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THE CHOKEPOINT-AS-DOCTRINE EDITION

Nine Persian print titles read from scan (Vatan-e Emrooz, Javan, Sobh-e No, Hamshahri, Sazandegi, Charsou, Ta'adol, Etemad, Jomhouri Eslami), the English Iran Daily read from scan, and three dailies read from their own channels (Kayhan, Iran, Jam-e Jam); Defa Press, Fars News and Nour News monitored for corroboration; Tehran Times unavailable at the time

Front pages published the morning of 24 August 2026, reflecting events through late 23 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: Hamshahri

Executive Summary

The dominant development of the cycle is doctrinal: a warning attributed to the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, that if the economic war continues not a single drop of oil will be exported through the Strait of Hormuz or anywhere in the Persian Gulf, and that any state's participation in the economic war will be treated as a military act, is carried across the batch as a settled Iranian position rather than as a one-off remark. Hamshahri, a centrist municipal daily, states it as 'Iran's economic doctrine is now militarized: sanction us and we strike'; Sobh-e No supplies the sharpest conditional ('not a single drop of oil'); Javan renders it as 'wage economic war and you will be hit hard.' The threat itself is a continuation of the standing chokepoint-coercion thread, but its packaging this morning is new.

The strongest evidence of central direction is visual: Hamshahri and Javan front the identical supplied portrait of the SNSC Secretary in uniform, and three separately owned titles carry the same core quote within a single cycle. This indicates a supplied image and a centrally-packaged message rather than organic editorial convergence, and it moves the Hormuz/economic-war line from the hardline lane into the centrist mainstream. The same coordination extends to an administrative measure: the Persian Gulf Waterway (Strait) Management Authority notice warning that vessels cooperating with non-compliant ships face fines, detention or confiscation, and directing operators to a published non-compliant-vessels list, is fronted by the government daily Iran, the hardline flagship Kayhan and the wire Defa Press alike. For the first time this week the chokepoint campaign appears not only as rhetoric but as an enforcement machinery, an escalation in form.

Against the deterrence doctrine, a government-and-reformist bloc presses the opposite conclusion in the same cycle. Sazandegi fronts Seyyed Hassan Khomeini, a figure of lineage authority, telling the President and cabinet that 'the fruits of proper reconciliation exceed those of war,' and carries Mohsen Rezaei urging Iran to 'change its diplomatic behavior toward America.' Etemad defends the fourteenth government as one of 'concord and defense' and foregrounds Pezeshkian's 'let us stand by the understanding' line on the first day of Government Week. The result is an unusually explicit contest, staged most nakedly by Charsou's dueling 'pulse of dignity and power' versus 'pulse of humiliation and disgrace' front, over whether to consolidate the ceasefire or to answer economic pressure with military deterrence.

A second-order narrative, adversary decay and overreach, runs beneath both poles and is shared across the spectrum. Vatan-e Emrooz leads on an alleged wave of resignations and early retirements at the CIA ('a breach in the darkroom'), Etemad echoes the same CIA-attrition story, and Ta'adol fronts 'the woes of America's 40-trillion-dollar debt'; Sobh-e No and Kayhan redeploy Canadian friction with Washington as proof that even US allies now resist. That this frame appears simultaneously in hardline, reformist and economic titles indicates it is the agreed interpretive backdrop, the claim that the pressure Iran faces is a sign of adversary weakness, and it supplies the confidence for both the deterrence and the settlement arguments.

The executive register aligns rhetorically with the security establishment even where it argues for restraint elsewhere: President Pezeshkian's 'we are in an all-out economic and military war' (Ta'adol) and 'the people did a great feat' (Jomhouri Eslami) match the martial framing, while the English state daily Iran Daily downgrades the same confrontation for foreign readers, with FM Abbas Araghchi dismissing Trump's economic warfare as an 'old US bullying tactic' and the paper stressing that Iran is 'standing firm.' The two-audience architecture is clean: coercive deterrence and chokepoint threat for the home front, measured defiance and diplomacy for external readers.

Leadership again appears only by absence. No first-person message from the sitting Supreme Leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, features on any front page or channel; the leadership register is carried by the cabinet's covenant-renewal ceremony at Imam Khomeini's mausoleum and by commemoration of the martyred predecessor and of Ayatollah Beheshti. On a morning of visibly coordinated messaging, the current Leader's continued editorial silence is logged as negative evidence in the succession picture, not as missing content.

Net assessment: this is a chokepoint-as-doctrine edition. Iran hardened the economic confrontation into a declared military-deterrence line built on the Strait of Hormuz, coordinated across separately owned titles with identical supplied imagery and, distinctively, backed by an actual vessel-enforcement notice, while an adversary-decay narrative supplied the confidence and a government-reformist bloc pressed the opposite case for holding to the ceasefire understanding. The identity of the official behind the day's central threat is itself unresolved, printed as 'Falahi' by Javan and rendered 'Rezaei' by Defa Press against the 'Zolqadr' named in early August. The threads to watch are whether the waterway-authority enforcement regime produces any reported maritime action rather than remaining administrative; whether the identical-portrait coordination hardens into a durable centrist-hardline bloc for the deterrence doctrine; whether the Hassan Khomeini-Pezeshkian reconciliation line gains or loses ground against it; and whether the sitting Leader breaks his silence as the ceasefire fight sharpens.

BOTTOM LINE The 24 August batch shows Iran hardening the economic confrontation into a declared military-deterrence doctrine built on the Strait of Hormuz, amplified across centrist and hardline titles with identical supplied imagery and, for the first time this week, backed by an actual shipping-enforcement mechanism, even as a government-reformist bloc presses the opposite line of holding to the ceasefire understanding.

CRITICAL SOURCING NOTE Compiled from ten front pages read directly (nine Persian, one English) plus three dailies read from their own channels (Kayhan, Iran, Jam-e Jam), with Defa Press, Fars News and Nour News monitored as wires. The day's central quote is attributed to the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council; the office-holder's surname is printed inconsistently across sources (Javan: Falahi; Defa Press: Rezaei; this monitor's early-August editions: Zolqadr) and is therefore left unresolved and attributed to the office. Iran's Foreign Minister is confirmed as Abbas Araghchi. Iranian military, battle-damage, CIA-attrition, ScanEagle and Gaza items are attributed claims, not verified fact. The Persian Gulf Waterway/Strait Management Authority vessel notice is corroborated across Iran, Kayhan and Defa Press. Tehran Times was unavailable at compile time. Hostile-press content is documented for defensive assessment only.

Macro Trend Analysis

1 The economic war is reframed as a military-deterrence doctrine

The SNSC-secretary line, that economic siege will be answered by the same reciprocal-war method used on the battlefield and that participation in the economic war is a military act, is carried as settled doctrine rather than a single quote. Hamshahri ('sanction us and we strike'), Javan ('wage economic war and you will be hit hard') and Sobh-e No ('not a single drop of oil') render it in escalating registers, and Charsou stages the resulting resistance-versus-negotiation cleavage explicitly. The economic front and the military front are merged into one deterrence argument.

2 Coordinated packaging: identical imagery and a shared quote across separately owned titles

Hamshahri and Javan front the same supplied portrait of the SNSC Secretary, and three separately owned titles carry the same core threat in a single cycle. The convergence of a supplied image with a common quote indicates centrally-guided message discipline rather than organic editorial agreement, and it is the clearest single marker of coordination this cycle, notable because it pulls a centrist municipal daily into the hardline security lane.

3 The chokepoint campaign acquires an enforcement machinery

Beyond rhetoric, the Persian Gulf Waterway (Strait) Management Authority notice, warning that vessels cooperating with non-compliant ships face fines, detention or confiscation and directing operators to a published non-compliant list, is fronted by the government daily Iran, the flagship Kayhan and the wire Defa Press. This is the first appearance this week of an administrative enforcement face on the Hormuz-pressure track, an escalation in form even without any reported maritime incident.

4 A government-reformist bloc presses the opposite case for the ceasefire

Sazandegi fronts Hassan Khomeini ('reconciliation exceeds war') and Rezaei ('change diplomatic behavior toward America'); Etemad defends the government as one of 'concord and defense' and foregrounds Pezeshkian's 'stand by the understanding.' Against the deterrence doctrine, a lineage-and-executive bloc argues for consolidating the ceasefire, keeping the intra-system fight over ending the war, flagged in prior editions, contested and open.

5 Adversary decay and overreach as the shared interpretive backdrop

Vatan-e Emrooz and Etemad run an alleged CIA resignation-and-retirement wave; Ta'adol fronts America's 40-trillion-dollar debt; Sobh-e No and Kayhan redeploy Canadian friction with Washington. The appearance of the same weakness-and-overreach frame across hardline, reformist and economic titles makes it the agreed backdrop that underwrites both the deterrence and the settlement arguments (all attributed claims).

6 A two-audience message architecture

The domestic front carries coercive deterrence and the oil-export threat; the English Iran Daily downgrades the same confrontation, with FM Araghchi calling Trump's economic warfare an 'old US bullying tactic' and the paper stressing Iran is 'standing firm.' The split between a martial home-front register and a measured external one is clean and deliberate.

7 Leadership by absence and commemoration continues

No message from the sitting Leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, appears anywhere; the leadership register is the cabinet's covenant-renewal ceremony and commemoration of the martyred predecessor (Sobh-e No) and Ayatollah Beheshti (Jomhouri Eslami). On a coordinated-messaging morning, the current Leader's silence is logged as negative evidence in the succession picture.

Key Judgments

KJ-1 [HIGH] Iran has hardened the economic confrontation into a declared military-deterrence doctrine centered on the Strait of Hormuz. The SNSC-secretary line, carried by Hamshahri ('sanction us and we strike'), Sobh-e No ('not a single drop of oil') and Javan ('wage economic war and you will be hit hard'), and corroborated by Defa Press, frames economic siege as answerable by reciprocal war and casts participation in the economic war as a military act. Significance: what circulated in prior cycles as a signaling threat is now packaged as settled doctrine across the spectrum, making the chokepoint the edition's organizing frame; the quoted content is well-corroborated even where the speaker's name is not.

KJ-2 [HIGH] The morning shows centrally-guided message discipline, evidenced by identical supplied imagery and a shared quote across separately owned titles. Hamshahri and Javan front the same supplied SNSC-secretary portrait, and three separately owned papers carry the same core threat in one cycle. Significance: the convergence of a common image and a common quote indicates supplied packaging rather than organic agreement, and its reach into a centrist municipal daily (Hamshahri) shows the deterrence line being mainstreamed beyond the hardline lane.

KJ-3 [MODERATE-HIGH] The Hormuz-pressure track has acquired an administrative enforcement face this cycle. The Persian Gulf Waterway (Strait) Management Authority notice, penalties of fines, detention or confiscation for vessels cooperating with non-compliant ships, and a published non-compliant-vessels list, is fronted by the government daily Iran, the flagship Kayhan and the wire Defa Press. Significance: this is the first appearance this week of an enforcement mechanism rather than rhetoric alone, an escalation in form; the open

question is whether it translates into any reported maritime action or remains a regulatory posture (the notice is an attributed official announcement, with no corroborated incident this cycle).

KJ-4 [MODERATE-HIGH] The intra-system fight over ending the war remains contested, with a government-reformist bloc pressing consolidation against the deterrence doctrine. Sazandegi fronts Hassan Khomeini ('reconciliation exceeds war') and Rezaei ('change diplomatic behavior'); Etemad foregrounds Pezeshkian's 'stand by the understanding'; Charsou stages the cleavage as competing 'pulses.' Significance: the ceasefire is again the defining domestic cleavage, now with lineage authority (Hassan Khomeini) enlisted on the settlement side against a centrist-hardline deterrence bloc; which pole gains ground is the thread to watch.

KJ-5 [MODERATE] An adversary-decay-and-overreach narrative is carried across the spectrum as the shared backdrop. Vatan-e Emrooz and Etemad run an alleged CIA resignation-and-retirement wave, Ta'adol fronts America's 40-trillion-dollar debt, and Sobh-e No and Kayhan redeploy Canadian friction with Washington. Significance: the frame supplies the confidence underwriting both the deterrence and settlement arguments, but it rests on external developments Tehran does not control and on unverified claims, and could fade with the news cycle.

KJ-6 [MODERATE] The executive presents a two-audience message architecture. Pezeshkian's 'all-out economic and military war' (Ta'adol) matches the martial home-front register, while the English Iran Daily downgrades the same confrontation, FM Araghchi calling Trump's economic warfare an 'old US bullying tactic' and the paper stressing Iran is 'standing firm.' Significance: the deliberate split, coercion inward, measured defiance outward, lets Tehran signal resolve domestically while limiting escalation costs with foreign audiences.

KJ-7 [MODERATE] Negative-evidence finding: the sitting Supreme Leader again issued no message and appears only through commemoration and the cabinet's covenant-renewal ceremony. No statement from Mojtaba Khamenei features on any front page or channel; the leadership register is carried by the tajdid-e mithaq event and by memorials to the martyred predecessor (Sobh-e No) and Ayatollah Beheshti (Jomhouri Eslami). Significance: on a cycle of visibly coordinated security messaging and an open ceasefire fight, the current Leader's editorial silence above the fray is a standing marker in the succession picture and is recorded as negative evidence, not absence of content.

KJ-8 [MODERATE] The identity of the official behind the day's central threat is unresolved and is treated as a sourcing flag. The Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council is printed as 'Falahi' by Javan, rendered 'Rezaei' by Defa Press, and was named 'Zolqadr' by this monitor in early August. Significance: the office and the quoted content are corroborated, but the inconsistent naming, either a recent change of office-holder or divergent source rendering, is left unresolved pending verification and is itself logged as a monitoring note rather than resolved to a single name.

Named-Figure Tracker

Figure	Role / relevance	Today's framing	Flag
Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council (printed 'Falahi' by Javan; rendered 'Rezaei' by Defa Press)	Author of the day's central economic-war and Hormuz threat	Coercive deterrence: economic siege answered by reciprocal war; oil-export cut-off; participation in economic war as a military act	NEW NAMED FIGURE
Masoud Pezeshkian	President of Iran	'We are in an all-out economic and military war'; 'stand by the understanding'; attended cabinet covenant renewal	WATCH
Abbas Araghchi	Foreign Minister	Dismisses Trump's economic warfare as an 'old US bullying tactic'; met	WATCH

Figure	Role / relevance	Today's framing	Flag
		Lebanese MP Fadlallah; to host Oman's FM	
Seyyed Hassan Khomeini	Grandson of the Republic's founder	'The fruits of proper reconciliation exceed those of war', lineage authority on the settlement side	NEW NAMED FIGURE
Mohsen Rezaei	Senior official / former IRGC commander	Urges Iran to 'change its diplomatic behavior toward America'; invoked in Charsou's 'dignity and power' column	WATCH
Donald Trump	US President	Target framing: economic warfare cast as failing 'bullying'; Canadian friction as allied overreach; midterm anxiety	TARGET FRAMING
Itamar Ben-Gvir	Israeli minister	'The cancer of Zionism without retouching'; remarks characterized as a call to mass-kill Palestinians (attributed)	TARGET FRAMING
Mark Carney	Prime Minister of Canada	Redeployed to argue that the cost of surrendering to America exceeds that of resistance	WATCH
Mojtaba Khamenei	Sitting Supreme Leader	No first-person message; present only via covenant-renewal ceremony and commemoration of the martyred predecessor	absence noted

Headline Summary Table

Outlet	Lead Headline (English)	Orientation	Theme	Threat signal
Hamshahri	Iran's economic doctrine is now militarized: sanction us and we strike	Tehran municipality daily, centrist	Economic war reframed as military doctrine; same supplied SNSC portrait as Javan	HIGH
Javan	America returns to the understanding through surrender	Hardline, IRGC-affiliated	Coercive deterrence ('wage economic war and you will be hit hard') plus a WSJ 'surrender' forecast	HIGH

Outlet	Lead Headline (English)	Orientation	Theme	Threat signal
Sobh-e No	Tehran's strategic triangle	Principlist	Conditional threat to halt all Hormuz oil exports; three-track doctrine; Ben-Gvir and Carney items	SEVERE
Kayhan	The enemy must be made to regret the economic attack	Ultra-hardline flagship (channel)	Editorial fusing economic-front discipline with Hormuz vessel-enforcement	HIGH
Vatan-e Emrooz	A breach in the darkroom	Hardline / principlist	Alleged CIA resignation wave; adversary-decay and regional-front claims (ScanEagle, Lebanon)	MODERATE-HIGH
Iran	Government Week: the administration held its stability amid pressures	Official government daily (channel)	Endurance messaging plus the official Hormuz vessel-enforcement notice; Oman-FM visit	MODERATE
Ta'adol	Behind the scenes of the gold and currency market swings	Economic / business	Pezeshkian's 'all-out war' line; market volatility; America's 40-trillion-dollar debt	MODERATE
Iran Daily	FM downplays Trump economic warfare as 'old US bullying tactic'	Official English-language state daily	Outward-facing measured defiance; Araghchi confirmed; 7.5 tcf gas find	MODERATE
Jam-e Jam	Nine million barrels a day pass through the Strait of Hormuz	State broadcaster (IRIB) daily (channel)	Chokepoint-significance framing; domestic energy strain and fuel smuggling	MODERATE
Etemad	A government of concord and defense	Reformist	Defense of the government; Pezeshkian's 'stand by the understanding'; CIA-decay echo	LOW
Sazandegi	The fruits of proper reconciliation exceed those of war	Reformist / Kargozaran	Hassan Khomeini's settlement message; Rezaei on changing diplomatic behavior	LOW
Charsou	A pulse of dignity and power vs a pulse of humiliation and disgrace	Economic / political	Dueling-columns polemic; charges reformists with weaponizing hardship to force talks	LOW-MODERATE
Jomhouri Eslami	A gas field of 7 trillion cubic feet discovered in southern Fars	Traditional / establishment	Resource nationalism and social-welfare measures; Pezeshkian's 'great feat' line	LOW

Per-Paper Front-Page Analysis

Iran Daily

Official English-language state daily

MODERATE: measured English-language defiance for external audiences

"FM downplays Trump economic warfare as 'old US bullying tactic'"

- Main: Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (named as FM across the day's channels) is fronted dismissing Trump's economic-warfare campaign as an 'old US bullying tactic,' the state daily's calibrated, less-martial rendering of the confrontation for an international audience.
- Main: A shrine photo of President Pezeshkian and cabinet at the covenant-renewal (tajdid-e mithaq) at Imam Khomeini's mausoleum carries 'Pezeshkian: Iran standing firm despite facing full-scale war,' the English gloss of the presidential war-footing line.
- Sub-item: 'Major gas field holding 7.5 tcf discovered in southern Iran' corroborates Jomhouri Eslami's Persian lead with a slightly higher volume figure.
- Op-ed: An 'Opinion Exclusive' on the US-Iran deadlock, 'Importance of offensive policy in the international system,' argues the Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz case for an offensive posture, paired with a boxed 'Iran's shift to defensive system' item.
- Right rail: Softer features (an aerial-mission interview; a wrestling 'reality check') and an Avicenna-themed National Physician's Day note round out the English page.

> **ANALYST NOTE** Iran Daily is the outward-facing register: it downgrades the economic war to 'bullying' and stresses standing firm rather than the domestic hardliners' strike-and-close-Hormuz threats, illustrating the two-audience message architecture, coercive deterrence for the home front, measured defiance for foreign readers. It confirms the FM as Araghchi and the 7.5 tcf gas figure.

Vatan-e Emrooz

Hardline / principlist daily

MODERATE-HIGH: adversary-decay narrative plus regional-front claims

"A breach in the darkroom" «حفره در تاریکخانه»

- Main: Over a stark image of figures standing on the Central Intelligence Agency floor seal, the lead alleges 'a wave of resignations and early retirements at the CIA and its security consequences for America' (موجی از سابقه استعفا و بازنشستگی پیش از موعد در سازمان سیا و تبعات امنیتی آن برای آمریکا), an adversary-decay story presented as evidence of US institutional erosion (attributed claim).
- Banner: A top strip headlined 'new rules' (قواعد جدید) ties the day to a Supreme National Security Council reframing of Iran's posture, the hardline lane's version of the same 'new phase' language echoed elsewhere.
- Kicker: 'Time to flee!' (به وقت فرار!) trails a report on an American exit/withdrawal theme, reinforcing the adversary-in-retreat frame.
- Right rail: Stacked red boxes read 'an impossible siege' (محاصره غیرممکن), 'Aoun's blindness' (کوری عون, a Lebanon item on President Joseph Aoun), 'ScanEagle: Ansarullah's new prey' (a claim that Ansarullah/the Houthis downed a US ScanEagle drone), 'Iranian regime change in the region,' and 'fear of Iran's narrative.'

> **ANALYST NOTE** Vatan-e Emrooz works the adversary-weakness axis: a CIA-in-crisis lead, a US-in-flight kicker, and an 'impossible siege' box that pre-empts the economic-blockade threat. Its Lebanon ('Aoun's blindness') and ScanEagle items keep the regional-front register alive. All are hostile-press claims documented for defensive assessment; the CIA-attrition and drone-downing items are single-source and uncorroborated here.

Front-page photo-illustration of dark-suited figures standing on the CIA lobby seal, shot from above so the 'Central Intelligence Agency' lettering frames their feet, keyed to the 'breach in the darkroom' lead.

Javan

Hardline daily, IRGC-affiliated

HIGH: 'wage economic war and you will be hit hard' coercive deterrence

"America returns to the understanding through surrender" «امریکا با تسلیم به تفاهم‌نامه بازمی‌گردد»

- Main: Fronts a Wall Street Journal forecast of the war's course (پیش‌بینی وال استریت ژورنال از آینده جنگ), rendered as a prediction that Washington will be forced back to the understanding/MoU by surrender rather than by negotiation, an adversary-press citation redeployed as a claim of Iranian ascendancy (second-hand attribution, not to be treated as WSJ's verified position).
- Banner: Amplifies the 'severe warning' of the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, printed here with the surname Falahi (فلاحی), to regional states, alongside a 'comprehensive account of the new dimensions of Iran's national resistance.'
- Main: Over/beside a supplied portrait of the SNSC Secretary in uniform (identical to Hamshahri's), the display line reads 'wage economic war and you will be hit hard' (جنگ اقتصادی کنند، محکم می‌خورید), the hardline rendering of the reciprocal-war doctrine.
- Op-ed: A lower banner frames diplomacy sardonically ('an understanding with more concessions arrives today'), signaling hardline suspicion of any negotiated consolidation of the ceasefire.
- Right rail: Mixed domestic and defense items (removal of tax on empty houses; a new military-industries contract; a demographic 'population at the edge of the precipice' piece; a commemorative '12-hour saga of a martyr' item).

> **ANALYST NOTE** Javan, the IRGC-affiliated flagship, carries the deterrence doctrine in its most coercive register and pairs it with an adversary-overreach frame (a WSJ forecast of US 'surrender'). Its use of the identical supplied SNSC portrait confirms coordinated packaging across titles. The sarcastic 'more concessions' line continues Javan's standing resistance to the government's end-the-war-from-strength posture flagged in prior editions.

Sobh-e No

Principlist daily

SEVERE: conditional threat to halt all oil exports through Hormuz

"Tehran's strategic triangle" «مثلث راهبردی تهران»

- Banner: A red top strip carries the day's most explicit chokepoint threat, attributed to the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council: 'if the economic war continues, not a single drop of oil will be exported from the Strait of Hormuz' (جنگ اقتصادی ادامه یابد، یک قطره نفت از تنگه هرمز صادر نخواهد شد).
- Main: The 'strategic triangle' frames Tehran as holding three coordinated tracks at once, diplomacy, economic resistance, and security/military options, all 'on the table' to counter US pressure, the analytic packaging of the deterrence line.
- Sub-item: Over a photo of Canadian PM Mark Carney with Trump, 'Canada: the cost of surrendering to America exceeds the cost of resistance' (کانادا: هزینه تسلیم مقابل آمریکا بیش از مقاومت است), redeploying an allied-friction story as proof that even US partners now 'learn to bypass Trump.'
- Sub-item: Right-column red block on the Popular Mobilization/Hashd al-Shaabi pledging to 'remain steadfast in the path of the martyred Ayatollah Khamenei,' the commemorative-leadership register standing in for a living-Leader message.
- Op-ed: 'The cancer of Zionism without retouching' (سرطان صهیونیسم بدون روتوش) built on remarks by Israeli minister Itamar Ben-Gvir (pictured) framed as a call to mass-kill Palestinians in Gaza (attributed characterization of his remarks).
- Right rail: Named commentators debate the diplomacy-versus-pressure balance (including a line that Iran's offensive strategy must run simultaneously on economic, political, and military fields); a domestic feature asks 'what is the story of motorcycle licenses for women?'

> **ANALYST NOTE** Sobh-e No supplies the sharpest wording of the chokepoint threat ('not a single drop of oil') and the analytic scaffolding ('strategic triangle') that turns the SNSC line into a doctrine of simultaneous tracks. Its Carney-Trump and Ben-Gvir items feed the standing adversary-overreach-and-isolation narrative carried from the prior edition. Continues the Hormuz-as-coercion thread, now with an explicit oil-export cut-off condition.

Hamshahri

Tehran municipality daily, centrist

HIGH: economic siege reframed as casus belli with a promised regional response

"Iran's economic doctrine is now militarized: sanction us and we strike" «دکترین اقتصادی ایران نظامی شد: تحریم کنید می‌زنیم»

- Main: The banner headline converts the economic confrontation into an explicit military doctrine, glossing the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council as holding that against economic siege (محاصره اقتصادی) Iran will apply the same reciprocal-war method (همان شیوه جنگ متقابل) it uses on the battlefield, and that every threat now carries a regional response (هر تهدید، پاسخی منطقه‌ای دارد).
- Main: Runs a portrait of the SNSC Secretary in IRGC uniform that is identical to the portrait Javan fronts the same morning, indicating a supplied image and a centrally-packaged message rather than independent photo choices.
- Sub-item: Three shaded pull-quote boxes carry supporting official voices, including Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi, an IRGC spokesman, and the Foreign Minister, arraying the diplomatic and military tracks behind the single deterrence line.
- Right rail: Domestic-service items sit below the fold (a giant municipal street-cleaning vacuum in Tehran; a 'luxury betrayal of nature' environmental piece), the municipal daily's routine city register carried beneath the national-security lead.

ANALYST NOTE Hamshahri is a centrist municipal title, not a hardline outlet, so its adoption of the militarized 'sanction us and we strike' framing, with the same supplied portrait Javan uses, is the clearest single marker of centrally-guided message discipline this cycle: the Hormuz/economic-war doctrine has moved from the hardline lane into the centrist mainstream. Tracks directly to the standing chokepoint-coercion thread, now elevated from signaling to declared doctrine.

Sazandegi

Reformist daily (Kargozaran party)

LOW: pro-reconciliation counter-messaging

"The fruits of proper reconciliation exceed those of war" «ثمرات مصالحه درست بیشتر از جنگ است»

- Main: Fronts Seyyed Hassan Khomeini, grandson of the Islamic Republic's founder, telling a meeting with President Pezeshkian and cabinet members that 'the fruits of proper reconciliation are greater than war' (ثمرات مصالحه درست بیشتر از جنگ است), the clearest pro-settlement intervention of the cycle from a figure of lineage authority.
- Sub-item: Top-left box carries Mohsen Rezaei (pictured) urging that 'Iran must change its diplomatic behavior toward America' (ایران باید رفتار دیپلماتیک خود را در قبال آمریکا تغییر دهد), a notable pressure-side voice arguing for recalibration rather than escalation.
- Op-ed: A signed column, 'Women, the pillar of national security' (زنانِ ستون امنیت ملی), addressed 'a word to the President.'
- Right rail: Flag-paired items on US and Saudi tracks signal continued attention to a Riyadh channel and the Washington confrontation.

ANALYST NOTE Sazandegi anchors the reconciliation lane against the hardline deterrence doctrine dominating the batch, and it does so through a lineage-authority voice (Hassan Khomeini) plus Rezaei's call to change diplomatic behavior, giving the pro-settlement argument establishment cover. This is the direct counter-pole to the 'sanction us and we strike' framing and keeps the ceasefire-consolidation dispute, flagged in the prior edition, live.

Charsou

Economic / political daily, principlist-leaning

LOW-MODERATE: intra-system polemic against negotiation

“A pulse of dignity and power vs a pulse of humiliation and disgrace” «پالس عزت و قدرت / پالس ذلت و حقارت»

- Main: The front is built as a dueling-columns editorial, one column headed 'a pulse of dignity and power' (پالس عزت و قدرت), carrying a Mohsen Rezaei-aligned resistance argument, set against 'a pulse of humiliation and disgrace' (پالس ذلت و حقارت) attacking the accommodationist position.
- Banner: A center strip charges reformists with 'a repeated prescription: portraying the economic situation as a deadlock in order to impose negotiation' (بن‌بست‌نمایی اوضاع اقتصادی برای تحمیل مذاکره), the meta-argument that the peace lobby weaponizes hardship.
- Sub-item: A lower row of official portraits and headlines returns to oil-export mechanics, including a line rendered as 'we cannot export oil in Iran's name' and 'we cannot even sell under oil-for-food,' framing sanctions-era export constraints.

ANALYST NOTE Charsou stages the cycle's core cleavage explicitly, dignity-and-resistance versus humiliation-and-negotiation, and pre-emptively delegitimizes the reformist case by casting economic-distress reporting as a manipulation to force talks. It is the mirror image of Sazandegi and Etemad, and shows the ceasefire/negotiation fight now being fought as an argument about the meaning of the economic crisis itself, continuing the two-verdicts-from-one-reality pattern noted previously.

Ta'adol

Economic / business daily

MODERATE: presidential 'all-out war' framing amid market instability

“Behind the scenes of the gold and currency market swings” «پشت پرده نوسان بازار طلا و ارز»

- Banner: A top strip quotes President Masoud Pezeshkian, at the cabinet's covenant-renewal ceremony with the Supreme Leader, saying 'we are in an all-out economic and military war' (در جنگ تمام‌عیار اقتصادی و نظامی هستیم), the executive framing that matches the security establishment's war register.
- Main: The lead investigates sudden swings in the gold and foreign-exchange markets, reading the 'behind the scenes' of an abrupt market surge, the economic-instability counterpart to the security lead elsewhere.
- Sub-item: Over a US 'National Debt' clock image reading past 40 trillion dollars, 'the woes of America's 40-trillion-dollar debt' (مصائب بدهی ۴۰ تریلیون دلاری امریکا), an adversary-weakness economic story mirroring the hardline lane's CIA-decay item.
- Right rail: 'A fragile rise of the stock market,' a 'winter prescription for the gas crisis,' and an export-currency piece register the domestic strain beneath the confident war rhetoric.
- Op-ed: A framing line, 'Iran's economy after the war: between survival and reform,' positions the paper on the reform-necessity side of the debate.

ANALYST NOTE Ta'adol carries the President's 'all-out economic and military war' line, the executive's alignment with the security register, while its market reporting (gold/FX volatility, fragile bourse, gas-crisis planning) documents the domestic cost that the reformist lane uses to argue for settlement. The US-debt item lets an economic title join the adversary-weakness chorus. The survival-versus-reform frame ties to the standing economic-collapse thread.

Etemad

Reformist daily

LOW: pro-government, pro-settlement framing

“A government of concord and defense” «دولت وفاق و دفاع»

- Main: A stocktaking of the fourteenth government (دولت چهاردهم) 'amid escalating crises,' spanning 'from preserving national stability to active diplomacy and difficult reforms' (از حفظ ثبات ملی تا دیپلماسی فعال و اصلاحات سخت), the reformist defense of the Pezeshkian administration's record on Government Week.
- Sub-item: Below a photo of President Pezeshkian, 'let us stand by the understanding' (پای تفاهم بمانیم), his call on the first day of Government Week to hold to the ceasefire understanding/MoU, coupled to his meeting with Seyyed Hassan Khomeini.
- Op-ed: 'What America did not achieve' (آنچه امریکا به دست نیاورد), an analysis crediting the administration's diplomacy with denying Washington its aims, and a signed 'ideal of educational justice' column.
- Kicker: A top strip echoes the CIA-attrition story, reporting that Washington faces 'an unprecedented wave of retirements of CIA technical staff,' the reformist paper joining the adversary-decay frame.
- Right rail: A stacked columnists' register (یادداشت‌ها) and a tribute box carry the paper's commentary tier.

ANALYST NOTE Etemad is the government's defender in the batch: it reframes the war footing as 'concord and defense,' foregrounds Pezeshkian's 'stand by the understanding' line, and links him to Hassan Khomeini's reconciliation message on Sazandegi, consolidating a pro-consolidation bloc against the hardline deterrence doctrine. Its adoption of the CIA-decay item shows the adversary-weakness frame now spans the full spectrum. Directly extends the ceasefire-consolidation dispute from prior editions.

Jomhouri Eslami

Traditional / establishment daily

LOW: domestic-welfare and resource-nationalism lead

“A gas field discovered in southern Fars province with a volume of 7 trillion cubic feet” «کشف یک میدان گازی در جنوب استان فارس با حجم ۷ تریلیون فوت مکعب»

- Main: The Oil Minister's announcement of a new gas field in southern Fars province of about 7 trillion cubic feet leads the page, a resource-good-news item foregrounded over the war story (corroborated in English by Iran Daily as 7.5 tcf).
- Sub-item: Over a podium photo of President Pezeshkian, 'the people did a great feat in the face of the all-out war' (مردم در برابر جنگ تمام‌عیار کارِ کارستان کردند), packaged with the president's eight-month analysis and a Doctor's Day health note.
- Right rail: Domestic-policy items, a 40-percent cut to the marriage-loan amount, elimination of imprisonment for dowries above fourteen coins (mahriyeh), and special/hard-to-treat patients' costs, keep the paper's social-welfare emphasis.
- Sub-item: Foreign notes include a reported Turkish request to Interpol over the singer Tataloo and scattered adversary-isolation items.
- Op-ed: A commemorative box quotes the 'oppressed martyr' Ayatollah Beheshti on Islamic justice, the paper's recurring historical-authority register.

ANALYST NOTE Jomhouri Eslami again privileges domestic welfare and resource-nationalism (the gas find, marriage-loan and dowry measures) over the security lead, using Pezeshkian's 'great feat' line to fold the war into a resilience story rather than a deterrence threat. Its Beheshti commemoration continues the leadership-by-historical-figure register that recurs while the sitting Leader stays silent.

Iran

Official government daily (read from channel)

MODERATE: official endurance messaging plus Hormuz enforcement

“Government Week: the administration held its stability amid pressures and attacks”

- Main: On Government Week, the presidential chief of staff (Hajji-Mirzaei) frames the record as having 'preserved the government's stability amid various pressures and attacks,' including the war and international sanctions, the official narrative of endurance.
- Sub-item: Prominently carries the Persian Gulf Strait Management Organization warning that vessels cooperating with non-compliant ships will be added to a violators list, directing operators to check the updated list at pgsa.ir before chartering, the government daily lending official weight to the Hormuz enforcement regime.
- Sub-item: Domestic-management items, smart meters enabling targeted (rather than region-wide) power cuts for high-consumption users, sit alongside the political lead.
- Sub-item: Diplomacy note: Oman's Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr Al-Busaidi is to visit Tehran on Tuesday, 3 Shahrivar, for talks with FM Abbas Araghchi on bilateral and regional matters.
- Sub-item: Israel-Gaza: Hamas political-bureau member Bassem Naim is quoted alleging an Israeli three-day ultimatum over kite-flying from Gaza, with threatened airstrikes (attributed claim).

> **ANALYST NOTE** The government daily balances an endurance-and-stability message with the same Hormuz enforcement notice the hardline flagship fronts, showing the waterway-authority measure is an all-lane, officially sanctioned step rather than hardline signaling alone. The Oman-FM visit keeps the Gulf-diplomacy track visible beneath the confrontation, consistent with the standing regional-order thread.

Jam-e Jam

State broadcaster (IRIB) daily (read from channel)

MODERATE: chokepoint-significance framing

“Nine million barrels a day pass through the Strait of Hormuz”

- Main: A geopolitical explainer on the roughly nine million barrels of oil transiting the Strait of Hormuz daily foregrounds the chokepoint's global weight, the state broadcaster's contribution to the Hormuz-leverage framing.
- Sub-item: Domestic enforcement, the security police chief discloses a fuel-smuggling ring using one million fraudulent waybills and Syrian documentation to move 191 million liters of subsidized fuel.
- Sub-item: The Energy Minister pledges an end to blackouts 'this week,' with plans to canvass five million high-consumption households.
- Sub-item: Palestine, a UN special rapporteur is cited calling for an international peacekeeping deployment in Gaza and the West Bank and an end to the occupation.
- Sub-item: Regional diplomacy, the Oman FM's Tehran visit on Gulf security is noted.

> **ANALYST NOTE** Jam-e Jam quantifies the Hormuz stakes (nine million barrels a day) precisely as the SNSC threat to cut oil exports circulates, letting the state broadcaster reinforce the chokepoint's coercive value without issuing the threat itself. Its energy and fuel-smuggling items register the domestic strain behind the confident external posture.

Kayhan

Ultra-hardline flagship (read from channel)

HIGH: economic-front discipline plus Hormuz enforcement signaling

“The enemy must be made to regret the economic attack” «باید دشمن را از حمله اقتصادی پشیمان کرد»

- Op-ed: The unsigned 'Yadasht-e Rooz' editorial, 'Accelerating prices on the lonely road of prudence' (شتاب قیمت‌ها در جاده خلوت تدبیر), opens with the imperative that 'the enemy must be made to regret the economic attack,' then turns the argument inward, charging that while the adversary presses on the economic front some officials 'signal weakness,' and demanding decisive price control, currency repatriation, and removal of incompetent managers.
- Main: 'Iran strikes the US regional backbone; economic pressure alone cannot defeat Tehran,' the flagship's deterrence-and-resilience banner.
- Sub-item: 'Canada: negotiating with America is futile; one must stand independently,' the allied-friction item redeployed as anti-negotiation proof.
- Sub-item: Carries the Persian Gulf Waterway Management Authority notice warning vessels that cooperate with non-compliant ships of penalties including fines, detention, or confiscation, the concrete administrative face of the Hormuz-pressure track.
- Sub-item: 'A new gas field discovered in Fars province with 7 trillion cubic feet' echoes the day's resource-good-news line.

> **ANALYST NOTE** Kayhan's editorial ties the economic front to internal discipline: it uses the same hardship the reformist tier cites for settlement to argue instead for punishing the enemy and purging 'weak-signaling' officials, keeping the flagship's standing rebuke of the end-the-war-from-strength line alive from the prior edition. Its front-paging of the waterway-authority vessel notice, alongside the SNSC oil-export threat, is the clearest sign the chokepoint campaign is moving from rhetoric to enforcement machinery.

Leadership register: the cabinet's covenant renewal, and the Leader's continued silence

Ta'adol and Iran Daily front pages; corroborated across the day's channels

No direct message, letter, or speech from the sitting Supreme Leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, appears on any front page or monitored channel this cycle. The leadership register is carried instead by an event: on the first day of Government Week, President Masoud Pezeshkian and members of the cabinet attended a covenant-renewal ceremony (tajdid-e mithaq) at the mausoleum of the Islamic Republic's founder, Imam Khomeini, in Tehran, an act of allegiance oriented to the office of the Leader rather than a communication from its holder.

At that ceremony the President supplied the day's authoritative executive line, quoted by Ta'adol as 'we are in an all-out economic and military war' and by Jomhouri Eslami as 'the people did a great feat in the face of the all-out war.' The martyred predecessor, Ali Khamenei, remains the figure invoked in the commemorative frame (Sobh-e No's Popular-Mobilization pledge to 'the path of the martyred Ayatollah Khamenei'; Jomhouri Eslami's Beheshti tribute).

Analyst flag: the continued absence of any first-person message from the current Leader, on a morning of visibly coordinated security-establishment messaging, is logged as negative evidence in the succession picture, consistent with the standing 'leadership by absence and commemoration' thread. Verification note: the succession of Mojtaba Khamenei following the 28 February 2026 assassination of Ali Khamenei is a standing single-source premise of this monitor and is not independently reconfirmed each cycle.

Editorial of the day (Kayhan, 'Yadasht-e Rooz'): 'Accelerating prices on the lonely road of prudence'

Kayhan channel (kayhan_online); title شتاب قیمت‌ها در جاده خلوت تدبیر; unsigned institutional editorial

Rendering (partial, reconstructed from the retrieved channel text; the full verbatim column was not captured): The editorial opens on the imperative that 'the enemy must be made to regret the economic attack' (باید دشمن را از حمله اقتصادی پشیمان کرد). It argues that while the adversary has concentrated its pressure on the economic front through sanctions, the correct Iranian answer is not accommodation but resolve, and it charges that certain officials, by their conduct, 'send signals of weakness' that blunt that resolve.

The column's operative demands are domestic and disciplinary: decisive control of prices, repatriation of export currency, and the removal of incompetent managers. It ties this internal housekeeping to the external posture by invoking the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council's remarks on Iran's 'new phase' in confronting a maritime blockade, arguing that the government must back that line by acting to lift sanctions permanently rather than by managing decline.

Analyst flag: the piece weaponizes the same cost-of-living crisis that the reformist and economic tier (Sazandegi, Etemad, Ta'adol) cites as grounds for settlement, turning it instead into a case against retreat and against 'weak-signaling' officials, continuing Kayhan's standing rebuke of the end-the-war-from-strength line. Verification note: Kayhan's 'Yadasht-e Rooz' is customarily associated with managing editor Hossein Shariatmadari, but today's column carries no individual byline in the retrieved text and is treated here as an unsigned institutional editorial; the translation is editorial and partial, not a verbatim source of record.

Source line: Kayhan, 'Yadasht-e Rooz,' 2 شتاب قیمت‌ها در جاده خلوت تدبیر, Shahrivar 1405 (24 August 2026).

Methodology and sourcing notes

iran-press-digest pipeline

Coverage: nine Persian print front pages were read directly from scan (Vatan-e Emrooz, Javan, Sobh-e No, Hamshahri, Sazandegi, Charsou, Ta'adol, Etemad, Jomhouri Eslami) plus one English print page (Iran Daily). Three further dailies were read from their own channels (Kayhan, Iran, Jam-e Jam). Three agency channels (Defa Press, Fars News, Nour News) were monitored for corroboration and treated as claims, not as front pages. The Persian batch's printed date (2 Shahrivar 1405) matches the target date; no stale-batch guard was triggered.

Named-figure verification, unresolved identity of the SNSC Secretary: the day's dominant quote, that continued economic war will mean not a single drop of oil exported through the Strait of Hormuz (or anywhere in the Persian Gulf) and that any state's participation in the economic war will be treated as a military act, is attributed to the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council. The surname printed differs across sources: Javan prints 'Falahi' (فلاحی); Defa Press renders the speaker 'Rezaei' (رضایی); and this monitor's early-August editions named the Secretary 'Zolqadr.' The office and the quoted content are corroborated across Javan, Hamshahri and Sobh-e No (scans) and Defa Press (wire), but the office-holder's identity is left unresolved pending verification and is attributed to the office rather than to any single printed name.

Named-figure verification, confirmed: Iran's Foreign Minister is confirmed as Abbas Araghchi (named by the government daily Iran and by Defa Press, and matched to Iran Daily's 'FM' lead). Mark Carney is named by Sobh-e No as Canada's prime minister; Itamar Ben-Gvir, Mohsen Rezaei, Kazem Gharibabadi, Seyyed Hassan Khomeini, and Lebanese MP Sayed Hassan Fadlallah (met FM Araghchi, per Defa Press) are as printed/reported.

Single-source and claim flags: the CIA resignations/early-retirements story (Vatan-e Emrooz, echoed by Etemad), the ScanEagle-downing claim (Vatan-e Emrooz), the US 40-trillion-dollar-debt framing (Ta'adol), the 7 to 7.5 tcf Fars gas-field figure (Jomhouri Eslami / Iran Daily), and all Gaza and battle-damage items are attributed hostile-press or official claims, not independently verified. The Persian Gulf Waterway/Strait Management Authority vessel-notice (pgsa.ir non-compliant list; penalties of fines, detention, confiscation) is corroborated across Iran, Kayhan and Defa Press as an administrative announcement.

Translation and retrieval caveats: all English renderings of Persian headlines and the Kayhan editorial are editorial translations; original script is retained in the per-paper analysis. Tehran Times was unavailable at the time of compilation. Hostile-press content is documented 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.