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SANCTIONS-AS-BOOMERANG, MEDIATION-AS-OFF-RAMP EDITION

Front pages published the morning of 25 August, reflecting events through late 24 August local, principally the 24 August US sanctions package and the Pakistani mediation visit to Tehran

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

Iran Daily

Iranian oil prices surge to $4 premium as US restrictions hit shipments

Pakistani army chief in Tehran to 'promote regional stability'

Scenario for renewed Trump-Kim summitry after Iran war

I am making my new film with Oscars in mind: Hosseinpour

Redefining Persian Gulf security architecture after Hormuz crisis

End of old order or beginning of new balance?

Iran Alloy Steel Company

Front page: Iran Daily

Executive Summary

The cycle is organized by a single external trigger: the US Treasury and State Department sanctions package of 24 August, branded by Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent as an 'economic D-Day' and described in Western reporting as the largest against Iran since 2018, targeting Iranian oil-shipping networks. The Iranian press does not contest the scale; it reframes the intent. Javan turns Bessent's own label against him ('Trump plants a D-Day, harvests a Waterloo'), Vatan-e Emrooz supplies the analytic version ('geoeconomic boomerang', arguing the sanctions are a net cost to Washington), and Sobh-e No pairs the defense secretary and the Treasury secretary to argue that 'neither war nor the dollar' will force capitulation. The shared move is inversion: the adversary's escalation is presented as evidence of the adversary's weakness.

Running alongside the defiance is a genuine diplomatic development that the reformist-government bloc foregrounds and the hardline lane largely ignores: the 24 August Tehran visit of Pakistan's Field Marshal Asim Munir and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, received by Iran's Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni and meeting President Pezeshkian. Sazandegi casts Munir as an 'ambassador of rescue' bringing the 'Islamabad understanding' out of deadlock; Etemad reads it as 'another chance for diplomacy'; the English Iran Daily presents it outward as promoting 'regional stability.' This is the third Munir visit to Iran in 2026, and the papers tie it explicitly to breaking the US-Iran negotiation deadlock and to reopening the Strait of Hormuz.

The single highest-significance finding is the reframing of the Strait of Hormuz. In the prior cycle (24 August) the chokepoint was packaged as a militarized deterrence doctrine, 'not a single drop of oil.' This morning Jomhouri Eslami fronts 'reopening the Strait of Hormuz' as an explicit objective of the Pakistani mediation, and Iran Daily runs an op-ed 'redefining Persian Gulf security architecture after the Hormuz crisis.' The chokepoint has migrated in a single cycle from a threat Iran issues to a closure Iran seeks to trade, an implicit concession that the coercion carries a cost Tehran now wishes to monetize diplomatically.

A distinct information-operations thread runs through the day around Speaker Ghalibaf. Trump, via a Newsmax rendering, presented Ghalibaf as having said Iranians 'are hungry and cannot survive'; Ghalibaf answered on 24 August with a 'Make America Hungry Again' post citing US hunger statistics and the line 'you cannot cover up defeats with false claims.' Iranian fronts amplify the riposte (Etemad and Javan reproduce the figure; Vatan-e Emrooz runs 'Trump's hungry'), while Sobh-e No fronts 'distortion of Ghalibaf's remarks' and Kayhan's Shariatmadari editorial defends the Speaker against selective quotation. The convergence of the Ghalibaf-defense across separately owned hardline titles indicates a coordinated response to the selective quote rather than organic agreement.

The economic titles price the moment rather than sloganeer it. Ta'adol reads the capital market as suspended 'between agreement and rising tension', with the sanctions as the swing variable, and carries economy minister Hemmati's notable line that 'speaking of the hardships is not blackwashing', an official pushback against the hardline demand that acknowledging pressure equals disloyalty. Charsou defends the administration's macro record with a comparative league table and asserts 'Trump's siege has been neutralized.' The lone outlier is Asr-e Iranian, which turns entirely inward to a management-science critique ('this management is not scientific'), pinning economic strain on governance failure rather than sanctions.

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 executive register is carried by Pezeshkian's governance messaging and by Hemmati's and Ghalibaf's defiance. The current Leader's continued editorial silence, on a cycle defined by a major sanctions escalation and an active mediation, is logged as negative evidence in the succession picture, not as missing content.

Net assessment: this is a two-track edition. The overt track is spectrum-wide 'boomerang' defiance that reframes the largest sanctions package since 2018 as American self-harm; the quieter and more consequential track is a reformist-government opening, via Pakistani mediation, in which reopening the Strait of Hormuz has become a stated negotiating objective. The hardline lane owns the rhetoric; the government-reformist bloc owns the diplomacy; and the chokepoint, yesterday a doctrine, is this morning a chip. The threads to watch are whether the Munir channel produces any announced US-Iran contact, whether 'reopening Hormuz' hardens into an official negotiating position or stays a newspaper frame, and whether the coordinated Ghalibaf-defense signals a broader hardline move to police the ceasefire debate.

BOTTOM LINE The 25 August batch answers the 24 August 'economic D-Day' sanctions with a spectrum-wide 'boomerang' defiance narrative, while quietly opening a Pakistani-mediated diplomatic track in which reopening the Strait of Hormuz has become a stated bargaining objective rather than only a deterrence threat.

CRITICAL SOURCING NOTE Compiled from nine Persian front-page scans read directly (Sobh-e No, Javan, Vatan-e Emrooz, Asr-e Iranian, Charsou, Sazandegi, Etemad, Ta'adol, Jomhouri Eslami) plus the English Iran Daily scan, three dailies read from their own channels (Kayhan, Iran, Jam-e Jam), and the Defa Press, Fars News and Nour News wires for corroboration; Tehran Times was unavailable at the time. All Iranian claims are attributed and not adopted as fact; second-hand renderings (Kayhan quoting The Atlantic, papers quoting UN Secretary-General Guterres, the Newsmax rendering of Ghalibaf) remain flagged. The 24 August sanctions package, the Munir-Naqvi Tehran visit, and Ghalibaf's 'Make America Hungry Again' post are independently corroborated in Western and regional reporting.

Macro Trend Analysis

1 The sanctions are inverted into an adversary-self-harm 'boomerang'

The defining move of the cycle is inversion rather than denial. Javan weaponizes Bessent's own 'economic D-Day' label into a promise of 'Waterloo'; Vatan-e Emrooz dresses it as a 'geoeconomic boomerang' with a costed argument that the oil-shipping sanctions raise global prices and strike US interests; Sobh-e No pairs the two US secretaries to argue neither instrument can compel surrender; Kayhan cites US Senator Chris Murphy's own criticism to call the package 'empty hands.' The convergence across separately owned hardline and principlist titles indicates a supplied interpretive frame, and it continues the standing adversary-decay-and-overreach thread, now fixed to the specific 24 August Treasury action (all attributed argumentation).

2 Pakistani mediation opens a diplomatic off-ramp the reformist-government bloc foregrounds

The Munir-Naqvi visit is read by the government-reformist lane as the cycle's real opportunity. Sazandegi frames Munir as an 'ambassador of rescue' for the 'Islamabad understanding'; Etemad calls it 'another chance for diplomacy'; Iran and Jam-e Jam carry Islamabad's 'highly constructive' read-out and Pezeshkian's above-politics messaging; Iran Daily presents it outward as 'promoting regional stability.' The hardline titles, by contrast, either ignore the visit or subordinate it to the boomerang narrative ('the failure of America's mediator options dragged it to Iran'). The split marks the intra-system fight over ending the war, diplomacy versus deterrence, mapped onto a concrete third-party channel.

3 The Strait of Hormuz migrates from deterrence threat to bargaining object

The sharpest cross-cycle shift: where the 24 August batch packaged the chokepoint as a militarized doctrine ('not a single drop of oil'), Jomhouri Eslami now fronts 'reopening the Strait of Hormuz' as an explicit goal of the Pakistani mediation, and Iran Daily's op-ed treats the 'Hormuz crisis' as a structural rebalancing of Gulf security. Naming reopening as an objective concedes the strait is effectively closed and that the closure

carries a cost Iran now seeks to trade. The coercion has acquired a price tag and a negotiating table in a single cycle.

4 A coordinated defense of Ghalibaf against a selective-quote information operation

Trump's Newsmax-sourced rendering of Ghalibaf ('we are hungry, we cannot survive') and the Speaker's 'Make America Hungry Again' riposte drive a distinct thread. Sobh-e No fronts 'distortion of Ghalibaf's remarks'; Kayhan's Shariatmadari editorial ('the carpet-weaver we know') defends the Speaker against selective quotation attributed to Western-oriented circles; Etemad and Javan reproduce the hunger-statistics counter. The appearance of the same defense across separately owned hardline titles indicates centrally-guided message discipline closing ranks around the Speaker, doubling as a factional shot inside the ceasefire debate.

5 The economic titles price the sanctions rather than sloganeer them

Against both the boomerang triumphalism and the reconciliation optimism, the business papers read the moment as a live balance. Ta'adol frames the bourse as 'between agreement and rising tension' and carries Hemmati's 'candor is not blackwashing' pushback against the loyalty-test framing; Charsou defends the administration's macro record with a comparative league table while asserting the 'siege' is neutralized. The economic-realist camp aligns rhetorically with the settlement bloc, treating acknowledgment of hardship as legitimate rather than defeatist.

6 Leadership by absence persists on a high-stakes cycle

No message from the sitting Supreme Leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, appears on any front page or channel; the leadership register is carried by the executive (Pezeshkian) and by parliamentary and security voices (Ghalibaf, Hemmati). On a cycle defined by the largest sanctions package since 2018 and an active mediation, the current Leader's continued editorial silence above the fray is a standing marker in the succession picture and is recorded as negative evidence, not absence of content.

Key Judgments

KJ-1 [HIGH] KJ-1 [HIGH] Iran's press has answered the 24 August US sanctions package with a coordinated 'boomerang' narrative that reframes escalation as adversary self-harm. Javan ('D-Day into Waterloo'), Vatan-e Emrooz ('geoeconomic boomerang'), Sobh-e No ('neither war nor the dollar') and Kayhan ('empty hands') carry the same inversion across separately owned titles in one cycle. Significance: the convergence indicates a supplied interpretive frame rather than organic agreement, and it sets the edition's dominant register, defiance-by-inversion, though the argument that the largest sanctions package since 2018 is a net US loss rests on assertion, not on demonstrated economic effect.

KJ-2 [HIGH] KJ-2 [HIGH] A Pakistani mediation channel is now an active, corroborated diplomatic track, foregrounded by the government-reformist bloc. Field Marshal Asim Munir and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited Tehran on 24 August (Munir's third Iran visit of 2026), met Interior Minister Momeni and President Pezeshkian, and the visit is externally confirmed as aimed at breaking the US-Iran deadlock and reopening the Strait of Hormuz. Sazandegi, Etemad, Iran, Jam-e Jam and Iran Daily carry it as an opening; the hardline lane largely omits it. Significance: the diplomacy is real and third-party-brokered, and the lane that owns it (reformist-government) is distinct from the lane that owns the boomerang rhetoric (hardline), sharpening the intra-system fight over ending the war.

KJ-3 [HIGH] KJ-3 [HIGH] The Strait of Hormuz has shifted from a deterrence threat to a stated bargaining object in a single cycle. Jomhouri Eslami fronts 'reopening the Strait of Hormuz' as an explicit objective of the Pakistani mediation, and Iran Daily treats the 'Hormuz crisis' as a structural rebalancing; this reverses the prior cycle's 'not a single drop of oil' deterrence packaging. Significance: naming reopening as a goal concedes the chokepoint is effectively closed and that the closure imposes a cost Iran now seeks to trade, the clearest evidence yet that the coercion campaign has reached a point where Tehran is signaling a willingness to de-escalate the strait for diplomatic return.

KJ-4 [MODERATE-HIGH] KJ-4 [MODERATE-HIGH] A coordinated hardline defense of Speaker Ghalibaf indicates message discipline policing the ceasefire debate. Sobh-e No ('distortion of Ghalibaf's remarks') and Kayhan's Shariatmadari editorial defend the Speaker against a selective-quote operation, after Trump's Newsmax-sourced rendering and Ghalibaf's 'Make America Hungry Again' reply (both externally corroborated). Significance: closing ranks around Ghalibaf across separately owned hardline titles is both anti-US counter-messaging and an internal factional move, attributing the distortion to reformist-adjacent circles, and it shows the hardline lane managing the domestic narrative as tightly as the foreign one.

KJ-5 [MODERATE-HIGH] KJ-5 [MODERATE-HIGH] The government and economic-realist camp is publicly resisting the hardline loyalty-test framing of economic hardship. Ta'adol carries economy minister Hemmati's 'speaking of the hardships is not blackwashing', and Jam-e Jam his 'you will fail this time too'; Charsou defends the administration's record with data. Significance: an official minister's insistence that candor about pressure is legitimate, not defeatist, marks an open rhetorical fault line between the executive's economic realism and the hardline demand for unbroken optimism, and it aligns the economic titles with the settlement bloc.

KJ-6 [MODERATE] KJ-6 [MODERATE] The two-audience message architecture holds: coercive-defiant inward, stabilizing outward. The Persian fronts run 'boomerang' defiance and Hormuz-reopening bargaining, while the English Iran Daily frames the Munir visit as 'promoting regional stability' and downgrades the sanctions to a manageable $4 oil premium. Significance: the deliberate split lets Tehran project resolve and grievance to the home front while presenting itself to foreign readers as the stabilizing, reasonable party, limiting escalation costs abroad, though the domestic-outward gap is itself a signal of which audience each message is calibrated for.

KJ-7 [MODERATE] KJ-7 [MODERATE] The Saudi-Riyadh dimension is being folded into the adversary-overreach frame, a widening of the target set. Vatan-e Emrooz fronts 'the gamble of war in Riyadh's calculations', and Kayhan carries insurer reclassification of Saudi vessels as 'high-risk.' Significance: extending the boomerang argument to Riyadh signals Iran's readiness to raise the regional cost of the pressure campaign for US partners, but the material is thin and partly second-hand (insurer-risk claims), and whether it hardens into a sustained anti-Saudi line or fades is a thread to watch.

KJ-8 [MODERATE] KJ-8 [MODERATE] Negative-evidence finding: the sitting Supreme Leader again issued no message and appears only by absence. No statement from Mojtaba Khamenei features on any front page or channel; the executive (Pezeshkian) and parliamentary/security voices (Ghalibaf, Hemmati) carry the leadership register. Significance: on a cycle defined by a major sanctions escalation and an active mediation, the current Leader's continued editorial silence above the fray is a standing marker in the succession picture and is recorded as negative evidence, consistent with external reporting that he has not appeared publicly since assuming the leadership.

Named-Figure Tracker

Figure	Role / relevance	Today's framing	Flag
Scott Bessent	US Treasury Secretary	Author of the 'economic D-Day' sanctions label, inverted by Javan into a 'Waterloo' forecast and by Vatan-e Emrooz into a 'boomerang.'	TARGET FRAMING
Donald Trump	US President	Framed as running a failing pressure campaign; his Newsmax-sourced rendering of Ghalibaf triggered the 'Make America Hungry Again' riposte.	TARGET FRAMING
Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf	Speaker of the Iranian Parliament	Defended across hardline titles against selective quotation; his 'Make America Hungry Again' post is amplified as the day's counter-messaging.	COERCION SPOKESMAN
Asim Munir	Pakistan Field Marshal and Chief of Army Staff	Cast by the reformist-government bloc as an 'ambassador of rescue' mediating the US-Iran deadlock and Hormuz reopening; third Iran visit of 2026.	NEW NAMED FIGURE
Mohsin Naqvi	Pakistan Interior Minister	Accompanied Munir to Tehran; met President Pezeshkian on the mediation track.	NEW NAMED FIGURE
Eskandar Momeni	Iranian Interior Minister	Received the Pakistani delegation on arrival in Tehran, per the English Iran Daily caption.	WATCH
Abdolnaser Hemmati	Iranian Economy Minister	Pushed back on the hardline loyalty test ('candor is not blackwashing'); taunted the sanctions ('you will fail again').	WATCH
Mohsen Rezaei	Expediency Council figure	Quoted addressing Munir that 'America must change its behavior', routing the reconciliation bloc's precondition through the mediation channel.	WATCH
Hossein Shariatmadari	Kayhan managing editor	Authored the day's flagged editorial defending Ghalibaf against selective quotation.	WATCH
Mojtaba Khamenei	Supreme Leader (sitting)	Issued no message; appears only by absence on a high-stakes cycle.	absence noted

Headline Summary Table

Outlet	Lead Headline (English)	Orientation	Theme	Threat signal
Javan	Trump plants a 'D-Day', harvests a 'Waterloo'	Hardline, IRGC-affiliated	Sanctions inverted into adversary-defeat messaging	HIGH: sanctions as self-defeating US boomerang
Vatan-e Emrooz	Geoeconomic boomerang	Hardline / principlist	Sanctions as a net cost to the US and Riyadh	MODERATE-HIGH: sanctions-as-self-harm plus a Saudi 'war gamble'
Sobh-e No	Hegseth couldn't, Bessent can't either: neither 'war' nor	Principlist	Defiance plus Iran's preconditions via	MODERATE-HIGH: defiant-precondition

Outlet	Lead Headline (English)	Orientation	Theme	Threat signal
	'the dollar' will make Iran surrender		mediation	framing
Kayhan	Economic war with empty hands	Ultra-hardline flagship (channel)	Sanctions as a bluff; coordinated defense of Ghalibaf	HIGH: sanctions dismissed as bluff; internal message-discipline
Sazandegi	The ambassador who rescues the understanding	Reformist / Kargozaran	Pakistani mediation as a diplomatic rescue	LOW: pro-diplomacy, de-escalation
Etemad	The general's mission	Reformist	Mediation as 'another chance for diplomacy'	LOW: pro-diplomacy with anti-sanctions counter-messaging
Jomhouri Eslami	Pakistan's efforts to break the deadlock and reopen the Strait of Hormuz	Traditional / establishment	Hormuz reopening as a bargaining object	MODERATE: chokepoint as a negotiation chip
Iran	New US sanctions meet Pakistani mediation as Iran holds its line	Official government daily (channel)	Government endurance balancing sanctions and mediation	MODERATE: endurance messaging
Jam-e Jam	Pezeshkian: we act beyond political viewpoints to meet society's needs	State broadcaster (IRIB) daily (channel)	Executive unity, constructive mediation, resilience	LOW-MODERATE: executive-unity and resilience
Iran Daily	Pakistani army chief in Tehran to 'promote regional stability'	Official English-language state daily	Outward-facing stability framing; sanctions as a $4 oil premium	MODERATE: measured outward defiance
Ta'adol	The bourse between agreement and rising tension	Economic / business	Markets pricing the sanctions-versus-diplomacy balance	LOW-MODERATE: market-realist reading
Charsou	Pezeshkian came first, Ahmadinejad last	Economic / political	Administration's record and sanctions resilience	LOW-MODERATE: economic-resilience framing
Asr-e Iranian	This management is not scientific	Governance-focused daily	Domestic governance critique of the administration	LOW: inward governance critique

Per-Paper Front-Page Analysis

Iran Daily

Official English-language state daily

“Pakistani army chief in Tehran to 'promote regional stability'”

MODERATE: measured outward defiance; sanctions downgraded to a price premium

- Main: 'Pakistani army chief in Tehran to promote regional stability'; caption identifies Pakistan's army chief Asim Munir welcomed by Iran's Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni on arrival in Tehran, Monday 24 August 2026, presenting the mediation to foreign readers in stabilizing, non-escalatory language.
- Banner: 'Iranian oil prices surge to $4 premium as US restrictions hit shipments' (top-left), quantifying the market effect of the new sanctions as a price premium rather than as a supply defeat.
- Op-ed: 'Redefining Persian Gulf security architecture after Hormuz crisis: end of old order or beginning of new balance?', a signed analysis presenting the chokepoint episode as a structural shift in Gulf security rather than a passing crisis.
- Sub-item: 'Scenario for renewed Trump-Kim summitry after Iran war' (with a Trump-Kim image), an outward-facing geopolitical read that widens the frame beyond the bilateral confrontation.
- Sub-item: An arts interview ('I am making my new film with Oscars in mind') and an Iran Alloy Steel Company export tender, the paper's standard soft-content and commercial matter.

> **ANALYST NOTE** Iran Daily executes the two-audience architecture cleanly: for external readers the Munir visit is 'promoting regional stability' and the sanctions register only as a manageable $4 oil premium, not a siege, while the Persian fronts run 'boomerang' defiance and Hormuz-reopening bargaining. The 'Persian Gulf security architecture' op-ed is the tell, it frames the Hormuz crisis as a permanent rebalancing in Iran's favor, packaged for a foreign audience as analysis rather than threat.

Sobh-e No

Principlist morning daily

MODERATE-HIGH: defiant-precondition framing on both the sanctions and mediation tracks

“Hegseth couldn't, Bessent can't either: neither 'war' nor the 'dollar' will make Iran surrender” «هگست نتوانست بسنت هم نمی‌تواند / نه «جنگ» و نه «دلار» ایران را تسلیم نخواهد کرد»

صبح نو

آمریکا باید رفتارش را تغییر دهد

هگست نتوانست بسنت هم نمی‌تواند

گنده‌لافی‌های ترامپ

آقای زیدی، فریب آمریکا را در ماجرای خلع سلاح نخور

دشمنی با اسرائیل، رمز پیروزی در انتخابات آمریکا

اعلام پیش‌شرط‌های ایران

- Main: The lead pairs the US defense secretary (rendered 'Hegseth') with Treasury Secretary Bessent to argue that neither the military nor the financial instrument can force Iranian capitulation, framing the new 'economic D-Day' sanctions as the failed sequel to a failed war.
- Banner: A quote attributed to Mohsen Rezaei addressed to Pakistan's army chief Asim Munir, 'America must change its behavior' (آمریکا باید رفتارش را تغییر دهد), placing the reconciliation-bloc precondition directly onto the Pakistani mediation channel.
- Sub-item: 'Announcement of Iran's preconditions' (اعلام پیش‌شرط‌های ایران) beneath a handshake photo, with 'the Iran-Oman understanding has progressed' (تفاهم ایران-عمان پیشرفت کرده است), foregrounding a parallel Omani diplomatic track.
- Right rail: 'Distortion of Ghalibaf's remarks' (تحریف سخنان قالیباف) and 'Trump's big bluster' (گنده‌لاف‌های ترامپ), tying the day's Ghalibaf-quote controversy to a charge of US bad-faith framing.
- Right rail: 'Mr. Zeidi, do not fall for America's deception in the disarmament affair' (آقای زیدی، فریب آمریکا را در ماجرای خلع سلاح نخور), and 'Enmity with Israel is the secret to victory in American elections' (رمز دشمنی با اسرائیل، پیروزی در انتخابات آمریکاست).
- Op-ed: 'Yadasht' column 'When they deleted the if' (وقتی «اگر» را حذف کردند), on selective quotation stripping conditionals from Iranian officials' statements.

ANALYST NOTE Sobh-e No fuses the two live threads: the economic-D-Day sanctions are dismissed as a doomed second act, and Rezaei's 'America must change its behavior' is routed through the Pakistani mediation channel as a stated precondition rather than a concession, keeping the reconciliation bloc's line inside a defiant frame. The 'distortion of Ghalibaf' item marks the paper's alignment with the Kayhan defense of the Speaker.

Javan

Hardline daily, IRGC-affiliated

HIGH: sanctions inverted into adversary-defeat messaging

“Trump plants a 'D-Day', harvests a 'Waterloo'” «ترامپ «D-Day» می‌کارد «واترلو» درو می‌کند»

- Main: The lead turns Treasury Secretary Bessent's own 'economic D-Day' label against him, forecasting a 'Waterloo' outcome; the cover art is a melting red cake collapsing over a 'MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN' cap in the sand, visualizing the sanctions campaign as self-defeating spectacle.
- Banner: 'The final assault on the calculation of Iran's statesmen!' (حمله نهایی به محاسبه دولتمردان ایران!), casting the sanctions as a psychological operation aimed at Iranian decision-makers' cost-benefit calculus rather than at the economy itself.
- Sub-item: 'The boomerang of economic pressure on America's forehead' (بومرنگ فشار اقتصادی در پیشانی امریکا), the day's shared 'boomerang' frame that the sanctions will rebound on the United States.
- Sub-item: Ghalibaf's riposte rendered as 'Will you make 67 million Americans hungry again?' (۶۷ میلیون امریکایی را دوباره گرسنه می‌کنی؟), amplifying the Speaker's 'Make America Hungry Again' answer to Trump.
- Sub-item: 'America's mountain of economic threats gave birth to a mouse' (کوه تهدیدهای اقتصادی امریکا موش زایید) and 'the failure of America's mediator options dragged it to Iran' (شکست گزینه‌های امریکای میانجی را به ایران کشاند), belittling both the sanctions and the diplomacy.
- Right rail: Domestic-security items including 'the second home-front missile attack' framing and a large foreign-currency-commitments figure.

> **ANALYST NOTE** Javan supplies the hardline lane's signature inversion: the adversary's own escalatory label ('D-Day') is weaponized into a promise of American defeat ('Waterloo'), and the 'boomerang' motif recasts the largest sanctions package since 2018 as evidence of US weakness rather than Iranian vulnerability. This continues the standing adversary-decay-and-overreach thread, now attached to the specific 24 August Treasury action.

Vatan-e Emrooz

Hardline / principlist daily

“Geoeconomic boomerang”

«بومرنگ ژئواکونومیک»

MODERATE-HIGH: sanctions-as-self-harm plus a Saudi 'war gamble' expansion

- Main: 'Why America's new sanctions against Iran could turn into a costly action for Washington' (چرا تحریم‌های جدید امریکا علیه ایران می‌تواند به یک اقدام پرهزینه برای واشنگتن تبدیل شود), an argued case that the oil-shipping sanctions raise global prices and strike US interests, over an image of Trump inside the White House.
- Banner: 'The gamble of war in Riyadh's calculations' (قمار جنگ در محاسبات ریاض), extending the frame to Saudi Arabia and pairing with a Gulf-tanker image; ties to the reported insurer reclassification of Saudi vessels as high-risk.
- Right rail: 'Warning before punishment' (هشدار قبل از مجازات) and 'War with the tool of narrative' (جنگ با ابزار روایت), a media-war framing of the sanctions rollout.
- Right rail: 'Trump's hungry' (گرسنگان ترامپ), the paper's version of the Make-America-Hungry-Again riposte, and 'End of the illusion of a quick war' (پایان توهم جنگ سریع).
- Kicker: 'America fell behind!' (آمریکا عقب ماند!), a columnist argument that Washington has lost the initiative.
- Right rail: A brief on the Supreme Council of Foreign Relations / regional coordination note tied to the escalation.

ANALYST NOTE Vatan-e Emrooz gives the 'boomerang' its most analytic dress ('geoeconomic boomerang'), arguing the sanctions are a net cost to Washington and widening the target to Riyadh's 'war gamble.' The turn to Saudi Arabia is notable: it folds the Gulf-security and insurer-risk material into the same adversary-overreach argument, keeping the hardline case that pressure signals weakness, not strength (all attributed argumentation).

Asr-e Iranian

Morning daily, management/governance focus

“This management is not scientific” «این مدیریت، علمی نیست»

LOW: domestic governance critique, minimal external threat content

- Main: A specialist roundtable convened by the paper with management-science figures faults the government's managerial method as unscientific; subhead: 'Review of the government's managerial performance' (بررسی عملکرد مدیریتی دولت در نشست تخصصی عصر ایرانیان).
- Sub-item: Panelist quotes carried as pull-boxes: 'Running the country is not a place for trial and error' (اداره کشور، جای آزمون و خطا نیست, attributed to Dr. Ali Rezaeian) and 'The problem is not money, it is the absence of management' (مشکل پول نیست، نبود مدیریت است, Dr. Mojtaba Amiri).
- Sub-item: 'Responsibility for the performance rests personally with the President' (مسئولیت عملکردها برعهده شخص رئیس‌جمهور است, Dr. Ali-Asghar Pourezzat), sharpening the accountability point onto Pezeshkian.
- Op-ed: 'We have money to the same measure!' (به اندازه پول داریم!), a column arguing resources exist and the deficit is managerial, not fiscal.
- Sub-item: 'One and a half million patients under the coverage of nuclear medicines' (یک و نیم میلیون بیمار تحت پوشش داروهای هسته‌ای), the atomic-energy chief's civilian-nuclear defense line amid the sanctions.

ANALYST NOTE Asr-e Iranian runs against the day's foreign-policy grain, turning inward to a governance critique that pins economic strain on managerial failure rather than sanctions, an implicit rebuke of the administration from a conservative-technocratic angle. The nuclear-medicine item is the one outward hook, defending the civilian atomic program precisely as the sanctions campaign targets Iran's economy.

Charsou

Economic / political daily

LOW-MODERATE: economic-resilience framing of the sanctions

“Pezeshkian came first, Ahmadinejad last” «پزشکیان اول شد احمدی‌نژاد آخر»

- Main: A comparative bar-chart league table ranks administrations by an economic-performance metric (the graphic places the Pezeshkian government at the top and the Ahmadinejad era at the bottom of the ranked column), a data-led defense of the current administration's record.
- Sub-item: 'The academic price rise for the people, or the wrong privatization of Iran Khodro' (گرانی تحصیلی به مردم یا خصوصی‌سازی نادرست ایران خودرو), attributed to lawmaker Mostafa Taghavi on the auto-maker privatization dispute.
- Sub-item: 'Hemmati's role in the currency price rise' (نقش همتی در گرانی ارز), an accountability item on the economy minister and the exchange rate.
- Sub-item: 'Trump's siege has been fully neutralized' (محاصره ترامپ کاملا بی‌اثر / اثرشده), aligning the economic paper with the sanctions-defiance line via a claim of financial resilience.
- Right rail: Currency and exchange-rate indicators framed around the sanctions shock and market volatility.

ANALYST NOTE Charsou pairs a defense of the administration's macro record (the league-table front) with the sanctions-resilience line ('Trump's siege neutralized'), positioning economic competence as the answer to the maximum-pressure campaign. That places it on the government side of the intra-system fight, using data rather than the hardline 'boomerang' rhetoric to make the same resistance point.

Sazandegi

Reformist daily, Kargozaran party

LOW: pro-diplomacy, de-escalation framing

“The ambassador who rescues the understanding” «سفیر نجات تفاهم»

- Main: 'Concurrent with the new US economic sanctions against Iran, Asim Munir, Pakistan's army commander, together with Interior Minister Mohsen Naqvi, traveled to Iran for final consultations with President Pezeshkian and Ghalibaf to bring the Islamabad understanding out of deadlock' (عاصم منیر، فرمانده ارتش پاکستان، به همراه محسن نقوی، وزیر کشور پاکستان، به ایران سفر کرد ... بتوانند تفاهم‌نامه اسلام‌آباد را از بن‌بست خارج کنند).
- Main: The paper casts the Pakistani general as a diplomatic lifeline ('ambassador of rescue'), framing the visit as reopening a negotiated path just as Washington escalates economically.
- Op-ed: A signed column by Mohammad-Reza Khabbaz on multipolar-world negotiation and the case for diplomacy over confrontation.
- Right rail: 'The power of proof' (قدرت اثبات) and 'Negotiation in a multipolar world' (مذاکره در جهان چندگانه), reformist framing that diplomacy, not deterrence, is the realistic track.
- Sub-item: Reporting that the consultations touched reopening the Strait of Hormuz and de-escalating the US-Iran standoff.

ANALYST NOTE Sazandegi is the clearest voice of the reconciliation bloc this cycle: it reads the Munir-Naqvi visit as a diplomatic rescue and pointedly juxtaposes it against the same-day sanctions, arguing the moment calls for talks, not chokepoint deterrence. This continues the standing government-reformist settlement thread (Hassan Khomeini, Rezaei in prior editions), now anchored to a concrete third-party mediation channel.

Etemad

Reformist daily

LOW: pro-diplomacy with anti-sanctions counter-messaging

“The general's mission” «ماموریت ژنرال»

- Main: 'Field Marshal Asim Munir, Pakistan's army commander, in continuation of Islamabad's mediating role, holds talks with our country's officials' (فیلد مارشال عاصم منیر، فرمانده ارتش پاکستان، در ادامه نقش میانجی‌گرانه اسلام‌آباد با مقام‌های کشورمان گفت‌وگو می‌کند); subhead 'Another chance for diplomacy' (شانس دوباره به دیپلماسی).
- Sub-item: 'Etemad, in conversation with the Speaker's mediation review, examines the diplomatic opening' framing the visit as a genuine off-ramp rather than a courtesy call.
- Sub-item: The 'MAKE AMERICA HUNGRY AGAIN' infographic (47 million Americans face hunger every day; 1 in 8; 16 million children), captioned 'We will make America hungry again' (امریکا را دوباره گرسنه می‌کنیم) with Ghalibaf mocking Trump's figures and the note 'you can't cover up defeats with false claims.'
- Op-ed: 'Unbalanced legacy' (میراث ناتراز) and 'Activist government' (دولت کنشگر), reformist columns pressing the government to seize the diplomatic moment.
- Sub-item: '38.5 trillion tomans of third-war damage to heritage and tourism' (همت خسارت جنگ سوم برای میراث و گردشگری ۳۸.۵), quantifying the conflict's civilian cost as an argument for settlement.

ANALYST NOTE Etemad reads the Munir visit as 'another chance for diplomacy' and reproduces the Ghalibaf 'Make America Hungry Again' riposte, showing the reformist lane can carry both the settlement argument and the anti-Trump counter-messaging at once. The war-damage costing (heritage and tourism) is a characteristically reformist move: monetizing the conflict to argue for de-escalation rather than deterrence.

Ta'adol

Economic / business daily

LOW-MODERATE: market-realist reading of the sanctions-versus-diplomacy balance

“The bourse between agreement and rising tension” «بورس در میانه توافق و تشدید تنش»

تعادل

بورس درمیانه توافق و تشدید تنش

بازارهای مالی در آزمون ثبات اقتصادی

همتی: گفتن از سختی‌ها سیاه‌نمایی نیست

- Main: A signed analysis (attributed to Ahmad Ashtiani) reads the capital market as suspended between a diplomatic-agreement scenario and an escalation scenario, with the new US sanctions as the swing variable; subhead frames financial markets as facing a 'test of economic stability' (بازارهای مالی در آزمون ثبات اقتصادی).
- Sub-item: 'Hemmati: speaking of the hardships is not blackwashing' (همتی: گفتن از سختی‌ها سیاه‌نمایی نیست), the economy minister defending candor about economic pressure against charges of defeatism, over a gold-and-jewelry-market image.
- Sub-item: Currency and gold-market volatility items tied to the sanctions announcement and the mediation news.
- Op-ed: A column on housing finance and a mismatch between loan ceilings and prices ('a 4.4-billion housing loan against a 51-million reality'), the paper's domestic cost-of-living register.
- Right rail: Market indicators framing the sanctions shock as a stability test rather than a rupture.

ANALYST NOTE Ta'adol offers the market's-eye view: it neither adopts the 'boomerang' triumphalism nor the reconciliation optimism, instead pricing both the mediation opening and the sanctions escalation as live, offsetting scenarios. Hemmati's 'candor is not blackwashing' line is the notable signal, an official pushback against the hardline demand that acknowledging hardship equals disloyalty, aligning the economic-realist camp with the settlement bloc.

Jomhouri Eslami

Traditional / establishment daily

MODERATE: Hormuz reopening as a negotiation object; attributed Gaza claim

“Pakistan's latest efforts to break the deadlock of Iran-US negotiations and reopen the Strait of Hormuz” «تازه‌ترین تلاش‌های پاکستان برای شکستن بن‌بست مذاکرات ایران و آمریکا و بازگشایی تنگه هرمز»

جمهوری اسلامی

تازه‌ترین تلاش‌های پاکستان برای شکستن بن‌بست مذاکرات ایران و آمریکا و بازگشایی تنگه هرمز

گزارش رئیس قوه قضائیه از برخورد با ترانزی‌ها

شهید مظلوم آیت‌الله بهشتی:

- Main: The lead explicitly links the Pakistani mediation to two objectives at once, breaking the Iran-US negotiation deadlock and 'reopening the Strait of Hormuz' (بازگشایی تنگه هرمز), the first front-page acknowledgment this week that the chokepoint is treated as effectively closed and is now a bargaining object.
- Sub-item: 'Report of the Judiciary chief on dealing with irregularities' (گزارش رئیس قوه قضائیه از برخورد با ناترازی‌ها), a governance-accountability item.
- Right rail: A claim rendered as 'every night 30 to 40 Palestinians must be assassinated in Gaza' (هر شب باید ۳۰ تا ۴۰ فلسطینی را در غزه ترور کنند), attributed hostile framing of Israeli operations in Gaza (an attributed claim, not verified here).
- Sub-item: 'Rental-housing registration begins in Tehran and Mashhad from today' (آغاز ثبت‌نام مسکن استیجاری در تهران و مشهد از امروز) and a Qom solar-plant / housing-units item, domestic welfare notes.
- Op-ed: 'Look at the other side of this stone too' (روی دیگر این سنگ را هم ببین) and a commemoration of 'the oppressed martyr Ayatollah Beheshti' (شهید مظلوم آیت‌الله بهشتی) with portrait.
- Right rail: Interior minister's line that Iran is 'ready to hold fully electronic elections' (آماده برگزاری انتخابات تمام الکترونیک).

ANALYST NOTE Jomhouri Eslami is the one front to state plainly that the Strait of Hormuz is closed and that reopening it is on the negotiating table via Pakistan, making the chokepoint an explicit diplomatic chip rather than only a deterrence threat. That framing, from an establishment title, quietly concedes the coercion has a cost Iran now seeks to trade, and it carries the edition's sole prominent Gaza item (an attributed claim requiring primary-source confirmation).

Iran

Official government daily (read from channel)

“New US sanctions meet Pakistani mediation as Iran holds its line” «تحریم‌های جدید آمریکا و رایزنی‌های پاکستان»

MODERATE: endurance messaging balancing sanctions and mediation

- Main: The government daily fronts the fresh US State Department sanctions on Iranian entities, individuals and vessels as a hostile campaign following Washington's military setbacks, paired with the Pakistani mediation as the counter-track.
- Main: Reports Asim Munir's Tehran talks on 'regional peace, preventing the escalation of tensions, and dialogue-based solutions', the official framing of the visit as constructive.
- Sub-item: UN Secretary-General Guterres rendered as saying recent developments show the major powers can no longer impose their will everywhere, and that Iran kept its resistance and control of the energy corridor six months after the February strikes (an attributed rendering).
- Sub-item: Government-service messaging, education-ministry priority on ending deprivation in underprivileged regions, and a welcoming line toward Iranian emigrants.
- Sub-item: Domestic-strain note that 45 percent of national dam reservoirs stand empty, a water-stress signal beneath the foreign-policy lead.

> **ANALYST NOTE** The government daily balances the two tracks by design: it names the sanctions as hostile escalation while foregrounding the Pakistani mediation and a Guterres rendering that casts Iran as the enduring party, executive endurance-and-resistance messaging rather than either hardline triumphalism or reformist settlement. The dam-reservoir item is a rare admission of domestic strain carried under the confrontation lead.

Jam-e Jam

State broadcaster (IRIB) daily (read from channel)

“Pezeshkian: we act beyond political viewpoints to meet society's needs” «پزشکیان: برای رفع نیازهای جامعه فراتر از دیدگاه‌های سیاسی عمل می‌کنیم»

LOW-MODERATE: executive-unity and resilience messaging

- Main: The state daily leads on President Pezeshkian's governance message, science-based planning and serving citizens 'beyond political viewpoints', an executive-unity framing over the confrontation.
- Sub-item: 'Pakistan army statement: the talks were highly constructive' (بیانیه ارتش پاکستان: گفت‌وگوها بسیار سازنده بود), carrying Islamabad's own read-out of the Munir visit as constructive.
- Sub-item: 'Guterres: the war showed the limits of the superpowers' power' (گوترش: جنگ با ایران محدودیت قدرت ابرقدرت‌ها را نشان داد), with a note on the Strait of Hormuz and global energy transit (attributed rendering).
- Sub-item: 'Economy minister: you will fail this time too' (وزیر اقتصاد: این‌بار هم شکست می‌خوری), Hemmati dismissing the maximum-pressure sanctions and asserting financial-system resilience.
- Sub-item: Standard IRIB civic and cultural service items beneath the political lead.

> **ANALYST NOTE** Jam-e Jam, as the broadcaster's paper, anchors the executive-unity register: Pezeshkian above politics, the Munir talks 'constructive', and Hemmati taunting the sanctions ('you will fail again'). It shows the state channel blending the reconciliation bloc's diplomacy with the defiance line, presenting a government that is simultaneously open to mediation and unbowed by pressure.

Kayhan

Ultra-hardline flagship daily (read from channel), managing editor Hossein Shariatmadari

“Economic war with empty hands” «جنگ اقتصادی با دست خالی»

HIGH: sanctions dismissed as a bluff; coordinated internal message-discipline on Ghalibaf

- Main: The channel fronts the new US sanctions as a 'theatrical and hopeless' economic-war gesture, citing US Senator Chris Murphy's own criticism that the measures will not work, to argue the campaign is a bluff run 'with empty hands.'
- Op-ed: The 'Yadasht-e Rooz' editorial by Hossein Shariatmadari, 'The carpet-weaver we know' (a pun on Ghalibaf's surname, قالی‌باف = carpet-weaver), defends Speaker Ghalibaf against Western-oriented circles it accuses of selectively quoting him to shift his social base and impugn his revolutionary credentials.
- Sub-item: 'Confiscated US oil shipment sold for the benefit of butterfly-disease (EB) patients' (محموله نفتی توقیف‌شده امریکا به نفع بیماران پروانه‌ای فروخته شد), a retaliation-and-welfare item answering the shipping sanctions.
- Sub-item: An Atlantic-magazine rendering that 'power in the Middle East is now Iran, not America or Israel', redeployed as third-party validation of the adversary-decay thesis (a second-hand quotation, flagged).
- Sub-item: Insurers classifying Saudi vessels as 'high-risk', folded into the Gulf-pressure and Riyadh-exposure narrative.

> **ANALYST NOTE** Kayhan supplies the doctrinal spine: the sanctions are 'empty hands', validated by an adversary's own senator, and the Shariatmadari editorial pivots to an internal target, defending Ghalibaf against a distortion the paper attributes to reformist circles, the same 'distortion of Ghalibaf's remarks' Sobh-e No fronts. The convergence of the Ghalibaf-defense across Kayhan and Sobh-e No indicates a coordinated hardline response to Trump's selective quotation of the Speaker.

Appendix A: The Leader's message (absence noted)

Front-page scan sweep and monitored channels, 3 Shahrivar 1405

No first-person message, decree, or address from the sitting Supreme Leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, appears on any front page or monitored channel in this cycle. As in recent editions, the leadership register is carried indirectly, through the executive (President Pezeshkian's governance and endurance messaging) and through the security establishment's sanctions-defiance line, rather than by a signed leadership statement.

This absence is recorded as a first-class finding, not as missing content. Open-source reporting continues to note that Mojtaba Khamenei has not appeared in public since assuming the leadership after the assassination of his father, Ali Khamenei, in late February 2026; his most recent attributed interventions were the 10 August military-command decrees. On a cycle dominated by a major US sanctions escalation and an active third-party mediation, the continued editorial silence of the sitting Leader above the day's fray is logged as negative evidence in the succession picture.

Verification note: the identification of the current Leader as Mojtaba Khamenei rests on printed-name reading in prior editions and external reporting, not on a fresh first-person statement this cycle. No leadership quotation should be attributed to him from today's batch, because none was published.

Appendix B: The day's flagged editorial, Kayhan 'Yadasht-e Rooz'

Kayhan, 'Yadasht-e Rooz' column, by managing editor Hossein Shariatmadari (read from the Kayhan channel; full verbatim text not retrieved at compile time, reconstructed in summary from the channel rendering)

Title as carried: a pun on Speaker Ghalibaf's surname (قالی‌باف, literally 'carpet-weaver'), which the column renders roughly as 'The carpet-weaver we know.' Author verified as Hossein Shariatmadari, Kayhan's managing editor and the paper's standing editorial voice.

Argument (reconstructed, not a verbatim quotation): the editorial defends Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, Speaker of Parliament, against what it calls Western-oriented circles that have selectively quoted him to distort his position and to try to detach him from his revolutionary social base. It ties this to the day's controversy in which Trump, via a Newsmax rendering, presented Ghalibaf as having said Iranians are hungry and cannot survive, prompting Ghalibaf's 'Make America Hungry Again' riposte on 24 August. Shariatmadari's line is that the selective quotation is a deliberate information-operation, and that Ghalibaf's actual meaning, a hypothetical about the pressures Iran can withstand, was inverted.

Analyst flag: this is an internal-discipline editorial as much as an anti-US one. It closes ranks around the Speaker and, by naming reformist-adjacent circles as the domestic amplifiers of the distortion, doubles as a factional shot inside the ceasefire debate. The same 'distortion of Ghalibaf' framing appears on Sobh-e No's front, indicating a coordinated hardline response rather than an isolated column.

Sourcing caveat: the full Persian text was not retrievable at compile time; this appendix summarizes the channel's rendering and must not be reproduced as a verbatim translation. The Ghalibaf 'Make America Hungry Again' exchange is independently corroborated (Ghalibaf's own X post of 24 August; Iran International, Mehr, Press TV).

Appendix C: Methodology and sourcing notes

iran-press-digest pipeline, compiled 25 August 2026

Sources this cycle: nine Persian front-page scans read directly by vision (Sobh-e No, Javan, Vatan-e Emrooz, Asr-e Iranian, Charsou, Sazandegi, Etemad, Ta'adol, Jomhouri Eslami) from the NewspaperTasnim daily batch (3 Shahrivar 1405), plus the English Iran Daily scan; three further dailies read from their own Telegram channels (Kayhan, Iran, Jam-e Jam); and the Defa Press, Fars News and Nour News wires monitored for corroboration only. Tehran Times was unavailable at the time of compilation.

Attribution firewall: all Iranian battle-damage, adversary-decay, and 'boomerang' claims are the outlets' own and are reported as claims, not adopted as fact. Second-hand renderings (Kayhan quoting The Atlantic; papers quoting UN Secretary-General Guterres; the Newsmax rendering of Ghalibaf) remain flagged; quoting a rendering does not verify it. The Gaza item on Jomhouri Eslami's front is an attributed hostile claim and is not verified here.

Verified externally this cycle: the US Treasury/State sanctions package of 24 August ('Operation Economic Outcast'), described in Western reporting as the largest against Iran since 2018 and as targeting Iranian oil-shipping networks, with Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent's 'economic D-Day' framing; the 24 August Tehran visit of Pakistan's Field Marshal Asim Munir and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, received by Iran's Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni, Munir's third Iran visit of 2026, focused on breaking the US-Iran deadlock and reopening the Strait of Hormuz; and Speaker Ghalibaf's 'Make America Hungry Again' post responding to Trump.

Naming and transliteration: US officials are named as printed by the Iranian outlets where possible (Bessent; the defense secretary rendered by Sobh-e No as 'Hegseth'); Pakistani names standardized to Asim Munir and Mohsin Naqvi. Where an Iranian rendering of a foreign name or quote could not be independently confirmed, it is presented as the outlet's rendering. Day number (175) follows the fixed war-epoch calendar count (Day 118 = 29 June 2026), which intentionally does not match the hand-authored reference PDFs.

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.