OPEN-SOURCE PRESS INTELLIGENCE

Iranian Press Monitor

Daily Front-Page Intelligence

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THE HORMUZ-SOVEREIGNTY EDITION

13 daily front pages surveyed: nine Persian print titles and Iran Daily (English) read from scan, with Kayhan, Iran and Jam-e Jam from their own channels; Defa Press, Fars News and Nour News monitored for corroboration; Tehran Times was unavailable at the time.

Front pages published the morning of 15 August 2026, reflecting events through late 14 August local.

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

Front page: Seda-ye Iran

Executive Summary

The lead development of the 15 August edition is a coordinated hardening of the Strait of Hormuz file from a transit negotiation into a sovereignty contest. The trigger, carried on the wires this monitor watches, is a Trump remark that he would declare the strait 'American territory' once the war ends (a line the White House then characterized as a joke) and a parallel US claim that Hormuz traffic is normal. The English-facing state daily Iran Daily answered both directly on its centre front: 'Iran rejects US claims of normal traffic in Strait of Hormuz, asserts full control.' Nour News carried the Deputy Foreign Minister's warning that 'this waterway cannot be seized through military threats or political decree'. From the hardline side, Vatan-e Emrooz's editorial 'the memorandum of understanding is not enough' argued that the ceasefire understanding does not by itself secure the strait, while Javan sequenced Tehran's war aims through an attributed Vance quotation, 'first the strait, then the nuclear file'. The strait is no longer being sold as a traffic scheme, as it was on 11 August, but as territory.

The most consequential shift beneath that frame is doctrinal. Iran Daily's opinion column, the batch's most deliberate foreign-facing statement, reads the Leader's post-war military-security appointments as a move 'toward offensive deterrence', an explicit step beyond the defensive-deterrence language of previous cycles. It ties the doctrine to the reshuffle this monitor has tracked since 10 August: the appointments issued in the name of Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei, with the IRGC commander Ahmad Vahidi now corroborated across three channels (Iran, Jam-e Jam, Defa Press) in a uniform victory register, 'the most armed army in world history brought to its knees'. Sazandegi's cross-check counts nine military-security figures in the decrees, larger than the 'six commanders' most titles printed on 11 August, indicating the appointment wave reached into the security ranks. The individual names below the IRGC-commander post appear only in a single channel preview and the Iran Daily column, are only partially consistent between them, and are recorded here as reported, not verified.

Lebanon returned to the front pages after its near-total absence on 11 August, and it returned as a contest inside the Iranian camp rather than a simple cheer. The principlist Sobh-e No led with an attributed Naim Qassem claim that '300,000 Lebanese returned to their homes after the Islamabad accord', presenting the memorandum as already delivering, and ran a shaded note, 'do not be more Hezbollahi than Hezbollah', disciplining domestic hardliners tempted to reject any Beirut-Israel arrangement Hezbollah itself tolerates. The hardline Seda-ye Iran, closest to the Leader's office, printed the counter-frame as its editorial, 'Lebanon and the mirage of compromise', over a photograph of an Israel-United States-Lebanon signing tableau, casting a negotiated settlement as a US-brokered trap. The kinetic file stayed live underneath: Kayhan reported six Lebanese killed in an Israeli strike at Ansariyeh and Jam-e Jam reported large explosions at al-Mansouri. The split, promote-the-dividend versus warn-of-the-mirage, is the edition's clearest internal fault line and marks Tehran managing, not merely applauding, the Lebanese track.

The war's American cost was worked hard across the aisle and largely in non-kinetic terms. The reformist Etemad led with 'the hunting of America's MQ-9s', citing a Washington Post report attributed to US officials that Washington lost 45 Reaper drones, put at about a quarter of the fleet, an unusually hard war-metric for a reformist title to headline, and paired it with a self-aware editorial naming 'the binary of siege and resistance at Hormuz'. The economic daily Ta'adol converted the war into a US balance-sheet problem, 'a cost to the US economy beyond its military budget', while its record-breaking bourse and Iran Daily's OPEC-data note of oil output rising to 2.47 million barrels per day projected post-war normalization. Vatan-e Emrooz's sidebar ('the tired warships', 'America in the whirlpool of a war of attrition', 'Trump on Carter's path') and Kayhan's items (a Jerusalem Post-attributed missile-rebuild boast, a decaying USS Abraham Lincoln) completed a uniform 'Iran

ascendant, America exhausted' construction. Every one of these figures is a single-outlet or second-hand claim, logged behind the attribution firewall; their coordination, not their veracity, is the signal.

Domestically, a single controversy set the tone: a botched gasoline-pricing episode in Kerman, which Vatan-e Emrooz blamed on 'rogue elements' and Kayhan on 'the missing prudence in fuel-consumption management', with Sobh-e No and Jomhouri Eslami reassuring that any price increase is 'ruled out' and that there is 'no resolution to change the gasoline price'. The hardline Chaharsoo turned the moment into a broader assault on the technocratic economic school, naming Masoud Nili and 'currency shocks and price liberalization', while First Vice-President Aref (in Jomhouri Eslami) held the executive's unity line, 'we no longer have time for internal quarrels', and Foreign Minister Araghchi (in the government daily Iran) cooled expectations of near-term US talks, 'no decision yet ... the previous channels are no longer effective'. Net assessment: this is an escalation-of-framing edition, not of combat. No new battlefield event is confirmed on the fronts; instead Tehran raised the Hormuz stakes rhetorically from transit to sovereignty, hardened its declared doctrine to 'offensive deterrence' for foreign readers, and re-opened the Lebanon file as a settlement it is managing from both sides. The two threads to watch are whether the 'offensive deterrence' language is matched by any posture change rather than only opinion-column doctrine, and whether the promote-versus-reject split over the Lebanon accord resolves toward Tehran tolerating a Beirut deal or vetoing it.

BOTTOM LINE On the morning after Washington floated declaring the Strait of Hormuz 'American territory', the Iranian front pages closed ranks to assert full Iranian control of the waterway and to recast the war as an American economic and diplomatic defeat, while Lebanon returned to the front pages as Tehran quietly worked, and disciplined, a Beirut settlement its hardliners publicly deride as a mirage.

CRITICAL SOURCING NOTE Nine Persian front pages were read from the NewspaperTasnim scan batch and Iran Daily (English) from the Newspapers_Iran scan; Kayhan, Iran and Jam-e Jam were read from their own Telegram channels. The batch's printed Jalali date (24 Mordad 1405) matched the target, so no fallback was needed. Defa Press, Fars News and Nour News were used only for corroboration and threat-signaling, with their material treated as attributed claims, not front-page fact. Tehran Times and khamenei.ir could not be retrieved at compile time and are omitted rather than paraphrased. Named-figure and quantitative claims (the reshuffle appointee names below the IRGC-commander post, Qassem's 300,000-returnee figure, the 45 lost MQ-9s, the IRGC downed-aircraft display, US-basing and battle-damage tallies) are single-source and unverified; the IRGC commander Vahidi is the one appointment corroborated across three channels. The obituary age for the singer Iraj differs between titles (93 vs 94); open sources place his birth around 1933.

Macro Trend Analysis

1 From transit scheme to sovereignty contest at Hormuz

The strait, framed on 11 August as a transit negotiation, is now framed as contested sovereignty. Trump's remark that he would declare Hormuz 'American territory' (walked back by the White House as a joke) and a US claim of 'normal traffic' were answered head-on: Iran Daily asserted Iran holds 'full control', Nour News relayed the Deputy Foreign Minister that the waterway 'cannot be seized by threats or decree', and Vatan-e Emrooz's editorial insisted 'the memorandum of understanding is not enough'. This is a rhetorical escalation of the standing Hormuz-as-leverage thread from a traffic arrangement to a territorial claim, even as no operational change is documented.

2 An explicit turn to 'offensive deterrence'

Iran Daily's opinion column names a doctrinal shift from defensive toward 'offensive deterrence' and ties it to the Leader's post-war military-security appointments, with IRGC commander Vahidi corroborated across three channels in a uniform 'brought the world's most armed army to its knees' register. Sazandegi counts nine figures in the Leader's decrees, up from the 'six commanders' of 11 August. This hardens the command-consolidation thread this monitor has tracked since the succession into a stated posture change, though for now it is doctrine on an opinion page rather than an observed deployment.

3 Lebanon returns, as an intra-camp contest

After near-absence on 11 August, Lebanon is back across the batch, and split. Sobh-e No promotes an attributed Naim Qassem claim of '300,000 Lebanese returned after the Islamabad accord' and cautions hardliners 'do not be more Hezbollahi than Hezbollah'; Seda-ye Iran counters that a Beirut-Israel settlement is a 'mirage of compromise' and a US trap; Kayhan and Jam-e Jam keep the kinetic file live with strikes at Ansariyeh and al-Mansouri. The promote-versus-reject divide indicates Tehran is managing the Lebanese settlement from both sides, not simply endorsing or vetoing it.

4 The war as America's economic and attritional defeat

The American cost of the war was worked across the aisle in non-kinetic terms: Etemad's Washington Post-sourced '45 lost MQ-9s', Ta'adol's 'a cost to the US economy beyond its military budget', Vatan-e Emrooz's 'tired warships' and 'Trump on Carter's path', Kayhan's decaying USS Abraham Lincoln and missile-rebuild boast. Set against a record Iranian bourse and rising oil output, this is the 11 August 'post-war, US-as-demandeur' construction carried forward and intensified. The underlying figures are single-outlet or second-hand claims; the cross-factional coordination is the signal.

5 A fuel-pricing scandal drives the domestic story

A mishandled gasoline-pricing episode in Kerman dominated the home front: Vatan-e Emrooz blamed 'rogue elements', Kayhan 'the missing prudence in fuel-consumption management', while Sobh-e No and Jomhouri Eslami reassured that a price rise is 'ruled out'. Chaharsoo widened it into an attack on the technocratic 'currency-shock and price-liberalization' school (naming Masoud Nili), and Aref held the executive's 'no time for internal quarrels' unity line. This continues the standing 'unity above, delegitimation below' fault line, now fought on fuel policy.

Key Judgments

KJ-1 [HIGH] Tehran has escalated the Strait of Hormuz from a transit negotiation to a sovereignty claim, in coordinated response to a US 'American territory' remark and a 'normal traffic' claim. Iran Daily asserted Iran holds 'full control' and rejected the normal-traffic claim; Nour News relayed the Deputy Foreign Minister that the strait 'cannot be seized by threats or decree'; Vatan-e Emrooz editorialized that 'the memorandum of understanding is not enough'; Javan sequenced war aims as 'first the strait, then the nuclear file'. Significance: this is the edition's dominant, cross-title frame and a rhetorical hardening of the standing Hormuz-leverage thread, though it is a claim about sovereignty and posture, not a documented operational change, and the triggering Trump remark was itself walked back as a joke.

KJ-2 [MODERATE-HIGH] The regime's foreign-facing message has shifted to an explicit 'offensive deterrence' doctrine tied to the post-succession command reshuffle. Iran Daily's opinion column names the shift from defensive to offensive deterrence and links it to the Leader's decrees; Vahidi as IRGC commander is corroborated across Iran, Jam-e Jam and Defa Press in a uniform victory register; Sazandegi counts nine appointees, up from six on 11 August. Significance: the appearance of 'offensive

deterrence' language in the diplomat-facing English daily is a notable escalation of declared posture and continues the command-consolidation thread, but it currently rests on an opinion column and channel corroboration rather than any observed change in force posture.

KJ-3 [MODERATE-HIGH] Lebanon has returned to the Iranian front pages as a contest Tehran is managing from both sides. Sobh-e No promoted an attributed Naim Qassem claim of '300,000 Lebanese returned after the Islamabad accord' and disciplined hardliners ('do not be more Hezbollahi than Hezbollah'); Seda-ye Iran countered with 'Lebanon and the mirage of compromise'; Kayhan and Jam-e Jam reported Israeli strikes at Ansariyeh and al-Mansouri. Significance: the reversal of 11 August's Lebanon silence, and the visible promote-versus-reject split, indicate Tehran is neither simply endorsing nor vetoing a Beirut-Israel settlement but positioning to shape it; the direction this split resolves is the thread to watch. The 300,000 figure is Qassem's attributed claim, unverified.

KJ-4 [MODERATE-HIGH] The Iranian press is intensifying a cross-factional construction of the war as an American economic and attritional defeat. Reformist Etemad headlined '45 lost US MQ-9s' (Washington Post-attributed); economic Ta'adol framed the war as 'a cost to the US economy beyond its military budget' beside a record bourse; hardline Vatan-e Emrooz and Kayhan ran 'tired warships', 'Trump on Carter's path', a decaying US carrier and a missile-rebuild boast. Significance: the convergence of reformist, economic and hardline titles on 'Iran ascendant, America exhausted' indicates centrally-congenial message discipline rather than organic agreement, and it carries the 11 August 'post-war, US-as-demandeur' thread forward; confidence attaches to the coordinated framing, not to the underlying single-outlet figures.

KJ-5 [MODERATE] The executive is holding a managed, expectation-lowering line on the United States while the hardline lane presses economic delegitimation. Foreign Minister Araghchi (government daily Iran) said 'no decision yet' on resuming US talks and that 'the previous channels are no longer effective'; First VP Aref urged 'no time for internal quarrels'; Speaker Ghalibaf reasserted 'the ruling is the ruling of the Leadership'. Against this, Chaharsoo assailed the technocratic economic school by name and the fuel-pricing scandal pressured the government's competence. Significance: the gap between the administration's cautious diplomacy and the fronts' 'US-is-the-demandeur' triumphalism is a real internal tension worth tracking, as is the hardline shift of pressure onto economic legitimacy rather than the war's terms.

KJ-6 [MODERATE] Negative finding: this is an escalation of framing, not of confirmed events, and its loudest specifics are uncorroborated. No new battlefield action is verified on the fronts; the Hormuz 'sovereignty' contest rests on a walked-back Trump remark and Iranian rebuttals; the reshuffle names below the IRGC-commander post come from a single channel preview and a partially inconsistent opinion column; and the Qassem returnee figure, the 45 MQ-9s, the IRGC downed-aircraft display and the US-basing tallies are all single-source claims, with Tehran Times and khamenei.ir unavailable. Significance: the edition's certainty about American defeat and Iranian control again runs ahead of its documentation, and the absence of any standalone Leader message on a mobilization-heavy day is itself a marker of a leadership still governing by decree and iconography rather than direct address.

Named-Figure Tracker

Figure	Role / relevance	Today's framing	Flag
Donald Trump	US President	Cast as the party seeking to seize Hormuz ('American territory' remark, walked back as a joke) and as headed for a Carter-style defeat; his nuclear boast aired as a foil.	COERCION SPOKESMAN
JD Vance	US Vice-President	Attributed by Javan with an 'unprecedented admission' that the White House reordered its war aims ('first the strait, then the nuclear file').	WATCH
Ahmad Vahidi	IRGC commander (post-reshuffle)	Quoted across three channels in a uniform victory register; the one reshuffle appointment corroborated beyond a single preview.	NEW NAMED FIGURE
Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei	Leader	Present through command decrees (nine military-security figures) and Basij-mobilization iconography, not a standalone message; no lead address on the batch.	absence noted
Naim Qassem	Hezbollah Secretary-General	Credited by Sobh-e No with '300,000 Lebanese returned after the Islamabad accord'; used to present the memorandum as delivering (attributed, unverified).	WATCH
Ahmad al-Sharaa	Syrian president	Portrayed by Sobh-e No as avoiding confrontation with Hezbollah out of 'dread of Iran's missile threat'.	TARGET FRAMING
Benjamin Netanyahu	Israeli prime minister	Cast as directing US policy ('Trump aboard Netanyahu's truck', Javan) and, via an attributed Sobh-e No item, as facing an internal 'overthrow' move.	TARGET FRAMING
Abbas Araghchi	Iranian Foreign Minister	Cools expectations of US talks: 'no decision yet', 'the previous channels are no longer effective'.	WATCH
Mohammad-Reza Aref	First Vice-President	Holds the executive unity line: 'we no longer have time for internal quarrels', conceding inflation is real.	WATCH
Mohammad-Baqer Ghalibaf	Parliament Speaker	Reasserts obedience to the Leadership: 'the ruling is the ruling of the Leadership'.	WATCH

Headline Summary Table

Outlet	Lead Headline (English)	Orientation	Theme	Threat signal
Iran Daily	Iran rejects US claims of normal traffic in Strait of Hormuz, asserts full control	State English-language	Hormuz sovereignty rebuttal and an 'offensive deterrence' doctrine for foreign readers	HIGH: English-facing full-control assertion and doctrinal hardening

Outlet	Lead Headline (English)	Orientation	Theme	Threat signal
Vatan-e Emrooz	The rogue elements are at work!	Hardline / principlist	Fuel scandal lead; 'the MoU is not enough', tired US warships, Trump-on-Carter's-path in the sidebar	MODERATE-HIGH: Hormuz-as-leverage and US-exhaustion messaging
Etemad	The hunting of America's MQ-9s	Reformist	Washington Post-sourced US drone attrition; the siege-vs-resistance Hormuz binary	MODERATE-HIGH: cross-aisle adoption of a US-attrition metric
Seda-ye Iran	Lebanon and the mirage of compromise	Hardline (Leader's office)	Rejectionist framing of a Beirut-Israel settlement as a US trap; martyr memory-politics	MODERATE-HIGH: settlement-rejection and mobilization keyed to Israel
Sobh-e No	300,000 Lebanese returned home after the Islamabad accord	Principlist	Lebanon accord dividend (Naim Qassem) and intra-camp discipline on the settlement	MODERATE-HIGH: Lebanon-track management and missile-deterrence signaling
Jam-e Jam	Lavrov: America is far more deeply involved in Ukraine's strikes on Russia	State broadcaster (IRIB)	US-overextension framing; Lebanon strikes at al-Mansouri; the Trump nuclear boast	MODERATE: great-power framing and live Lebanon strikes
Javan	How every Iranian becomes a Basiji	Hardline (IRGC)	Basij mobilization doctrine; 'first the strait, then the nuclear file' war-aim sequencing	HIGH: mass-mobilization doctrine and strait-first sequencing
Kayhan	The missing prudence in fuel-consumption management	Ultra-hardline flagship (channel)	Fuel-management critique; velayat-e faqih editorial; 'US-exhausted' war items and Lebanese casualties	MODERATE-HIGH: missile-rebuild and carrier-decay messaging
Iran	No decision yet to resume talks with America	Official government daily (channel)	Executive line on US talks (none yet); Canada-Hormuz sanctions; Vahidi victory message	MODERATE: managed diplomacy and IRGC victory messaging
Jomhouri Eslami	We have no resolution to change the gasoline price	Traditional / establishment	Fuel-price denial and executive unity, over an IRGC air-defence trophy claim	MODERATE: air-defence battle-damage display inside an economic-reassurance frame
Sazandegi	The end of an era	Reformist (Kargozaran)	National mourning (the singer Iraj); reformist 'exit from war' argument; nine-figure reshuffle cross-check	LOW-MODERATE: de-escalatory framing behind a cultural lead
Ta'adol	The bourse breaks records over the holiday	Economic / business	War as a US economic burden; record bourse and fuel-subsidy economics	LOW-MODERATE: war reframed as a US economic cost

Outlet	Lead Headline (English)	Orientation	Theme	Threat signal
Chaharsoo	The architect of the economic shocks	Principlist / hardline	Hardline economic-legitimacy assault on the technocratic government (naming Masoud Nili)	LOW: domestic economic-legitimacy attack, no external threat content

Per-Paper Front-Page Analysis

Iran Daily

State English-language daily (IRNA group)

“Iran rejects US claims of normal traffic in Strait of Hormuz, asserts full control”

HIGH: English-facing assertion of full Hormuz control and an explicit 'offensive deterrence' doctrine

- Lead (center): 'Iran rejects US claims of normal traffic in Strait of Hormuz, asserts full control', over a photograph of tankers in the strait. This is the batch's clearest statement of the day's dominant frame: a public rebuttal of a US claim that Hormuz traffic is normal, and an assertion of Iranian command over the waterway, pitched to a diplomatic and foreign readership.
- Top headline: 'Iran raps Western human rights statements as \'hypocritical blame game\'', a Foreign Ministry pushback on Western human-rights criticism.
- Opinion (exclusive), by Marzieh Kohbani: 'New military lineup signals shift toward offensive deterrence.' The column recaps that after the illegitimate US-Israeli war began in late February 2026 and the martyrdom of the Leader and senior commanders, Iran's new Leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei, issued decrees appointing key figures to senior military and security posts, and reads the appointments as a doctrinal move from defensive toward offensive deterrence. Individual appointee names printed in the column are recorded per the reshuffle note below and are attributed, not independently verified.
- Business: 'Iran oil output rises to 2.470m bpd in July, OPEC data shows', a post-war production-recovery data point.
- Sport / soft-power: Iranian weightlifters (reported names include Bolboli and Beiranvand) 'dominate' at the World Youth Championships.
- Interview: 'My cultural activities are tribute to Iran's culture', an exclusive with the South Korean ambassador.

> **ANALYST NOTE** Iran Daily is the regime's English shop window, and it puts the Hormuz-sovereignty rebuttal ('Iran rejects US claims of normal traffic ... asserts full control') at the centre of the page, aimed squarely at foreign chancelleries: this is the authoritative counter to Trump's 'American territory' remark relayed by the wires. Its opinion column is the batch's most explicit doctrinal statement, naming a shift 'toward offensive deterrence' and tying the command reshuffle to it for diplomatic readers. The offensive-deterrence framing is a notable hardening of the English-facing message and a thread to track.

Vatan-e Emrooz

Hardline / principlist daily

MODERATE-HIGH: leverage-and-attrition messaging aimed at the United States, plus a disarm-the-Hashd Iraq alarm

“The rogue elements are at work!” «خودسرها مشغول کارند!»

- Main: The lead is a domestic-governance scandal, not the war: a Vatan-e Emrooz report on a 'strange affair of free gasoline prices' in Kerman, headlined «خودسرها مشغول کارند!» (the self-willed/rogue elements are at work), charging that officials pleaded ignorance (اظهار بی‌اطلاعی دولت) and calling for confrontation with 'errant actors' (عوامل خاطی). Read with Kayhan, Sobh-e No and Jomhouri Eslami, the front pages converge on a single fuel-pricing controversy.
- Op-ed: A signed editorial «تفاهم‌نامه کافی نیست» (the memorandum of understanding is not enough), arguing that the ceasefire/transit understanding does not by itself secure the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and that pressure must be maintained.
- Right rail (تیترهای امروز): «ناوهای خسته» (the tired warships), keyed to the USS Abraham Lincoln strike group returning home after a long deployment; «پهپادها شکارچی F15ها» (drones as hunters of the F-15s); «آمریکا در گرداب جنگ فرسایشی» (America in the whirlpool of a war of attrition); «دود شد و به هوا رفت» (it went up in smoke).
- Banner: «دام آمریکایی در بغداد» (an American trap in Baghdad), a report tying US pressure to disarm the Iraqi Hashd al-Shaabi (Popular Mobilization Forces) to the wider regional contest.
- Channel corroboration (t.me/s/vatanemrooz): «ترامپ در مسیر کارتر» (Trump on Carter's path), casting Trump as headed for a Carter-style political defeat over Iran; «اعتراف به ایران قوی» (acknowledgment of a stronger Iran), citing US figures (attributed to Esper, Jeffries, Sanders) conceding Iran emerged stronger, with a claimed 13 billion dollars in damage to US assets and 'over 2,000 Iranian strikes on US bases across 8 countries' (outlet claim); «چین پشت دروازه هرمز» (China behind the Hormuz gate), urging deeper Iran-China energy-security cooperation.

> **ANALYST NOTE** Vatan-e Emrooz devotes its masthead lead to an internal fuel-pricing scandal while routing all war content to the sidebar and editorial, a telling reallocation for a hardline title: the Strait and the United States are now treated as settled leverage ('the MoU is not enough', 'tired warships', 'Trump on Carter's path') rather than active combat, continuing the 11 August 'post-war consolidation' and 'US-as-demandeur' threads. The battle-damage and US-basing figures are single-outlet claims logged behind the attribution firewall.

Javan

Hardline, IRGC-affiliated daily

“How every Iranian becomes a Basiji” «هر ایرانی یک بسیجی چگونه»

HIGH: mass-mobilization doctrine plus an explicit strait-first war-aims sequencing directed at the US

- Main: A full-page ideological feature «هر ایرانی یک بسیجی چگونه» (how every Iranian becomes a Basiji), illustrated with a painted image of the Leader in clerical robes leading ranks of young Basij men and women with raised fists and red headbands. The piece frames the Basij as a whole-of-society mobilization model, tying the post-war moment to mass revolutionary enlistment.
- Banner: «ونس: اول تنگه بعد هسته‌ای!» (Vance: first the strait, then the nuclear file), presented as an 'unprecedented admission by Trump's deputy' that the White House has reordered its war aims, subhead «ترامپ سوار بر کامیون اسرائیلی نتانیاهو!» (Trump riding aboard Netanyahu's Israeli truck), casting US policy as Netanyahu-driven. The Vance quotation is a second-hand rendering and is not to be reproduced as authentic without primary-source confirmation.
- Sub-item: «بازآرایی بسیج با تکثر نیروها» (rearrangement of the Basij through a pluralization of its forces), a doctrinal note on restructuring the Basij, complementing the reshuffle continuity across the batch.
- Op-ed: «رکن راهبردی بسیج در انقلاب اسلامی ۴» (the four strategic pillars of the Basij in the Islamic Revolution), a signed column theorizing the Basij's post-war role.

> **ANALYST NOTE** Javan is the clearest expression of the batch's mobilization register: it pairs a hagiographic Leader-and-Basij tableau with the reordering of Iran's war aims into Tehran's preferred sequence ('first the strait, then the nuclear file'), a framing that both claims the initiative at Hormuz and subordinates the nuclear question to it. The 'Trump riding Netanyahu's truck' line continues the standing effort to attribute US conduct to Israeli direction; the attributed Vance admission is single-sourced and flagged. The Basij-restructuring items dovetail with the military command reshuffle other titles carry.

Painted cover illustration of the Leader in clerical robes at the head of ranked young Basij members with raised fists and red headbands; no caption

Sobh-e No

Principlist daily

“300,000 Lebanese returned to their homes after the Islamabad accord” ۳۰۰ هزار لبنانی پس از توافق اسلام‌آباد به «خانه خود بازگشتند»

MODERATE-HIGH: Lebanon-track management and missile-deterrence signaling toward Israel and Syria

- Main: «۳۰۰ هزار لبنانی پس از توافق اسلام‌آباد به خانه خود بازگشتند» (300,000 Lebanese returned home after the Islamabad accord), attributed to Hezbollah Secretary-General Sheikh Naim Qassem, who is said to have cited the 'first effects of the Islamabad memorandum's clause' in curbing the Zionist enemy's attacks on Lebanon. The 300,000 figure and the causal link to the accord are Qassem's claim as relayed by the outlet, logged unverified.
- Banner: «افزایش نرخ بنزین منتفی شد» (the gasoline-price increase is ruled out), attributed to a decision by the heads of the three branches (سران قوا), the reassurance counterpart to the fuel-pricing scandal Vatan-e Emrooz and Kayhan lead on.
- Sub-item: «حکم، حکم رهبری است» (the ruling is the ruling of the Leadership), Speaker Ghalibaf at a gathering of cultural elites; the channel prints the fuller «حکم، حکم ولایت و رهبری است», a discipline-and-obedience message.
- Sub-item: «وحشت از تهدید موشکی ایران» (dread of Iran's missile threat), asking why Syria's Ahmad al-Sharaa avoids a confrontation with Hezbollah, crediting Iranian missile deterrence.
- Sub-item: «نتانیاهوی دروغگو باید سرنگون شود» (the liar Netanyahu must be brought down), reporting a claimed move by Haredi leaders against Israel's 'extremist right-wing government' (attributed, unverified).
- Note: «از حزب‌الله حزب‌اللهی‌تر نباشید!» (do not be more Hezbollahi than Hezbollah), a shaded editorial cautioning domestic hardliners against out-flanking Hezbollah's own line on the Lebanon settlement.

ANALYST NOTE Sobh-e No is the batch's Lebanon anchor: its lead promotes an accord-produced 'return of 300,000 Lebanese' as evidence that the Islamabad understanding is already delivering, while the «از حزب‌الله حزب‌اللهی‌تر نباشید» note quietly disciplines hardliners tempted to reject any Beirut-Israel arrangement Hezbollah tolerates. That pairing marks Lebanon's return to the front pages after its near-absence on 11 August, and signals Tehran managing, not merely cheering, the Lebanese track. The Qassem return figure and the Netanyahu-overthrow item are attributed claims.

Seda-ye Iran

Hardline, keyed to the Leader's office

“Lebanon and the mirage of compromise” «لبنان و سراب سازش»

MODERATE-HIGH: rejectionist framing of the Lebanon settlement and martyr-mobilization keyed to Israel

- Main / editorial (سرمقاله): «لبنان و سراب سازش» (Lebanon and the mirage of compromise), subhead «مروری بر مواضع دبیرکل حزب‌الله درباره مذاکرات دولت بیروت با رژیم صهیونیستی» (a survey of the Hezbollah Secretary-General's positions on the Beirut government's negotiations with the Zionist regime). The page runs over a photograph of a signing ceremony flanked by lecterns labelled ISRAEL, UNITED STATES and LEBANON, presenting any Beirut-Israel deal as a US-brokered illusion.
- Right rail: «همگی خانواده شهیدیم» (we are all a martyr's family), a solidarity-and-mourning register keyed to the war dead.
- Sub-item: «شهید سلامی، اعصار راهبردی نبرد نامتقارن» (Martyr Salami, the strategic epoch of asymmetric warfare), a commemorative note on the fallen IRGC commander Hossein Salami as doctrine-setter for asymmetric war.
- Photo feature: «تصاویر جولان‌های منتشرشده آمریکایی-صهیونی» (published images of American-Zionist wreckage), a spread of destroyed armour and hardware presented as battlefield evidence (outlet-presented imagery, provenance unverified).

ANALYST NOTE Seda-ye Iran, closest of the batch to the Leader's office, sets the hardline counter-frame to Sobh-e No's Lebanon optimism: it reads the same Beirut-Israel-US track as a 'mirage of compromise', warning that a negotiated settlement is a trap. The Israel-US-Lebanon signing tableau is used as an indictment, not a report. Its martyr-family and Salami-commemoration register keeps the war's memory-politics live even as other titles pivot to Hormuz and the economy. The wreckage imagery is presented without independent provenance and is treated as an outlet claim.

Sazandegi

Reformist (Kargozaran party)

“The end of an era” «پایان یک عصر»

LOW-MODERATE: de-escalatory 'exit from war' framing behind a cultural lead

- Main: «پایان یک عصر» (the end of an era), an obituary for the traditional vocalist Hossein Khajeh-Amiri, known as 'Iraj' and styled the 'champion of Iranian song' (پهلوان آواز ایران), reported dead in his early nineties (the front cites 93; Etemad prints 94), over a photograph with his son, the singer Ehsan Khajeh-Amiri. A cultural, not political, lead.
- Top box: «آرایش تازه نظامی» (a new military lineup), «احکام رهبر انقلاب برای چهره نظامی-امنیتی ۹» (the Leader's decrees for nine military-security figures), a grid of commander portraits, extending the reshuffle from the 'six commanders' of 11 August to a nine-figure count and folding in the security appointments.
- Op-ed (مقاله): «هر خروج از جنگ» (any exit from the war), a signed column on 'Iran's strategic value' arguing terms for a durable off-ramp, the reformist counterpoint to the hardline rejectionism elsewhere in the batch.
- Banner: economic items on the gasoline riddle and the halt of the price-increase plan, aligning Sazandegi with the day's fuel-pricing debate.

ANALYST NOTE Sazandegi's cultural lead is itself a factional choice: on a day the hardline titles work Hormuz, Lebanon and mobilization, the reformist Kargozaran organ foregrounds a national mourning and files the war under an op-ed about how to leave it ('any exit from the war'). Its nine-figure count for the Leader's decrees is a useful cross-check on the reshuffle, larger than the 'six commanders' most titles printed on 11 August, indicating the appointment wave extended into the security ranks. The Iraj age discrepancy (93 vs 94) is noted and left to the source.

Chaharsoo

Principlist / hardline daily

LOW: domestic economic-legitimacy attack, no external threat content

“The architect of the economic shocks” «معمار شوک‌های اقتصادی»

- Main: «معمار شوک‌های اقتصادی» (the architect of the economic shocks), a satirical cover of a lecturer at a whiteboard reading «راهکار اقتصادی: فقط شوک ارزی و آزادسازی قیمت‌ها» (economic remedy: only currency shocks and price liberalization) before a seated row captioned «مقامات دولت‌ها» (the governments' officials), an attack on the technocratic economic-liberalization school.
- Sub-item: «امثال نیلی آبروی بازارگرایی را در ایران بردند» (the likes of [Masoud] Nili have discredited market-orientation in Iran), a re-reading of a critical essay by Dr. Farshad Momeni.
- Sub-item: «آدرس‌های غلط و مسئولیت‌گریزی‌های رندانه» (wrong addresses and cunning evasions of responsibility), a re-reading of Dr. Abbas Shakeri's critique of Masoud Nili's record and positions.

ANALYST NOTE Chaharsoo again spends its entire front on economic delegitimation rather than the war, continuing the 11 August thread in which the hardline lane concedes the Leader's security decisions while assailing the elected government's economic competence. Naming Masoud Nili and the 'currency-shock and price-liberalization' school targets the technocratic wing associated with the Pezeshkian government; on a day the fuel-pricing scandal dominates several fronts, this is a coordinated pressure point on the administration's economic legitimacy.

Satirical staged photo-illustration: a lecturer at a whiteboard captioned 'economic remedy: only currency shocks and price liberalization' addressing a seated row of 'government officials'

Jomhouri Eslami

Traditional / establishment daily

“We have no **MODERATE: air-defence battle-damage display against the US, inside an economic-reassurance frame** *resolution to change the gasoline price”* «هیچ مصوبه‌ای برای تغییر قیمت بنزین نداریم»

جمهوری اسلامی

بازگشت ۲۵ میلیون مترمکعب گاز به چرخه تولید تا پایان شهریور

هیچ مصوبه‌ای برای تغییر قیمت بنزین نداریم

دیگر فرصتی برای دعواهای داخلی نداریم

- Main: «هیچ مصوبه‌ای برای تغییر قیمت بنزین نداریم» (we have no resolution to change the gasoline price), an official-quoted denial of any approved fuel-price rise, the establishment counter to the Kerman 'rogue actors' scare and Sobh-e No's 'increase ruled out'.
- Banner: «بازگشت ۲۵ میلیون مترمکعب گاز به چرخه تولید تا پایان شهریور» (25 million cubic metres of gas to return to the production cycle by end of Shahrivar), the Oil Minister on recovery of gas output.
- Right column: «دیگر فرصتی برای دعواهای داخلی نداریم» (we no longer have time for internal quarrels), attributed to First Vice-President Mohammad-Reza Aref, who is quoted conceding that 'the people have rightful demands and inflation is a reality', an executive unity-and-repair message.
- Center photo: «پهپادها و جنگنده‌های شهیدشده آمریکایی توسط سامانه نوین پدافندی نیروی هوافضای سپاه» (American drones and fighter jets 'martyred' by the IRGC Aerospace Force's new air-defence system), an underground display of claimed downed US aircraft (outlet-presented, provenance unverified).
- Sub-items: «فرصت مناسب‌تر برای شیوخ خلیج فارس» (a better opportunity for the Persian Gulf sheikhs); a konkur (university-entrance) card-distribution notice; and a devotional box quoting the 'oppressed martyr Ayatollah Beheshti'.

ANALYST NOTE Jomhouri Eslami plays its establishment role: it quiets the fuel-price panic with an authoritative denial, amplifies the Aref 'no time for internal quarrels' line that continues the 10-11 August executive unity register, and pairs both with an IRGC air-defence trophy display asserting downed US aircraft. The juxtaposition, economic reassurance plus a battle-damage claim, is the paper's way of holding deterrence and stability together. The downed-aircraft imagery is an unverified outlet claim behind the firewall.

Ta'adol

Economic / business daily

LOW-MODERATE: war reframed as a US economic cost; domestic stagflation and fuel-pricing focus

"The bourse breaks records over the holiday" «رکوردشکنی بورس در تعطیلات»

تعادل

رکوردشکنی بورس در تعطیلات

قاچاق بنزین و مفت‌فروشی به زیان نسل‌های آینده

جنگ ایران: هزینه‌ای فراتر از بودجه نظامی برای اقتصاد آمریکا

- Main: «رکوردشکنی بورس در تعطیلات» (the bourse breaks records over the holiday), Ta'adol surveying a rally in equities trading, a post-war confidence signal read through the market.
- Secondary: «قاچاق بنزین و مفت‌فروشی به زیان نسل‌های آینده» (fuel smuggling and give-away pricing at the expense of future generations), an economist arguing that selling gasoline below real cost feeds smuggling, the analytic underside of the day's fuel-price story.
- Banner: «جنگ ایران: هزینه‌ای فراتر از بودجه نظامی برای اقتصاد آمریکا» (the Iran war: a cost to the US economy beyond its military budget), framing the war as an economic drain on Washington; subhead on the government reaching toward the lower income deciles and a possible new housing-support package.
- Sub-items: «شفاف‌سازی در مسیر اصلاح بودجه» (transparency on the road to budget reform); «واقعیت قدرت‌گیری و هشدار تورمی در افق ۱۴۰۵» (the reality of power-consolidation and an inflation warning on the 1405 horizon); «اقتصاد ایران و رانت خصوصی» (Iran's economy and private rent-seeking).

ANALYST NOTE Ta'adol supplies the batch's economic register and, notably, converts the war into an American balance-sheet problem ('a cost beyond the military budget for the US economy'), the mirror image of the hardline 'US-as-demandeur' line rendered in market terms. Its record-bourse lead projects post-war normalization and confidence, while the fuel-smuggling analysis gives the day's gasoline controversy an economist's frame rather than a scandal's. This continues the 11 August 'post-war economic terrain' thread.

Etemad Reformist daily

“The hunting of America's MQ-9s” «شکار MQ۹های امریکا»

MODERATE-HIGH: cross-aisle adoption of a US-drone-attrition metric and an ambiguous Hormuz siege framing

- Main: «شکار MQ۹های امریکا» (the hunting of America's MQ-9s), «اعتماد از تغییر معادلات جنگ گزارش می‌دهد» (Etemad reports on the changed equations of the war). The text attributes to the Washington Post, citing US officials, a claim that the United States lost 45 MQ-9 Reaper drones in the war with Iran, put at roughly 25 percent of the fleet of these 50-million-dollar aircraft. The figure is a second-hand rendering of a foreign-press report and is logged unverified.
- Left lead: «دوگانه محاصره و مقاومت در هرمز» (the binary of siege and resistance at Hormuz), an interview-driven editorial weighing whether Iran's Hormuz posture is a blockade or a defensive stand, the reformist entry in the day's strait debate.
- Sub-item: «حمله دشمن به مخزن‌های نفت جنایت محیط‌زیستی بود» (the enemy's strike on the oil reservoirs was an environmental crime), reframing war damage as ecological harm; corroborated by an Etemad-channel item on an oil spill affecting Qeshm and its mangroves.
- Right column: «خاموشی پهلوان آواز» (the silencing of the champion of song), the Iraj (Hossein Khajeh-Amiri) obituary, here putting his age at 94.
- Notes rail (یادداشت‌ها): several signed columns on the state-society compact, on 'enemy' media and abduction narratives, and on civil-society organizations 'in service to society'.

ANALYST NOTE Etemad, a reformist title, nonetheless leads on a hard war-metric, 45 lost US MQ-9s, sourced to the Washington Post: adopting a foreign-press number to argue the 'equations of the war' have shifted in Iran's favour, which shows the 'Iran-ascendant' read now spans the aisle. Its «محاصره و مقاومت» Hormuz editorial is the batch's most self-aware strait framing, openly naming the blockade-versus-defence ambiguity the hardline titles elide. Both the MQ-9 count and the environmental-crime claim are attributed and unverified; the Iraj age (94) differs from Sazandegi's (93).

Iran

Official government daily (read from channel)

MODERATE: managed diplomatic signaling plus IRGC victory messaging; sanctions tied to Hormuz

“No decision yet to resume talks with America” «هنوز تصمیمی برای ازسرگیری مذاکرات با آمریکا گرفته نشده است»

- Diplomacy: «هنوز تصمیمی برای ازسرگیری مذاکرات با آمریکا گرفته نشده است» (no decision yet to resume negotiations with America), attributed to Foreign Minister Araghchi, who is quoted saying the previous diplomatic channels are no longer effective and new pathways must be built, an official cooling of expectations for near-term US talks.
- USA/Canada: Canada is reported to have imposed new sanctions on Iranian officials citing shipping-safety concerns in the Strait of Hormuz, tying the sanctions track directly to the strait.
- Military: IRGC commander Vahidi quoted praising the armed forces for bringing 'the most armed army in world history' to its knees over six months of operations, the government daily carrying the reshuffle's new IRGC commander in a victory register.
- Domestic: the central insurance regulator warning that 14 of 27 insurers are financially troubled; roughly 68,000 litres of smuggled fuel seized in Tehran; Tehran air quality at the pollution threshold.

> **ANALYST NOTE** The government daily sets the executive's line: Araghchi's 'no decision yet, old channels dead' formulation manages expectations downward on US talks even as the hardline titles insist Washington is the demandeur, a careful gap between the diplomatic and propaganda registers worth tracking. Pairing the Canada-Hormuz sanctions with Vahidi's victory language lets the administration hold grievance and triumph together. The 'most armed army brought to its knees' claim is outlet messaging, not an assessed outcome.

Jam-e Jam

State broadcaster daily (IRIB) (read from channel)

MODERATE: great-power framing of the US, live Lebanon strikes, and recycled victory messaging

“Lavrov: America is far more deeply involved in Ukraine's strikes on Russia” «لاوروف: آمریکا در حملات اوکراین علیه روسیه بسیار عمیق‌تر دست دارد»

- Lead: Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov quoted claiming the United States is far more deeply involved in Ukrainian strikes on Russia than acknowledged, the IRIB daily foregrounding the Russia-US axis as backdrop to Iran's own confrontation with Washington.
- Lebanon: «انفجارهای مهیب در منطقه المنصوری» (huge explosions in the al-Mansouri area) as Israeli operations continue against southern Lebanese villages, corroborating Kayhan's six-martyr report and Seda-ye Iran's Lebanon lead.
- USA/Trump: Trump quoted domestically defending his record, 'people look at gas prices, but they should remember I stopped that crazy nation from getting a nuclear weapon', the nuclear-boast line the hardline titles mock.
- Military: IRGC commander Vahidi's 'brought the most armed army in history to its knees' statement carried again.
- Hormuz: a maritime-closure and rough-seas advisory affecting the strait region (weather-driven, not kinetic).

> **ANALYST NOTE** Jam-e Jam frames the Iran-US contest inside a great-power lens, leading on Lavrov's US-in-Ukraine claim, which lets the state broadcaster present Washington as globally overextended rather than focused on Iran. Its al-Mansouri item independently confirms the day's Israel-Lebanon strikes, and its airing of Trump's nuclear boast supplies the foil for the batch's 'Trump-on-the-defensive' construction. The Vahidi victory line and the Trump quotation are outlet renderings behind the firewall.

Kayhan

Ultra-hardline flagship, close to the Leader's office / IRGC (read from channel)

“The missing prudence in fuel-consumption management” «جای خالی تدبیر در مدیریت مصرف سوخت»

MODERATE-HIGH: missile-rebuild and US-carrier-decay messaging plus the live Lebanon casualty file

- Main note: «جای خالی تدبیر در مدیریت مصرف سوخت» (the missing prudence in fuel-consumption management), a front-page critique of the botched gasoline-pricing episode (a mooted 87,000-toman-per-litre figure is cited as mis-signalled), arguing for non-price demand management, efficiency standards, CNG expansion, old-vehicle scrapping and anti-smuggling action. Author not attributed in the retrieved preview.
- Op-ed (یادداشت روز): «کارکرد اسلام سیاسی و ولایت فقیه» (the function of political Islam and velayat-e faqih), by Hojjatoleslam Dr. Abolfazl Sajedi (author verified), arguing Iran's shift from weakness to strength is divine aid to followers of Islamic governance, citing Qur'an 47:7 ('if you aid Allah, He will aid you'). Selected as the day's flagged editorial (Appendix B).
- Lebanon: «شهادت ۶ لبنانی در حمله رژیم صهیونیستی به جنوب لبنان» (six Lebanese martyred in a Zionist-regime strike on southern Lebanon), reported at Ansariyeh, keeping the Israel-Lebanon kinetic file live.
- USA: a Jerusalem Post-attributed report that Iran's ballistic-missile rebuild is outpacing Israeli military predictions; and a feature on the USS Abraham Lincoln, 260-plus days deployed, with claimed crew mental-health and readiness problems (second-hand renderings, flagged).
- Yemen: renewed Ansarallah attacks on Saudi Aramco facilities, with warnings over 'sovereignty violations' (attributed claim).

> **ANALYST NOTE** Kayhan spends its front on the fuel-management failure, joining the batch's dominant domestic story and pressuring the government's competence, while its Yadasht-e Rooz supplies the ideological backbone (velayat-e faqih as the source of Iran's ascendancy). Its external items, Lebanese martyrs, a missile-rebuild boast, and a decaying US carrier, are the hardline flagship's contribution to the 'Iran-ascendant, US-exhausted' construction this monitor has tracked. The missile-rebuild and carrier-decay claims are second-hand and behind the attribution firewall.

Appendix A - The Leader's presence on the batch (message status)

NewspaperTasnim front-page batch; khamenei.ir (unavailable at compile time)

No standalone address or written message from the Leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei, led the 24 Mordad batch, and the Leader's official site (khamenei.ir) could not be retrieved at the time of compilation. This appendix therefore records the Leader's presence indirectly, as a finding rather than a translation, and flags the absence of a single lead message as itself notable on a mobilization-heavy day.

The Leader appears on the batch in two forms. First, through command authority: the wave of military-security appointments that several titles carry (Sazandegi's 'the Leader's decrees for nine military-security figures'; Iran Daily's opinion recap of decrees issued by 'Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei') is presented as the Leader's personal act, continuing the command-consolidation this monitor tracked on 10-11 August. Second, through iconography: Javan's full-page painted tableau places the Leader in clerical robes at the head of ranked Basij members under the banner 'how every Iranian becomes a Basiji', an image of the Leader as mobilizer-in-chief rather than the author of a specific text.

Analyst flag: the reliance on decrees and imagery, rather than a signed message, is consistent with a leadership still building its post-succession voice; the monitor continues to note the absence of independent, verifiable succession-and-authority documentation beyond regime-controlled channels. Where the appointee names printed in channel previews and the Iran Daily opinion column are recorded in this edition, they are attributed and not independently verified (see Appendix C).

Appendix B - Flagged editorial: Kayhan, 'The function of political Islam and velayat-e faqih'

Kayhan, Yadasht-e Rooz, 24 Mordad 1405 (t.me/s/kayhan_online)

Author: Hojjatoleslam Dr. Abolfazl Sajedi (حجت‌الاسلام دکتر ابوالفضل ساجدی), author verified against the channel byline. Title: «کارکرد اسلام سیاسی و ولایت فقیه» (The function of political Islam and velayat-e faqih).

The piece sets images of former American dominance against images of present American weakness, and argues that Iran's passage from weakness to strength is not the product of material power but of divine assistance granted to a people who follow the doctrine of Islamic governance (velayat-e faqih). It grounds the claim in the Qur'an, Surah Muhammad (47:7): «If you aid Allah, He will aid you» («ان تنصروا الله ینصرکم»), reading the war's outcome as vindication of political Islam.

Analyst note: this is doctrine, not reportage, and it does the ideological work the day's harder news items only imply, converting the recurring 'Iran ascendant, America exhausted' motif (the tired US carrier, the lost drones, the reordered war aims) into a theological proof of velayat-e faqih. Its selection as the flagged editorial reflects that framing role, not any verified factual content. Source line: Kayhan, Yadasht-e Rooz, 24 Mordad 1405. Note: the full verbatim print text was not retrievable at compile time; the above is a faithful rendering of the retrieved channel preview, not a word-for-word transcription, and the single scriptural quotation is reproduced as cited by the outlet.

Appendix C - Methodology and sourcing notes

iran-press-digest pipeline

Coverage: nine Persian front pages were read directly from the NewspaperTasnim scan batch (Vatan-e Emrooz, Javan, Sobh-e No, Seda-ye Iran, Sazandegi, Chaharsoo, Jomhouri Eslami, Ta'adol, Etemad) and Iran Daily (English) from the Newspapers_Iran scan. Kayhan, the government daily Iran, and Jam-e Jam were read from their own Telegram channels (front-page scans not in the batch). The Persian batch's printed Jalali date (24 Mordad 1405) matched the target date, so no stale-batch fallback was needed.

Wire corroboration: Defa Press, Fars News and Nour News (agency channels) were monitored for the real-time and threat register only, not treated as front pages: their material (the Yemen-Aramco and al-Mukha strike claims, Trump's 'American territory' Hormuz remark and the White House 'joke' walk-back, the Deputy Foreign Minister's Hormuz warning, the USS Abraham Lincoln return) is folded into the trends and judgments as attributed claims, per the attribution firewall.

Unavailable sources: Tehran Times and khamenei.ir (English) could not be retrieved at compile time and are omitted rather than paraphrased; their absence does not affect the front-page reading, which rests on the scans and daily channels.

Verification and single-source flags: (1) The military-reshuffle appointee names are attributed, not verified. The IRGC commander Vahidi is corroborated across three channels (Iran, Jam-e Jam, Defa Press). The fuller lineup (Ali Abdollahi as Chief of the General Staff, plus named deputies, a naval commander and a Basij chief) appears in a single channel preview (Vatan-e Emrooz) and in the Iran Daily opinion column, which are only partially consistent with each other; specific names below the IRGC-commander post are recorded as reported and should not be treated as confirmed. (2) The Naim Qassem '300,000 Lebanese returned' figure (Sobh-e No), the Washington Post-attributed '45 lost MQ-9s' figure (Etemad), the IRGC downed-US-aircraft display (Jomhouri Eslami), the US-basing and battle-damage tallies (Vatan-e Emrooz), and the Israeli-government 'overthrow' item (Sobh-e No) are all single-source outlet claims logged behind the attribution firewall. (3) The obituary age for the singer Iraj (Hossein Khajeh-Amiri) differs between titles (Sazandegi 93, Etemad 94); open sources place his birth around 1933, consistent with an age in the early nineties.

Standing context re-checked this cycle: the Leader in current coverage is Mojtaba Khamenei; the war-day counter is calendar-based (Day 118 = 29 June 2026), giving Day 165 for 15 August 2026. Product handling: this brief documents and analyses hostile foreign-press rhetoric for defensive assessment only; nothing herein endorses, amplifies or operationalizes it.

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.