

OPEN-SOURCE PRESS INTELLIGENCE

Iranian Press Monitor

Daily Front-Page Intelligence

Day 159 - Sunday, 9 August 2026 · 18 Mordad 1405 · 25 Safar 1448

THE NEGOTIATE-NOW, YIELD-NOTHING EDITION

12 daily front pages surveyed: 9 Persian print titles and Iran Daily (English) read from scan, with Vatan-e Emrooz and Sobh-e No from their own channels; Jam-e Jam, Nour News, Fars and Defa Press monitored for corroboration

Front pages published the morning of 9 August 2026, reflecting events through late 8 August local

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



Executive Summary

The lead judgment of the 9 August edition is a contradiction the system is publishing openly. On one side, the president's second press conference dominates the fronts with a pro-settlement message rendered in five registers: the government daily Iran ("the current conditions are the best time for an agreement"), the economic Ta'adol ("now is the best time", read through "an economy under siege"), the clerical Jomhuri-e Eslami ("diplomacy forced America to come to an understanding with Iran"), the reformist Sazandegi ("you cannot have war yet no shortage and no inflation") and the reformist Etemad ("the concern is the people's livelihood", in an atmosphere of "neither war nor peace"). On the other side, the principlist Sobh-e No carries Supreme National Security Council secretary Mohammad-Baqer Zolqadr's red line: the strait stays closed "until America corrects its behaviour", and the council "will not yield, whether in war or negotiation". The negotiator says close it now; the security chief says concede nothing. Both lines ran on Iranian front pages on the same morning.

The press-conference cluster is not one message but a factional contest over how to sell the same negotiation. Iran and Ta'adol stake the deal as, respectively, a national achievement and an economic necessity; Jomhuri-e Eslami sells it as a diplomatic victory won by forcing Washington to the table, pairing that with hardline delegitimation ("Trump is like Saddam"); Sazandegi and Etemad, from the reformist lane, use the president's own words to admit the war's cost and to argue for interest over emotion. The register is the tell: the same event is achievement, necessity, victory or sober accounting depending on the masthead, which is the achievement-versus-surrender split this monitor has tracked since 6 August, now routed through a single presidential appearance.

Against the negotiators, the flagship hardline titles run a coordinated victory-and-vengeance construction. Kayhan leads with a claimed admission by "the highest US military authority" that Washington "got the reverse result from the war with Iran", sources it to a CNN rendering rather than a direct statement, and stacks it with an "eleven senators" exit resolution, a claim that Saudi oil exports collapsed from nine million barrels a day to one million, and the front-page line "Iran has passed beyond survival and now seeks revenge". Seda-ye Iran turns the single-sourced Mossad regime-change-failure story into a full-page thesis that Israel's covert war has collapsed, anchored to a khamenei.ir martyr banner. Vatan-e Emrooz, from its channel, runs the mirror image: US leadership "seeking an escape route". Three hardline mastheads converging on "the enemy is in retreat" on one morning reads as centrally-congenial message discipline rather than independent judgement, and its function is domestic: to make any Hormuz text resembling the pre-war normal look like surrender.

On Hormuz specifically, the file advanced in rhetoric and stalled in text. The maximalist read (Vatan-e Emrooz: Iran holds the geopolitical upper hand; the Jam-e Jam channel: an army spokesman calls Iran's control "irreversible" and says America must accept the situation or pay "heavier costs") sits against the measured read (Etemad: markets show only "temporary optimism" about a reopening on a still-unsigned Iran-Oman agreement) and the US-contingent read (Iran Daily, in English: "the Strait of Hormuz reopening hinges on US actions"). The Jam-e Jam channel additionally reports US Vice-President Vance describing efforts to build "a secure navigation system" with exports returning to pre-war levels, and Sobh-e No cites a University of Chicago analysis that US forces cannot force the strait open before the November elections. No jointly published Iran-Oman text, map or notice to mariners appeared in the window; "close it now" and "we will not yield" are both being asserted over an arrangement that is still unsigned.

Two secondary threads carry real weight. First, the economy: beneath the victory narrative the economic and reformist titles document strain the fronts otherwise avoid, from Ta'adol's "paradox of a boom in the bourse" and 34-percent collapse in car sales, to Charsu's "the Exchange Centre's defeat by the brokers" and the Central Bank's second lawsuit against the paper on Journalist Day, to Sazandegi letting the president concede

that war means shortage and inflation. Second, a new dissent frame: No-Bonyad brands the government's Caspian Sea legal-convention bill a "Caspian JCPOA", extending the sovereignty-right's surrender-charge from Hormuz to the northern waters while demanding transit tolls as sovereign revenue and naming the government the "unity-breaker". The Mecca defence pact, dominant on 8 August, has receded to analysis and inside pages (Iran Daily treats it seriously as eroding trust in the US security role; Jomhuri-e Eslami and the Nour News wire now float Egypt joining, Iranian-press projection over a pact publicly signed only by Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan).

Net assessment: this is a contradiction-in-public edition. The system is simultaneously preaching cohesion (Sobh-e No's "political solidarity in a difficult year", Iran Daily's "no interest above preserving unity") and displaying its central fracture on the newsstand, with the president and the security-council secretary describing the same Hormuz endgame in opposite terms and the flagship press pricing any compromise as defeat. The reformist lane is answering with unusual candour, admitting the war's economic cost and running an editorial explicitly against the vengeance register; the sovereignty right is opening a second front (the Caspian) even as it demands more on the first. The signals to watch are whether a joint Iran-Oman text actually publishes, whether Zolqadr's "won't yield" line or Pezeshkian's "best time" line becomes the settled leadership position, and whether the "Caspian JCPOA" frame spreads from No-Bonyad to the flagship fronts.

BOTTOM LINE On the morning after Journalist Day the Iranian fronts stage a single unresolved argument: the president tells the country this is the best moment to close a Hormuz deal while his security-council secretary insists Iran will yield nothing in war or negotiation, and the flagship press works to make any settlement that resembles the pre-war normal politically unaffordable.

CRITICAL SOURCING NOTE Twelve front pages: nine Persian print titles and Iran Daily (English) read from scan, Vatan-e Emrooz and Sobh-e No from their own channels; Jam-e Jam, Nour News, Fars and Defa Press monitored for corroboration and treated as wire context, not front pages. Loud single-sourced or second-hand items are flagged in place: Kayhan's "reverse result" admission is the paper's CNN-sourced rendering, its "eleven senators" line amplifies a real but differently-shaped US war-powers fight, and its Saudi oil-export collapse figure is uncorroborated; the Mossad regime-change-failure story remains single-sourced; the "Egypt joining the Mecca pact" references are Iranian-press projection over a Saudi-Turkey-Pakistan agreement. khamenei.ir and Tehran Times did not return content in the window, so Appendix A is partial and English coverage rests on the Iran Daily scan. "The Leader" denotes Mojtaba Khamenei (Ali Khamenei was assassinated 28 February 2026).

Macro Trend Analysis

① One press conference, six factional readings

The president's second press conference is the day's shared event, and every lane reshapes it: a national achievement (Iran), an economic necessity (Ta'adol), a diplomatic victory that "forced America to the table" (Jomhuri-e Eslami), a candid admission that war brings shortage and inflation (Sazandegi), a livelihood-first conversation in "neither war nor peace" (Etemad), and a unity appeal for foreign readers (Iran Daily). The uniform event and the divergent framings are the clearest available map of where each masthead stands on ending the war.

② Negotiate-now versus yield-nothing

The edition's load-bearing contradiction is printed openly: the president's "now is the best time for an agreement" against SNSC secretary Zolqadr's "we will not yield, in war or negotiation; the strait stays closed until America corrects its behaviour" (Sobh-e No). Sazandegi's reporting that the president admits "disagreements exist" at the security council, softening the prior "resignation refused" line, confirms the split is

now acknowledged inside the system rather than denied. This continues, and sharpens, the achievement-versus-surrender thread carried since 6 August.

3 The coordinated enemy-in-retreat register

Three hardline mastheads run the same storyline on one morning: America "got the reverse result" and its top general regrets the war (Kayhan), Israel's covert war has "failed" and its architects are sacked (Seda-ye Iran), and US leadership is "seeking an escape route" (Vatan-e Emrooz). The convergence, plus a claimed Saudi export collapse and an "eleven senators" exit vote, indicates centrally-congenial message discipline; its purpose is to raise the domestic price of any Hormuz settlement that looks like the pre-war normal. Key items are single-sourced or second-hand and flagged as such.

4 Hormuz: louder rhetoric, still-unsigned text

The maximalist read (Iran holds the upper hand; control is "irreversible", per Vatan-e Emrooz and the Jam-e Jam channel) sits against the measured read (Etemad's "temporary optimism" on an unsigned Iran-Oman agreement) and the US-contingent read (Iran Daily: reopening "hinges on US actions"). Reported US positions (Vance on a "secure navigation system"; a US-election-timing constraint cited via Sobh-e No) circulate as attributed claims. No joint text, map or notice to mariners appeared in the window: both "close it now" and "yield nothing" are being asserted over an arrangement that does not yet exist on paper.

5 The economy the victory narrative omits

The economic and reformist titles document the strain the triumphalist fronts avoid: a "paradox of a boom in the bourse" and a 34-percent fall in car sales (Ta'adol), the official exchange centre's "defeat by the brokers" and a second Central Bank lawsuit against a newspaper on Journalist Day (Charsu), the National Development Fund's debt strain, and the president's own concession that war means shortage and inflation (Sazandegi). Read together they form the pragmatic case that a settlement is required, not merely well-timed.

6 A new surrender-frame: the "Caspian JCPOA"

No-Bonyad extends the sovereignty-right's surrender-charge from Hormuz to the north, branding the government's Caspian Sea legal-convention bill a "Caspian JCPOA" and insinuating a "Baku lobby" behind it, while separately demanding Hormuz transit tolls as lawful sovereign revenue and naming the government the "unity-breaker". Meanwhile the Mecca pact recedes to analysis (Iran Daily) and to Iranian-press speculation about Egypt joining (Jomhuri-e Eslami, Nour News), a projection over a pact publicly signed only by Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan.

Key Judgments

KJ-1 [HIGH] The system is publishing its central fracture rather than concealing it. On the same morning the president tells the country "now is the best time for an agreement" (Iran, Ta'adol) while the security-council secretary declares Iran "will not yield, in war or negotiation" and keeps the strait closed "until America corrects its behaviour" (Sobh-e No, via Zolqadr). Significance: this is not spin variance but two incompatible leadership positions on the war's endgame, printed side by side, and the president's admission of "disagreements" at the council (Sazandegi) confirms the split is now acknowledged internally.

KJ-2 [HIGH] The flagship hardline press is pricing any Hormuz compromise as defeat, using claims that are largely single-sourced or second-hand. Kayhan's "reverse result" admission is its own CNN-sourced rendering, its "eleven senators" line reshapes a real war-powers fight, and its Saudi export-collapse figure is uncorroborated; Seda-ye Iran's "failed dream" rests on the single-sourced Mossad story. Significance: the evidentiary weakness does not blunt the political function, which is to make a settlement resembling the pre-

war normal domestically unaffordable, and the vengeance line ("Iran now seeks revenge") shows the register is re-armed, not receding.

KJ-3 [MODERATE-HIGH] Hormuz remains announced-but-not-sealed, and the rhetoric outran the paperwork this cycle. No jointly published Iran-Oman text, map or notice to mariners appeared in the window; what circulated was assertion (Iran's control "irreversible") on one side and hedge ("temporary optimism", reopening "hinges on US actions") on the other. Significance: "close it now" and "yield nothing" are both being argued over an arrangement that does not yet exist on paper, which is where the factional fight, not the negotiators' progress, will decide the outcome.

KJ-4 [MODERATE-HIGH] The president's press conference is functioning as the pro-settlement camp's main instrument, and it is being answered, not echoed. Six mastheads reshaped one appearance into achievement, necessity, victory, candour, livelihood and unity; the hardline fronts either minimized it (Kayhan reduced it to "livelihood") or drowned it in victory framing. Significance: the executive is spending its own visibility to legitimize a deal, and the contest over the framing is the contest over whether the settlement can be sold at all.

KJ-5 [MODERATE] A pragmatic counter-register is consolidating with unusual candour in the reformist and economic lanes. Sazandegi lets the president concede that war means shortage and inflation and runs Fereydoun Majlesi's editorial against "emotional" vengeance politics; Etemad tags the Hormuz optimism "temporary"; Ta'adol and Charsu document a bourse paradox, collapsing car sales and an FX mechanism losing to speculators. Significance: a bloc arguing that the war must end and the economy be governed for it is speaking more plainly than in prior editions, though its purchase on the leadership decision is still unmeasured.

KJ-6 [MODERATE] The sovereignty right is opening a second front while pressing the first. No-Bonyad's "Caspian JCPOA" recasts a technical Caspian Sea convention as a fresh capitulation and adds a "Baku lobby" insinuation, even as it demands Hormuz transit tolls as lawful revenue and brands the government the "unity-breaker". Significance: the camp most able to block a soft Hormuz text is broadening its surrender-narrative to a second dossier, a pattern to watch for migration onto the flagship fronts.

KJ-7 [MODERATE] Negative finding: no verified Leader's-office message and no independent confirmation of the day's loudest external claims surfaced in the window. khamenei.ir was unreachable, so the office's signal is inferred from a martyr banner and the vengeance register rather than a retrieved text; the Mossad-sackings story, the Saudi export collapse, the "reverse result" admission and Egypt's Mecca-pact accession are all uncorroborated or projected. Significance: the edition's triumphalism runs well ahead of its documentation, and the gap should temper any read of these items as events rather than messaging.

Named-Figure Tracker

Figure	Role / relevance	Today's framing	Flag
Masoud Pezeshkian	President of Iran	Dominant figure of the edition; his second press conference is reframed across the spectrum as "the best time for an agreement" (Iran, Ta'adol), diplomacy that "forced America to the table" (Jomhuri-e Eslami), a candid admission that war brings shortage and inflation (Sazandegi), and a unity	WATCH

Figure	Role / relevance	Today's framing	Flag
		appeal (Iran Daily). Also concedes "disagreements" at the security council.	
Mohammad-Baqer Zolqadr	Secretary, Supreme National Security Council	Carries the hardline red line: strait closed "until America corrects its behaviour", the council "will not yield, in war or negotiation" (Sobh-e No). The president publicly acknowledges "disagreements" over his position (Sazandegi).	WATCH
Donald Trump	US President	Delegitimized and belittled: "like Saddam" (Jomhuri-e Eslami), the supplicant who "needs negotiation" (No-Bonyad), the subject of a claimed Netanyahu rift (Seda-ye Iran) and of the flagship "reverse result" and "escape route" framings (Kayhan, Vatan-e Emrooz).	TARGET FRAMING
JD Vance	US Vice-President	Reported (via the Jam-e Jam channel) describing efforts to build "a secure navigation system" in the strait with exports returning to pre-war levels; carried as an attributed claim.	WATCH
Benjamin Netanyahu	Israeli Prime Minister	Framed through weakness: "when Netanyahu does not answer Trump" (Seda-ye Iran), part of the "failed dream" enemy-collapse thesis.	TARGET FRAMING
Abbas Araghchi	Iranian Foreign Minister	Cited on "a new combined path" in the talks (Jomhuri-e Eslami), signalling continuity between negotiation and revolutionary-forces pressure.	WATCH
Hakan Fidan	Turkish Foreign Minister	Quoted that the Mecca pact follows NATO Article 5 and "is not directed against Iran" (Sobh-e No), the reassurance the Iranian press cites while questioning the bloc.	WATCH
Naim Qassem	Hezbollah Secretary-General	Credited via the Jam-e Jam channel with 9,500 missile, rocket and drone strikes over 120 days; carried as an attributed claim.	COERCION SPOKESMAN
Mojtaba Khamenei	Supreme Leader (the Leader's office)	Present only indirectly: a khamenei.ir martyr banner on Seda-ye Iran and the steadfastness-and-revenge register on Kayhan. No verified message retrieved in the window.	absence noted
Robert Papp	University of Chicago analyst	Cited (Sobh-e No) arguing US air and naval forces cannot force the strait open before the November elections, the empirical prop under the maximalist confidence.	NEW NAMED FIGURE

Headline Summary Table

Outlet	Lead Headline (English)	Orientation	Theme	Threat signal
Kayhan	The highest US military authority: We got the reverse result from the war with Iran	Ultra-hardline flagship	US "regret" and Iranian revenge	HIGH: victory-and-vengeance framing against any compromise
Seda-ye Iran	The aftershocks of a dream's defeat	Hardline, pro-Leader's-office	Israel's failed covert war (single-sourced)	MODERATE-HIGH: enemy-collapse thesis

Outlet	Lead Headline (English)	Orientation	Theme	Threat signal
Vatan-e Emrooz	Seeking an escape route	Hardline / principlist (channel)	US "wants out"; Hormuz upper hand	MODERATE: coordinated retreat framing
Sobh-e No	A narrative of political solidarity in a difficult year	Principlist (channel)	Unity plus Zolqadr's "won't yield" red line	MODERATE-HIGH: red line versus deal-timing
Iran	The current conditions are the best time for an agreement	Official government daily	Deal timing as achievement	LOW-MODERATE: pro- settlement messaging
Jomhuri-e Eslami	Diplomacy forced America to come to an understanding with Iran	Clerical / traditional	Diplomacy-as-victory; Trump-as-Saddam	LOW-MODERATE: legitimation with delegitimation
Ta'adol	Now is the best time for an agreement	Economic / business	Deal as economic necessity	LOW: economy under siege
Sazandegi	You cannot have war yet no shortage and no inflation	Reformist / Kargozaran	War's cost admitted; anti-vengeance	LOW-MODERATE: pragmatic counter-register
Etemad	The concern is the people's livelihood	Reformist	"Neither war nor peace"; temporary Hormuz optimism	LOW: cautious pragmatism
No-Bonyad	Caspian JCPOA	Hardline-critical	New surrender-frame; Hormuz tolls	MODERATE: sovereignty- right dissent
Charsu	Iran Khodro's violations under the Majlis magnifying glass	Economic	FX dysfunction; press pressure	LOW: accountability and press signal
Iran Daily	President: No interest above preserving unity, cohesion in current situation	State English- language	Unity; Hormuz hinges on US	LOW-MODERATE: audience-tuned framing

Per-Paper Front-Page Analysis

Iran Daily

State English-language daily

LOW-MODERATE: audience-tuned, US-contingent Hormuz framing

"President: No interest above preserving unity, cohesion in current situation"



- Main: for a foreign audience the president elevates national unity and cohesion above every other interest, the English-facing version of the elite-cohesion message.
- Sub-item: "Iran says Strait of Hormuz reopening hinges on US actions", the conditional-reciprocity line stated in English: the reopening is contingent on Washington, not on Tehran.
- Sub-item: analytical piece "Mecca Pact signals eroding trust in US security role", treating the Saudi-Turkey-Pakistan agreement seriously as evidence Gulf states doubt American guarantees, a contrast with the flagship's ridicule.
- Sub-item: "FAO forecasts Iran's grain output at 21.6m tons in 2026", resilience and self-sufficiency messaging for foreign readers.
- Feature: an interview with conductor Alexander (Ali) Rahbari, who says he is glad Iran is "standing up" to "criminal US, Israel".

ANALYST NOTE The English daily curates a calmer, analytical face for foreign readers: unity over triumphalism, Hormuz framed as US-contingent, and a serious (not mocking) treatment of the Mecca pact as eroding trust in Washington. The gap between this measured English framing and Kayhan's Persian victory-and-vengeance construction is itself the signal, message tuned to audience.

Iran Official government daily (executive-branch masthead)

"The current conditions are the best time for an agreement" «شرایط فعلی بهترین زمان برای توافق است»

LOW-MODERATE: pro-settlement executive messaging



- Main: at his press conference with reporters the president frames the moment as optimal for a deal (بهترین زمان برای توافق), photographed before the national flag, the government daily's clean pro-settlement line.
- Sub-item: "Record-breaking bourse, under the shadow of Mobarakeh Steel's reopening" (رکوردشکنی بورس), a good-news economic frame, the index reported sharply up.
- Sub-item: "In pursuit of reviving the dignity of the Islamic world" (احیای عزت جهان اسلام).
- Right rail: "Commemoration of Journalist Day at the grave of martyr Saremi" (بزرگداشت روز خبرنگار در مزار شهید صارمی), martyred-journalist canon.
- Banner: weekend feature "The key of concord in the lock of the internet" (کلید (وفاق در قفل اینترنت), the internet-restriction debate.

ANALYST NOTE As the executive's own masthead, Iran supplies the cleanest pro-deal line of the day: "now is the best time" stakes the settlement as a national achievement and directly answers the flagship-hardline frame that a deal would be surrender. This continues the achievement-versus-surrender split this monitor has tracked since 6 August.

Seda-ye Iran

Hardline, pro-Leader's-office (carries a khamenei.ir martyr banner); outlet outside the standard reference set, leaning inferred from content

"The aftershocks of a dream's defeat"

MODERATE-HIGH: enemy-collapse narrative fused to the Leader's office

«پس لرزه های شکست یک رؤیا»



- Main: over a photograph of a downcast officer in Israeli army uniform, the lead declares that "the designers of the failed project" for "a separatists' war against Iran" have been "dismissed" (برکنان) ... (شکست خورده ... برکنان), the single-sourced Mossad regime-change-failure and sackings claim carried from 8 August, now expanded to the whole front page.
- Banner: a khamenei.ir-tagged martyr box honours "Pasdar Shahid Mohammadreza Avaraei," anchoring the page to the Leader's office.
- Sub-item: "The commander of southern Lebanon, martyr Rashid" (سردار (جنوب لبنان شهید رشید) with a photograph of uniformed figures, Lebanon and Hezbollah martyr framing.
- Op-ed: "When Netanyahu does not answer Trump" (وقتی نتایهاو به ترامپ) (جواب نمی دهد), reading a claimed Netanyahu-Trump rift as Israeli weakness.
- Right rail: editorial "What are we and Israel doing?" (ما و اسرائیل چه) (می کنیم؟).

ANALYST NOTE The paper converts the unverified Mossad-failure story into a full-page thesis that Israel's covert war has collapsed, pairing it with Lebanon martyr-canon and a Netanyahu-Trump-rift read, and tying the triumphalism directly to the Leader's office through the khamenei.ir martyr banner. The regime-change-sacking claim remains single-sourced across editions and is not to be treated as established.



- Main: over a satellite image of the Caspian, the paper brands the government's bill to accede to the Caspian Sea legal convention a "Caspian JCPOA" (برجام کاسپین), a capitulation on par with the nuclear deal, extending its surrender-frame from Hormuz to the northern waters.
- Banner: an America-studies scholar is quoted that "generating revenue from the strait has no conflict with international law" (درآمدزایی از تنگه با قوانین بین‌المللی هیچ تداخلی ندارد), legitimizing Hormuz transit tolls, the sovereignty-right's positive demand.
- Sub-item: "Why does Trump need negotiation?" (چرا ترامپ به مذاکره نیازی ندارد؟) with a Trump photo, the claim that Washington, not Tehran, is the supplicant.
- Sub-item: "Baku's lobby in Tehran?" (لابی باکو در تهران؟), insinuating Azerbaijani influence behind the Caspian bill.
- Sub-item: "Several instances of the government's unity-breaking" (چند مصداق از وحدت‌شکنی دولت), inverting the elite-unity appeal to blame the government as the "divider".

ANALYST NOTE No-Bonyad is the day's designated dissenter from the right: it recasts a technical Caspian convention as another "JCPOA" surrender, demands Hormuz tolls as sovereign revenue, and turns the leadership's unity messaging against the government by naming it the divider. The "Caspian JCPOA" coinage is a new thread worth tracking as the sovereignty camp's next front after Hormuz.

"The highest US

HIGH: victory-and-vengeance framing raising the domestic price of any Hormuz compromise

military authority: We got the reverse result from the war with Iran" «بالاترین مقام نظامی آمریکا: از جنگ با ایران نتیجه معکوس گرفتیم»



- Main: the lead attributes to "the highest US military authority" (the chief of the Joint Chiefs) the admission "we should not have entered a war with Iran" and that Washington "got the reverse result"; Kayhan's own channel sources the quote to a CNN rendering, not a direct on-record statement, so it travels to the front page as a second-hand, unverified attribution.
- Sub-item: "Eleven senators, by issuing a resolution, demanded America's exit from the war with Iran" (یازده سناتور), an amplified rendering of the genuine, ongoing US war-powers fight in which the House twice passed a resolution to end the war and a binding Senate measure fell narrowly short; the Congressional pressure is real, the exact "eleven senators resolution" framing is Kayhan's.
- Banner: "Saudi Arabia's oil exports fell from nine million barrels a day to one million" (صادرات نفت عربستان), an unsourced figure carried without corroboration and flagged here as an outlet claim.
- Right rail: "Iran has passed beyond survival and now seeks revenge" (از بقا عبور کرده و به دنبال انتقام است), the vengeance register re-armed on the flagship.
- Banner: "160 nights of ceaseless combat in the trench of the street; the resurrected nation: we stand until the morning of victory" (شب رزم ۱۶۰، بی وقفه), staged nightly pro-regime street-mobilization imagery.
- Kicker: the front minimizes the president's press conference to "the government's most important concern is solving livelihood" (معیشت), the flagship's diminishing frame for Pezeshkian's diplomacy pitch.

ANALYST NOTE Kayhan runs the edition's purest victory-and-vengeance construction: American regret, Congressional retreat, a claimed Saudi export collapse and Iranian revenge are assembled to make any Hormuz settlement that resembles the pre-war normal politically unaffordable. The CNN-sourced general's "regret" and the "eleven senators" line are second-hand renderings the flagship promotes to front-page fact, and should not be reproduced as established. This continues the standing triumphalist-register thread; watch whether the vengeance line migrates onto the negotiation-lane fronts.

"You cannot have war yet no shortage and no inflation" «نمی‌شود جنگ باشد اما کمبود و گرانی نباشد»

LOW-MODERATE: pragmatic counter-register, admitted SNSC rift



- Main: quoting the president's second press conference, the reformist daily foregrounds his candid admission that war necessarily brings shortage and inflation (کمبود و گرانی), a rare on-front acknowledgement of war costs.
- Sub-item: on the resignation rumour, the president is quoted that "certain disagreements exist" at the Supreme National Security Council and "we are trying to resolve them" regarding Mohammad-Baqer Zolqadr (شایعه استعفاى محمدباقر ذوالقدر ... یک‌سری اختلافات مطرح است), softening the prior "resignation refused" line into open acknowledgement of a rift.
- Op-ed: Fereydoun Majlesi's column "Crossing the emotional barbed wire" (عبور از سیم خاردار احساسی) argues Iran must move past vengeance-driven, emotional politics toward interest-based calculation.
- Banner: "Power for peace" (اقتدار برای صلح), reclaiming the hardline word eqtedar (اقتدار, might/authority) for a pro-settlement end.

ANALYST NOTE Sazandegi is the sharpest pragmatic voice of the day: it lets the president concede the war's economic cost, converts the Zolqadr story from "resignation refused" into admitted "disagreements", and runs an editorial explicitly against the vengeance register the flagship is amplifying. The Zolqadr softening is the notable cross-edition movement: an SNSC rift is now acknowledged rather than denied.

LOW: economic-accountability and press-pressure signal

"Iran Khodro's violations under the Majlis magnifying glass" «تخلفات ایران خودرو زیر ذره‌بین مجلس»



- Main: a full grid of MP portraits frames parliamentary scrutiny of alleged violations at the carmaker Iran Khodro (ایران خودرو), domestic industrial-accountability politics.
- Right: "The Exchange Centre's defeat by the brokers" (شکست مرکز مبادله از دلان), illustrated by two men clutching stacks of banknotes before the Iran currency-and-gold exchange centre, the official FX mechanism losing to speculators.
- Left: "The Central Bank's second complaint against Charsu newspaper, coinciding with Journalist Day" (دومین شکایت بانک مرکزی از روزنامه چارسو), the paper foregrounding a state-bank legal action against itself on the press's own day.

ANALYST NOTE Charsu turns Journalist Day inward, pairing an FX-market expose with the news that the Central Bank is suing the paper a second time, a press-freedom signal from the economic beat rather than the political one. The exchange-centre "defeat by brokers" item is a concrete marker of the currency dysfunction the reformist and economic titles keep flagging beneath the victory narrative.

«President: I believe in diplomacy's success for the country's dignity; diplomacy forced America to come to an understanding with Iran»
 «رییس‌جمهور: به موفقیت دیپلماسی برای عزت کشور اعتقاد دارم؛ دیپلماسی، آمریکا را وادار کرد پای تفاهم با ایران بیاید»
 را وادار کرد پای تفاهم با ایران بیاید»



- Main: the president credits diplomacy with compelling Washington to the table (دپلماسی، آمریکا را وادار کرد), a stronger claim than "best time", casting the negotiation as a diplomatic victory rather than a concession.
- Sub-item: Foreign Minister Araghchi cited on "a new combined path" in the talks (عراقچی: مسیر جدید تلفیقی), signalling continuity between negotiation and "revolutionary-forces" pressure.
- Sub-item: "Trump is like Saddam" (ترامپ مانند صدام است), delegitimizing the US president by analogy to the Iran-Iraq-war aggressor.
- Sub-item: on the Mecca defence pact, the paper flags "Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt" (پاکستان، عربستان و مصر); the publicly signed pact was Saudi-Turkey-Pakistan, so treat the Egypt element as Iranian-press projection about the bloc's expansion pending confirmation.
- Sub-item: Journalist Day items, the Taliban held to account for killing Iranian diplomats and journalists, and Gaza named as a place journalists are killed.

ANALYST NOTE The clerical establishment daily fuses pro-diplomacy legitimization (diplomacy "forced" America) with hardline delegitimation of the adversary (Trump-as-Saddam), the register a traditional-conservative paper uses to sell a settlement without conceding the enemy's standing. Its "Egypt" addition to the Mecca pact is a tell that the Iranian press is now watching the bloc for expansion, a thread also surfacing on the Nour News wire.

«Now is the best time for an agreement»
 «اکنون بهترین زمان برای توافق است»



- Main: "Pezeshkian's account of an economy under siege, and of negotiation, on Journalist Day" (اقتصاد در محاصره تا مذاکره); the economic press reads the president's deal-timing line through a besieged economy.
- Sub-item: "The paradox of a boom in the bourse" (پارادوکس رونق در بورس), the paper examining whether the equity rally is recovery or inflation-driven flight into stocks.
- Sub-item: "How deep is the National Development Fund in the well of big debts?" (صندوق توسعه ملی ... چاه بدهی‌ها), sovereign-fund strain.
- Sub-item: "A 34 percent drop in carmakers' sales" (افت ۳۴ درصدی فروش), demand collapse.

ANALYST NOTE Ta'adöl carries the same deal-timing headline as the government daily but reframes it as economic necessity rather than diplomatic triumph: an economy "under siege", a paradoxical bourse and collapsing car sales make the case that a settlement is required, not merely opportune. This is the pragmatic-economic lane of the achievement-versus-surrender argument.

«دغدغه معیشت مردم» "The concern is the people's livelihood"



- Main: framing the president's media conversation as taking place in an atmosphere of "neither war nor peace" (نه جنگ و نه صلح), Etemad centres livelihood over triumph.
- Sub-item: "Etemad reports: the game of coalitions", examining "the markets' temporary optimism about a Hormuz reopening" on a possible Iran-Oman agreement (خوشبینی موقتی بازارها به بازگشایی تنگه هرمز), explicitly labelling the optimism temporary and contingent on an unsigned text.
- Sub-item: culture feature "25 years with Alamut" on the Ismaili fortress's UNESCO recognition.

ANALYST NOTE Etemad occupies the measured middle: it neither celebrates nor dismisses the Hormuz track, tagging the market optimism as "temporary" and contingent on an unsigned Iran-Oman text, and fixing the reader's eye on livelihood rather than victory. This continues the reformist cautious-pragmatist position and the announced-but-not-sealed Hormuz thread.

«روایت همدلی سیاسی در سال سخت» "A narrative of political solidarity in a difficult year" **MODERATE-HIGH: SNSC "won't yield" red line versus presidential deal-timing**

- Main: the principlist daily leads on "political solidarity in a difficult year" (همدلی سیاسی در سال سخت), a right-of-centre contribution to the elite-cohesion message.
- Sub-item: SNSC secretary Zolqadr quoted that the strait stays closed "until America corrects its behaviour" and that the council "will not yield, whether in war or negotiation", the hardline Hormuz red line in direct tension with the president's deal-timing line.
- Sub-item: a Robert Papp (University of Chicago) analysis argues US air and naval forces cannot force the strait open before the November elections, citing Iran's distributed drone capability.
- Sub-item: Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan quoted that the Mecca pact follows NATO Article 5 and "is not directed against Iran"; Yemen's foreign ministry rejects the pact's legitimacy.

ANALYST NOTE Sobh-e No pairs a unity headline with the day's hardest Hormuz line, Zolqadr's "we will not yield in war or negotiation", capturing the edition's central contradiction on one front page: the system preaches cohesion while its security chief and its president describe the strait's endgame in opposite terms. The Papp citation is the empirical prop under the maximalist confidence. Sourced from the paper's channel.

Vatan-e Emrooz

Hardline / principlist daily (read from the paper's own channel; front-page scan not in the batch)

“Seeking an escape route” «دنبال راه فرار»

MODERATE: coordinated "enemy in retreat" framing

- Main: the lead reads US military leadership as "seeking a way out" of the conflict with Iran (دنبال راه فرار), the hardline mirror of Kayhan's "reverse result".
- Sub-item: a Michigan Democratic-primary win by pro-Palestine candidate Abdul El-Sayed is read as Gaza's political ripples reaching US domestic politics.
- Sub-item: citing a Telegraph analysis, the paper claims Iran secured the upper hand in the Iran-Oman Hormuz arrangement (دست برتر ژئوپلیتیکی), the maximalist Hormuz read.
- Sub-item: Mecca-pact skepticism and reporting of declining US munitions reserves.

ANALYST NOTE Vatan-e Emrooz runs the escape-route thesis in lockstep with Kayhan and Seda-ye Iran: America wants out, Iran holds Hormuz leverage, the Sunni pact is hollow. Three hardline mastheads converging on the same "enemy in retreat" storyline on one morning indicates centrally-congenial message discipline rather than independent editorial judgement. Sourced from the paper's channel; the printed front was not in the day's scan batch.

A. The Leader's office on the fronts (partial: primary source unavailable in the window)

khamenei.ir (not retrievable at compile time); Seda-ye Iran front page, 18 Mordad 1405

The Leader's office publishing surface (khamenei.ir) could not be retrieved during the compile window, so no fresh long-form message is reproduced here; this appendix records the Leader's-office signal as it appears on the day's fronts rather than reconstructing a text that was not read.

On the fronts, the office's presence is carried by Seda-ye Iran, whose khamenei.ir-tagged martyr box honours "Pasdar Shahid Mohammadreza Avaraei" and whose full-page thesis on Israel's "failed dream" ties enemy-collapse triumphalism to the Leader's standing. In the current succession context this is the office of Mojtaba Khamenei; the martyred predecessor Ali Khamenei (assassinated 28 February 2026) is invoked elsewhere in the press as «شهید سید علی».

The register the office is lending its weight to this morning is steadfastness-and-revenge: Kayhan's front carries "Iran has passed beyond survival and now seeks revenge" (از بقا عبور کرده و به دنبال انتقام است) alongside the "160 nights of ceaseless combat" mobilization imagery. Analyst flag: no verbatim Leader's message is asserted here; the office's editorial footprint is inferred from the martyr-honouring banner and the vengeance framing, not from a retrieved statement. Verification note: to be completed against khamenei.ir when the source is reachable.

B. Flagged editorial: "Crossing the emotional barbed wire" (partial translation; byline verified from the page)

Sazandegi, front-page column, bylined Fereydoun Majlesi (فریدون مجلسی), 18 Mordad 1405

Headline as printed: "عبور از سیم خاردار احساسی" - "Crossing the emotional barbed wire." The column runs on Sazandegi's reformist front beneath the president's admission that war cannot coexist with an absence of shortage and inflation.

Argument (summarized from the column's framing; the full body text was not legible at scan resolution): the piece urges Iran to move past a politics driven by emotion and the appetite for revenge, and to reason instead from national interest and cost. The "barbed wire" is the emotional register itself, the vengeance-and-honour vocabulary that the flagship hardline press is amplifying this week; Majlesi's case is that clinging to it obstructs the interest-based calculation a war-ending settlement requires. The banner slogan on the same page, "Power for peace" (اقتدار برای صلح), reclaims the hardline word eqtedar for a pro-settlement end and belongs to the same argument.

Analyst flag: this is the clearest editorial counter to the day's vengeance register, placed against Kayhan's "Iran seeks revenge" on the opposite side of the newsstand. Verification note: the byline "Fereydoun Majlesi" is read directly from the printed column; only the headline and the column's thrust are rendered here, not a full sentence-by-sentence translation, because the body text was below reliable resolution in the scan. Source line: Sazandegi, front-page column, 18 Mordad 1405 (9 August 2026).

C. Methodology and sourcing notes

iran-press-digest pipeline

Coverage: twelve daily front pages are analysed. Nine Persian print titles (Iran, Seda-ye Iran, No-Bonyad, Kayhan, Sazandegi, Charsu, Jomhuri-e Eslami, Ta'adol, Etemad) and the English-language Iran Daily were read directly from front-page scans in the NewspaperTasnim and Newspapers_Iran batches for 18 Mordad 1405. Vatan-e Emrooz and Sobh-e No were read from their own Telegram channels because their printed fronts were not in the scan batch; both are labelled as channel-sourced in the per-paper sections.

Corroboration: the Jam-e Jam, Nour News, Fars News and Defa Press channels were monitored for context and threat-signalling and folded into the trends and judgments rather than treated as front pages, per the attribution firewall. Agency-carried material (an army spokesman calling Iran's Hormuz control "irreversible", a "prohibited zone" characterization attributed to Der Spiegel, a Hezbollah 9,500-strikes figure, and reported US Vice-President Vance remarks on a "secure navigation system") is presented as attributed claims, not established fact.

Attribution and verification caveats. Several of the day's loudest items are single-sourced or second-hand and are flagged as such: Kayhan's "highest US military authority" admission of a "reverse result" is sourced by the paper to a CNN rendering, not a direct statement; its "eleven senators" resolution line amplifies a genuine, ongoing US war-powers fight (the House twice passed a measure to end the war; a binding Senate resolution fell narrowly short) but the specific framing is the outlet's; its claim that Saudi oil exports collapsed from nine million to one million barrels a day is uncorroborated. The Mossad regime-change-failure and sackings story (Seda-ye Iran, and Vatan-e Emrooz and Tehran Times in prior editions) remains single-sourced. The Jomhuri-e Eslami and Nour News references to Egypt joining the Mecca pact are Iranian-press projection: the publicly signed agreement was Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan.

Gaps this cycle: khamenei.ir was unreachable in the window (Appendix A is therefore partial), and Tehran Times did not return content at compile time, so English-language coverage rests on the Iran Daily scan. Standing succession note: "the Leader" in current coverage denotes Mojtaba Khamenei; Ali Khamenei was assassinated on 28 February 2026. Translations are editorial; loaded regime vocabulary (خونخواهی revenge, اقتدار eqtedar, وحدت شکنی unity-breaking) is glossed inline where it carries the framing.

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.