph: Iran won" (third-party attribution; unverified rendering, not to be reproduced as authentic).

ANALYST NOTE The page runs two victory claims in parallel and lets them reinforce each other: Israel's covert war has collapsed and the Sunni bloc is theatre. The Mossad-sacking story is single-sourced and unverifiable but is staged as documentary fact; treat it as an information-operation win regardless of underlying truth. Continues the US-depletion thread tracked since Day 156.

Javan

Hardline / IRGC-affiliated

MODERATE-HIGH: maximalist Hormuz-control framing ahead of any text

«با وحدت‌شکن بجنگید حتی اگر» (Ayatollah Javadi Amoli) "Fight the divider even if he wears my turban (Ayatollah Javadi Amoli)"
عمامه مرا بر سر داشته باشد»



- Main: Ayatollah Javadi Amoli's unity appeal: fight the one who divides, even if the man wears my own turban; a senior marja's warning against factional splintering.
- Sub-item: the trilateral agreement of "those who despair of Washington" in Mecca.
- Sub-item: Iran on the threshold of a Hormuz-control agreement.
- Sub-item: "The disloyalty of the opponents was elevating the spiritual station of the martyred Leader."
- Sub-item: "America: from the dream of Iran's surrender to the reality of Iran."

ANALYST NOTE Javan pairs clerical discipline at home with contempt abroad, and the pairing is deliberate. Naming the three signatories "those who despair of Washington" concedes the pact is a hedge against American unreliability while denying it strength of its own. "Threshold of a Hormuz-control agreement" is the maximalist reading the IRGC camp wants locked in before any text is signed; it carries the preserve-the-leverage thread from the 6 August Kayhan veto.

Quds

Hardline religious (Astan-e Quds, Mashhad)

«آمریکا کم مهمات آورد»

MODERATE-HIGH: depletion-collapse narrative as strategic verdict

مهمات کم آورد»



- Main: analysts are quoted saying the reduction in US missile stockpiles has become "acute" (claim; rests on Western reporting of stockpile strain, hardened here into collapse).
- Sub-item: "A Saudi cautionary document" over the Erdogan, bin Salman and Sharif photograph: the Mecca pact recast as a confession of weakness.
- Sub-item: "The journalist: narrator of the last breaths and the first news" (Journalist Day).
- Sub-item: "From the reflecting pool to the Strait of Hormuz"; "Central Asia's escape from the dead end."

ANALYST NOTE Quds turns the munitions-depletion story into a strategic verdict: if the strongest army in the world is running dry, the balance has already tipped. The move is consistent across the hardline cluster: every adversary action is re-read as evidence of adversary defeat, which indicates centrally comfortable message discipline rather than independent editorial judgment.

"The empty place of a war economy in wartime conditions"

HIGH: toll-and-strike advocacy plus war-economy mobilization demand

«جای خالی «اقتصاد جنگی» در شرایط جنگی»



- Main: the paper's own economic desk attacks the government: freeing exports of sugar, eggs and chicken during a naval blockade is "exporting from the people's table"; 111 billion euros, about 130 billion dollars, of export earnings unreturned (figures as printed, unverified); the demand is a genuine "war footing": halt essential-goods exports, force repatriation, prosecute profiteers.
- Banner: "US missile-stockpile depletion is real; the Pentagon holds a crisis meeting" (claim).
- Sub-item: new images of destroyed "American-Zionist" drones and fighters credited to the IRGC Aerospace Force's air-defence system (claim; wreckage identifications not independently verified).
- Sub-item: Ghalibaf: Trump's spreading of fake news is a failed strategy; US warships fear approaching, Iran can destroy them.
- Op-ed: Aarabi's "When will the war end?" (toll-and-strike advocacy; translated in the appendix) and Shariatmadari's "Point, end of line!" mocking the Mecca signatories (translated in the appendix).

ANALYST NOTE The most analytically interesting page in the survey because it argues with itself: the columns declare military victory while the lead charges the government with losing the home front through incompetence. Aarabi's column extends the 6 August "not negotiable" veto into operational advocacy: begin levying tolls now and answer any stoppage with strikes on host-state commercial and oil facilities. Documented here for defensive assessment; this is the day's highest-value escalation-advocacy signal.

"Mossad sacks architects of its failed regime-change dream"



- Main: the Mossad-dismissals claim packaged as a clean report for foreign readers, naming Roman Gofman as the new Mossad chief (single-sourced; no independent confirmation in the window; not to be reproduced as authentic without primary-source confirmation).
- Sub-item: "Iran sets the tempo of the conflict"; the Mecca pact reported straight: "Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Turkey sign joint defense pact."
- Sub-item: "Yemen flips the battlefield on Saudi Arabia"; Israel expands its West Bank offensive camp by camp.
- Sub-item: "Humble, reasonable and patient": Pezeshkian on the new Leader's virtues.
- Sub-item: Iran a strategic partner of the EAEU; ancient Iranian wind towers inspire an Italian designer.

ANALYST NOTE The outward-facing register shift is the tell: the same claim Vatan-e Emrooz stages with a satellite photo is written here as a clean report, and the pact is reported straight rather than mocked because this audience will check the claim against the wires. Pezeshkian's on-record praise of the new Leader's virtues is the day's clearest outward-facing succession-consolidation cue.

«راویان نصر» "Narrators of Victory"



- Main: Journalist Day as a war memorial for the press: the correspondent as the one who "turned moments into history."
- Sub-item: Pezeshkian: the Leader of the Revolution is exceptional in ethics, logic and humility.
- Sub-item: "The difficult test of the Mecca Pact": doubts over security priorities, Islamabad's role and the pact's real foundation.
- Sub-item: let America act on its commitments instead of putting on a show (Majlis speaker).
- Sub-item: "The rubble of defeat on the heads of Mossad and the Pentagon"; Iran shines in AI.

ANALYST NOTE The broadcaster's paper wants the victory register and a hedge at once: its Mecca coverage is a "difficult test" raising real questions about Islamabad rather than a sneer. That is what a state broadcaster does when it is not sure the triumph will hold; watch whether the hedge survives if the Hormuz sign-off lands.

«"The Mecca Pact": the code for the start of a new security order in the region?» کد آغاز «پیمان مکه»
آرایش جدید امنیتی در منطقه؟»



- Main: Shargh's account of the signing of the Saudi-Turkish-Pakistani joint-defence agreement, treated as a system-level event worth analyzing rather than mocking.
- Main (visual lead): "Wounded narrators" (راویان زخمی): the war's toll on journalists' mental health (Journalist Day); the Mecca-pact analysis runs beneath it over the signing photograph.
- Op-ed: "I exchange, therefore I am"; "Forced exodus from the newsroom."
- Sub-item: "From false claims to calls for the government's overthrow"; the absence of money in the property market.

ANALYST NOTE Shargh does what the hardline cluster refuses: it takes the pact seriously enough to ask a real question about regional security architecture. Its "wounded narrators" angle is the reformist counter to the state papers' martyr-glory, reading the same figure through trauma rather than triumph.

«The Mecca Agreement? The old Middle East» «توافق مکه»؛ خاورمیانه قدیم»



- Main: can Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan buy themselves security against the Israeli threat with a reactionary idea?
- Sub-item: "An economic tsunami from the Tsugaru Strait": a Japan chokepoint analogy for the Hormuz shock.
- Sub-item: "The general's trap": why was the news of Hegseth's reprimand released, and what is the reality of America's arms crisis?
- Sub-item: Iranian Journalist Day and the narrative war with Trump.

ANALYST NOTE The cluster's most developed argument, which is why it belongs beside Shargh rather than in the sneering cluster: it grants the pact reality before pronouncing it obsolete, and the explanation is more corrosive than the dismissal. The Tsugaru analogy dramatizes chokepoint leverage as usable statecraft, feeding the same maximalist premise Aarabi argues operationally.

Jomhuri-e Eslami Clerical / traditional conservative

"We defend with power what we have written in the name of the memorandum (Pezeshkian)"

LOW-MODERATE: establishment cover for the memorandum

«از آنچه به نام تفاهم نامه نوشته ایم با قدرت دفاع می کنیم»



- Main: the memorandum framed as a national commitment to be defended.
- Sub-item: the general framework of Iran's understanding with Oman on the Strait of Hormuz will be finalized soon; a joint statement to follow.
- Sub-item: fight the violators of unity (Javadi Amoli); hidden fault lines, foreigners' ambitions.
- Sub-item: a new Reuters poll: most Americans believe the war on Iran makes the Middle East more unstable (third-party poll, as printed).
- Sub-item: sailors of the carrier Abraham Lincoln suffer from depression (claim); Saudi Arabia and Pakistan signed a military agreement.

ANALYST NOTE The clerical paper carries the establishment line cleanly: the Oman framework is close and Pakistan has come around to backing it. Pairing Pezeshkian's defence of the deal with Javadi Amoli's unity call is the establishment's answer to the hardline critique: clerical cover for the compromise before the IRGC camp can brand it surrender. Continues Day 156's announced-but-not-sealed thread.

No-Bonyad Hardline-critical

MODERATE-HIGH: surrender-framing pressure on the sign-off

"A temporary agreement, or a gradual surrender?"



- Banner (top strip): "A temporary agreement, or a gradual handover?" over Araghchi and the Omani foreign minister: Iran-Oman talks on new Hormuz transit arrangements; the real issue is no longer how ships pass but the degree to which Iran exercises sovereignty.
- Main (largest type): Pezeshkian's "performance report without citing statistics" (گزارش عملکرد بدون ذکر آمار); "two years backward."
- Sub-item: "Rented security, the repeated Saudi prescription"; negotiation with America does not secure the Islamic ummah's interest.
- Sub-item: "The campaign headquarters are still active."

ANALYST NOTE The clearest articulation of the maximalist objection, aimed inward: by recasting Hormuz from lane management to "the degree of exercise of Iranian sovereignty," it sets a bar the emerging deal cannot meet and pre-labels any compromise as surrender. This is the front page the IRGC camp would write; track whether its framing migrates to Javan and Kayhan as the sign-off nears.

«اصلاحات متوقف نمی‌شود» (Pezeshkian) "Reforms will not stop"



- Main: society cannot be run by command and prohibition; I defend the memorandum with power.
- Sub-item: "Iran: architect of the new Hormuz order" (interview).
- Sub-item: if the strait stays closed, an energy crisis turns into a global currency crisis.
- Sub-item: "The flicker of the print-media lamp": official media against the virtual space (Journalist Day).

ANALYST NOTE Etemad occupies the reasoned middle: it credits Iran as the "architect" of a new Hormuz order, keeping the national-achievement frame, while warning that a strait left shut would rebound as a currency crisis at home. That is the pragmatic case for closing a deal made without conceding weakness: leverage is real, but so is the cost of overplaying it.

«Completing the corridors is more essential than bread (Pezeshkian)» «تکمیل کریدورها از نان شب واجب‌تر است»



- Main: Pezeshkian's line that finishing the trade corridors matters more than bread, a striking claim to headline while food prices dominate the Kayhan critique.
- Main (visual lead): Javadi Amoli's appeal dominates the page: fight the divider, even if my turban is on his head (با وحدت‌شکن مبارزه کنید ولو عمامه) "a war for unity."
- Sub-item: "The lie-repetition machine in America": from 75 denials of a Hormuz reopening to 88 near-deal promises (figures as printed, unverified).
- Sub-item: "The Pentagon's big secret leaked": reports of reduced US arms stockpiles in the war with Iran.
- Sub-item: a Trump caricature with a knife labelled Iran through the head (page cartoon, described; the scan was not on file for cropping in this edition).

ANALYST NOTE Hamshahri ties the economic argument to the strategic one and doubles the unity appeal. The municipal paper is conservative but not maximalist: it wants the corridor open and the war behind it, while its "lie-repetition machine" and "Pentagon secret" items feed the same depletion narrative running through the hardline cluster.

«همچنان دبیر» *"Still the Secretary"*



- Main: the president has not accepted Mohammad-Baqer Zolqadr's resignation as secretary of the Supreme National Security Council; he continues "with power" on his assigned mission.
- Sub-item: "Islamic NATO": the leaders of Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan signed the Mecca defence agreement (a more neutral label than the hardline sneers).
- Op-ed: "Between two distrusts."
- Sub-item: "Economy of fear"; "The silencing of a pen" (Journalist Day).

ANALYST NOTE The only paper to lead on the internal signal the others bury: keeping a hardline security hand at the SNSC, over his own offer to go, precisely as a soft Hormuz text approaches. The editorial title "between two distrusts" names the system's mood better than any front page: trusting neither Washington nor its own negotiators. Zolqadr enters the tracker as a new named figure.

«می‌ایستم و در برابر کارشکنی‌ها با» *"I stand, and I speak to the people against the sabotage (Pezeshkian)"*
مردم صحبت می‌کنم



- Main: the third instalment of the president's televised conversation with the public, framed against "sabotage."
- Sub-item: "The devoted souls of Iran": special Government Week pages.
- Sub-item: journalists: the narrators whose own story no one narrates.
- Sub-item: the memorandum is a document of pride for diplomacy and for Pezeshkian.
- Sub-item: privatization of Saipa on the government's table; moving beyond "mere trade" with Eurasia.

ANALYST NOTE The government daily builds Pezeshkian into a figure standing firm against "saboteurs," the presidency's way of naming the hardline critics without naming them. "Document of pride" is the mirror image of No-Bonyad's "gradual surrender," and the two front pages read as a direct argument conducted at a distance. The Eurasia and privatization items sketch the economic escape route the government wants the deal to open.

«العلاقات مع دول الجوار أفضل بكثير مما كانت عليه في السابق»
"Relations with neighbouring countries are far better than they were before (Pezeshkian)"



- Main: the president's conversation carried to a regional audience with the accent shifted to reassurance.
- Sub-item: the region's states will not allow anyone to enter Iranian soil and ignite sedition.
- Sub-item: "Our steadfastness today is the fruit of the guidance of the martyred Leader."
- Sub-item: Iran has opened and widened new trade routes with neighbours to counter the siege; Iran now recognized in international forums as a strong state.
- Sub-item: Journalist Day: "the pen is the memory of nations."

ANALYST NOTE The message to the neighbourhood is that Iran seeks better relations and will not be encircled, delivered on the same day the Mecca pact tries to encircle it. Invoking "the martyred Leader" keeps the revenge-and-continuity theme alive for Arab readers, and the trade-routes line answers the blockade with a claim of resilience rather than a threat.

«خبرنگاری در عصر گرانی»
"Journalism in the age of high prices"



- Main: Journalist Day read through the cost of living rather than the war, the paper's house signature.
- Banner: "Military coalition in Mecca" across the masthead strip; the pact present but demoted.
- Sub-item: "Journalists: the silent victims"; "Life behind the headlines."
- Sub-item: "138-trillion-toman loss to the oil pension fund" in the 13th-government privatization file (figure as printed, unverified).
- Sub-item: analysis of the CLARITY Act's effect on crypto markets; the tangled knot of Tehran-Washington tension.

ANALYST NOTE On a day of martial triumph elsewhere, an economic paper quietly insisting that the journalist's problem is the grocery bill is its own kind of dissent. The pension-fund loss item keeps the accountability ledger open against the victory register.

A. Foreign Minister Araghchi, message to the neighbours (full translation)

Telegram, @s_a_araghchi, https://t.me/s_a_araghchi/11885

Message of Abbas Araghchi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, addressed to the neighbours: the time has come for us to rely on ourselves and to take up genuine brotherhood.

Iran's powerful armed forces have proven their readiness, capability and authority against the most advanced military power in the world.

When Muslims stand united and cohesive alongside one another, they can stand firm, with power and resolve, against any challenge created by ill-wishing foreigners.

The time has come to rely only on ourselves and to take up genuine brotherhood.

Analyst flag: an outward unity appeal issued the day after the Mecca pact, functioning as Tehran's soft counter-bid for the same "Islamic solidarity" ground the pact claims. Attribution verified against the minister's official channel.

B. "The Reverse Countdown of Revenge", the Leader's office (full translation)

rahbar.ir, <https://rahbar.ir/media?cid=1713>

Headline as published: "The reverse countdown of revenge" (شمارش معکوس انتقام), dated 16 Mordad 1405. The graphic shows an hourglass draining blood over images of the US president.

"This revenge is the will of our nation and must certainly be carried out. These criminals, a list of whom exists from the top of the roster to the bottom, will carry to their graves the wish for a calm death in bed. They must know that this matter does not depend on the existence of me or of any other official. Whether we are here or not, this will be realized, and soon free men across the whole world will each carry out a part of this divine mission."

Attribution as published: part of the message of the Supreme Leader of the Revolution on the occasion of the funeral and burial of the martyred figure the office calls "the martyr of Iran," dated 18 Tir 1405.

Analyst flag: the passage is a revenge oath tied to a martyr's funeral; the referent is assessed to be the assassinated predecessor, Ali Khamenei (died 28 February 2026), though the office's phrasing leaves the name implicit. The image's republication in this window re-arms the vengeance register that had receded from the fronts on 6 August, and it raises the domestic cost of any Hormuz text that reads as a return to the status quo ante. Hostile content documented for defensive assessment only.

C. "When will the war end?", Kayhan Yaddasht-e Rooz by Seyed Mohammad-Emad Aarabi (broad translation)

Kayhan, Yaddasht-e Rooz, <https://kayhan.ir/001PJN>

Author verified as printed: Seyed Mohammad-Emad Aarabi. The column opens with Robert Armstrong's 2 May 2025 Financial Times article likening Trump to "a chicken that, out of fear, always backs out of its decisions at the last moment," introducing the abbreviation TACO, Trump Always Chickens Out, and traces the label through the tariff retreats of 2025 and the Court of International Trade ruling against them.

It then builds a chronology of claimed climbdowns in the war: the 22 March 2026 48-hour ultimatum over Hormuz followed by successive postponements of five and ten days; the 30 March threats against power plants, oil wells, desalination units and Kharg Island, again postponed; the 7 April "Tonight an entire civilization will die" message read internationally as a threat of genocide, followed a day later by a two-week postponement conditioned on the strait's reopening; the 4 May "Project Freedom" convoy scheme halted about fifty hours later after warning shots at transiting vessels; the 11 June cancellation of strikes after an Apache helicopter was downed over the strait; and the 2 August cancellation after days of threats. All of these are the column's claims, reproduced as claims.

The column asserts that US ammunition inventories have reached a dangerous warning level, citing American media and a claimed dispute at Camp David between the president and his war secretary, and quotes The Atlantic on gasoline-price polling. It concludes that Iran has shown it can close one of the world's most vital waterways for more than 160 days against the strongest army in the world.

Its operational prescription: Iran's sovereignty over the strait "is not achieved by closing it alone"; the strait should be opened only for vessels that have not cooperated with America and Israel and that submit to Iran's intended order; the levying of tolls on transiting vessels should begin at once, without reference to the "misunderstanding-memorandum" of Islamabad; and, with prior announcement, in exchange for the stopping of any commercial ship, one of the commercial centres of the states hosting American forces can be targeted, and for any tanker, one of those states' oil facilities. Officials "must not be taken in by the ruse of negotiation and agreement."

Analyst flag: this is the day's flagged editorial and its highest-value escalation-advocacy signal: it converts the victory narrative into explicit toll-and-strike advocacy and pre-emptively delegitimizes the memorandum the government defends on the same day's front pages. The dates and episodes in its chronology are the column's own claims; they are documented here for defensive assessment and not adopted as established fact.

D. "Point, end of line!", Kayhan Nokteh column by Hossein Shariatmadari (full translation, abridged where indicated)

Kayhan, Nokteh, <https://kayhan.ir/001PJO>

The column opens by quoting, at length, Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's praise of Trump ("your valuable role must be written in golden letters in history... may God bless you and grant you a long life"), then notes that "yesterday" Sharif and Erdogan went to Mecca and, together with bin Salman, signed a trilateral military pact, under which any military attack on one of the three is regarded as an attack on all.

It links the pact to the prior week's Riyadh gathering of more than 40 countries on "preserving the security of the Red Sea and Bab al-Mandab," which it glosses as confronting Yemen's Ansarallah "(read: confronting Iran and the resistance front)," and quotes Ansarallah's response: for us there is no difference between Saudi Arabia and the coalition-forming countries; we will sink the ships of all of them.

Its point concerns Pakistan's fitness to mediate: a government whose prime minister lavishes praise on Trump while joining a pact that, in the column's telling, exists to defend American and Zionist interests "is obviously not" fit to mediate, "and fortunately the honourable officials of our country are attentive to this point."

It closes by asserting that a considerable part of the armies of Pakistan, Turkey and some other Islamic countries are supporters of Iran and the resistance front (an assertion offered without substantiation), and with an invocation of the martyred Leader's vision: "Ethnicities have become nations, and nations, an ummah."

Analyst flag: the column's practical target is the mediation channel itself: by branding Islamabad unfit, Shariatmadari works to close the very track through which the Hormuz memorandum was brokered. The claim about pro-Iran sympathies inside the Pakistani and Turkish officer corps is unsubstantiated in the text and should not be repeated as fact.

E. Display of destroyed US-Israeli drones and aircraft, IRGC Aerospace Force (translation)

Kayhan, <https://kayhan.ir/001PJ9>

New images have been released of the remains of American-Zionist drones and fighter aircraft intercepted and destroyed by the new air-defence system of the Aerospace Force of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

Visible in the images, as captioned: the wreckage of an F-15 fighter; an MQ-1C Gray Eagle reconnaissance-combat drone; the TPE331 turboprop engine used in the MQ-9 Reaper; and a Hermes-900 reconnaissance-combat drone.

Analyst flag: an Iranian battle-damage claim; the wreckage identifications are the outlet's captions and are not independently verified. Labelled a claim per the attribution firewall.

F. Kayhan on the "war economy": summary of the main points and the message

Kayhan, analytical news report, <https://kayhan.ir/001Plx>

Kayhan argues that in wartime the country needs policy and execution matched to war, and that the 14th government is failing that test: some ministers act as though conditions were entirely normal while an enemy defeated on the battlefield pursues its goals in the economic arena. The paper quotes the Israeli finance minister, Bezalel Smotrich, on "economy, economy, economy" as the thing that will ultimately topple the system, and treats that as proof that economic management is now a front line.

The specific charge: the government has freed the export of some 15 essential goods, including sugar, eggs and chicken, during a naval blockade, which the paper calls "exporting from the people's table," noting egg prices of up to 750,000 tomans per tray and a chicken-export permit issued on the pretext of a surplus that in fact reflected a 25 to 30 percent fall in consumption caused by collapsing purchasing power (figures as printed).

On repatriation, it states that 111 billion euros, about 130 billion dollars, of export earnings have not returned; that five billion dollars of the unreturned currency relates to the first four months of this year; that nearly 20 billion euros were brought back through special judicial follow-up; and that about 35 percent of lapsed foreign-exchange obligations trace to rented or single-use trading cards. It attributes price shocks in food, medicine, housing and cars to the abrupt removal of preferential foreign exchange by the Pourmohammadi-Hemmati-Madanizadeh economic team.

The message is a demand for a genuine "war footing": stop exporting essential goods, force the return of export currency, prosecute profiteers and hoarders, dismiss ineffective managers, and have Parliament and the judiciary exercise serious oversight.

Analyst flag: coming from the flagship hardline paper on a day of military triumphalism, the piece is best read as pressure on the Pezeshkian government from the right, using economic hardship to question the competence, and by implication the authority, of the negotiators steering the Hormuz file. All figures are the paper's own and are unverified.

G. Methodology and sourcing notes

This office

Primary material for the 8 August 2026 survey comprises 16 front pages: 14 Persian-language print titles (Vatan-e Emrooz, Javan, Quds, Sazandegi, Jahan-e Sanat, Kayhan, Jam-e Jam, Shargh, Farhikhtegan, Jomhuri-e Eslami, No-Bonyad, Etemad, Iran, Hamshahri), Al-Wifaq in Arabic, and Tehran Times in English, read in the office's manual morning survey, with primary-channel and wire cross-checks.

The kiosk aggregation channel posted its 17 Mordad batch in a format its public web preview cannot render, so the usual automated pull was unavailable at compile time; the page scans reproduced here are the office's survey copies, and mastheads and original-script headline renderings were verified against them directly. English headline renderings are faithful to the source pages as surveyed.

Figures and third-party claims asserted in the Iranian or foreign press are not independently verified here: transit-fee percentages, Hormuz traffic counts, oil benchmarks, unreturned-currency totals, US munitions-depletion and poll figures, and attributed quotations from outside outlets. The Mossad-dismissals story is single-sourced and is treated throughout as an information operation regardless of underlying truth. Iranian military and battle-damage claims are labelled claims.

Standing conventions: "The Leader" denotes Mojtaba Khamenei; the martyred predecessor is Ali Khamenei (died 28 February 2026). Iranian dailies do not publish on Fridays; there was accordingly no 7 August edition, and today's fronts are the press system's first response to the 7 August Mecca signing. Analytical prose is original assessment. No claim in the survey should be read as endorsed by this office merely because it appears on an Iranian front page. Prepared for analysis and early warning; hostile content documented for defensive assessment only.

Open-source material only. All translations from Persian/Arabic originals. Iranian claims are labelled as claims. Prepared for analysis and early warning; hostile content is documented for defensive assessment only, not endorsed.