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KUHESTAK WEDDING-STRIKE EDITION

Front pages published the morning of 3 September, reflecting events through late 2 September local, dominated by the US strike on a wedding in Kuhestak, Sirik, the overnight Iranian retaliation on US bases, and the collapse of the memorandum track on both sides

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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.

Front page: Javan

Executive Summary

The lead judgment of the cycle is that a single event has unified the Iranian press across factional lines. The US strikes of the night of 1 to 2 September, the heaviest in a month, hit a house in Kuhestak in Sirik county, Hormozgan, where a wedding was under way; five people including a child were killed and more than 60 wounded, figures the international record supports. Every one of the eight scanned Persian fronts carries the strike, and the overnight retaliation on US bases in Jordan, Kuwait, Bahrain and Erbil is reported approvingly by titles that two days ago were arguing over whether a US signature was worth anything. Vatan-e Emrooz runs one photograph and one word, 'the Kuhestak crime'; Javan calls it 'America's madness'; Sazandegi 'the wedding of blood'; Chahar Sough draws Trump signing with a blood-dipped pen; and the reformist flagship Etemad leads with 'a crushing response', naming the ballistic-missile strike on the US garrison in Jordan as its lead fact.

The single most consequential item is what is missing. On 2 September this monitor recorded Etemad placing the sitting Leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, behind a memorandum-conditional policy and Jomhouri Eslami printing 'Washington should return to the Islamabad memorandum' as Iran's proposal. Twenty-four hours later neither line appears anywhere. Secretary of State Rubio has said the memorandum 'has expired', the Iran newspaper channel reports it as 'the memorandum no longer exists', and the only Persian fronts that mention the document are hostile to it: Nobonyad attacks officials 'still busy defending the memorandum' while Washington calls it 'a scrap of paper', and prints Saeed Jalili telling students to police 'the Leader's conditions and requirements in the memorandum'. The off-ramp has not been argued down; it has been withdrawn from the page.

The second consequential item is Kayhan's editorial. Hossein Shariatmadari, who has spent weeks calling the Strait a lever 'more powerful than missiles', today names a second lever: the roughly seven international fiber-optic cable systems on the floor of the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, and asks 'is it not our undeniable right' to obstruct them, 'by creating serious disruption in the cables' functioning and even cutting them', closing with a direct appeal to 'the proud Army and IRGC'. This is advocacy by an editor, not policy, and no official has taken it up. But Kayhan's dual-chokepoint editorial of mid-July preceded official use of that language, so the cable proposal is the priority tracking item of the edition. Its front-page headline, 'track, identify, fire', puts the paper in kill-chain register.

The retaliation is real in outline and unverified in detail. Sobh-e No's channel described 'one of Iran's most extensive missile salvos' on the evening of 1 September; the IRGC named Camp Titin in Jordan and US bases in Erbil; Kayhan's channel reported explosions at US facilities in Kuwait early Thursday and the Kuwait airport suspending operations; Jordan, Kuwait and Bahrain confirmed interceptions. Javan's claim that Iran has ended 'access to 15 bases' and Etemad's precision-strike deck are Iranian claims and are logged as such. The health ministry's own toll for the three days from 8 to 11 Shahrivar is 18 dead and 142 wounded, carried by Kayhan, Fars, Nour News and Etemad. SNSC secretary Mohsen Rezaei, in the batch's authoritative threat text carried by Javan, promises that 'Iran's new strategy on the battlefield, in diplomacy and in confronting the economic blockade will shatter your foundations', the first time the secretariat has spoken of a strategy rather than a reaction since his 9 August appointment.

Trump's own words are the hardline lane's second asset. His 1 September post asking 'when are the Iranian people going to rise up and fight?', his 'Trump Strait' renaming, and his claim that the US has 'almost total control' of Hormuz are read by Vatan-e Emrooz as 'Trump's return to point zero', by Sobh-e No as 'desperation in solving the Hormuz equation' and 'military attack and economic siege did not work, so he called for riots', and by Nour News as 'an unwitting confession of inability'. The frame converts the heaviest

US strikes in a month into evidence of American exhaustion before the midterms rather than pressure on Tehran. Sobh-e No's 'not one barrel in 72 hours without Iran's permission' is the maximalist Hormuz-control claim of the batch and is contradicted by tracking data showing limited escorted transits.

The eastern-alignment thread has turned inward. Three principlist titles, Nobonyad in its lead ('Sinophobia to America's benefit'), Chahar Sough with an Uncle Sam hat montaged onto his photograph ('the guardian of America's interests in Iran'), and Javan in a column ('whose field is Marashi playing on?'), attack Kargozaran secretary-general Hossein Marashi for claiming Beijing set four conditions for a Ghalibaf visit, a claim the office of Iran's special representative for China has denied. China's lone dissent from the G20 finance ministers' Hormuz language at Asheville is offered by Javan and, tellingly, by Marashi's own party paper Sazandegi as proof that the pivot East pays. The Bishkek summit's only concrete deliverable, Putin-Pezeshkian talks on Bushehr and Rosatom's interest in small reactors, is carried by Jomhouri Eslami and Iran Daily.

Two titles declined to be mobilized, and their refusal is evidence. Jomhouri Eslami leads on the grid damage from 13,000 crypto farms and places the strike mid-page as 'America's new crime', printing an anti-profiteering quotation from Beheshti and a housing-collapse report; Ta'adol leads on the liquidity-and-inflation puzzle and treats Kuhestak as an elegy for a child named Amir-Ali, with housing at 'the ceiling of purchasing power' and private tuition beyond families' means in its rail. Iran Daily, for foreign readers, chooses 'sovereignty' over 'crime', prints no retaliation headline, and offers an economist's plan for surviving the US sanctions campaign through China and land routes.

Net assessment: this is a mobilization edition, not a doctrine edition. The 'language of power' synthesis of 2 September, in which leverage existed to be converted into terms, has been overtaken by an atrocity that every faction agrees must be answered and by a memorandum that Washington has declared dead and Tehran's papers have stopped defending. The consequential findings are that the reformist flagship now leads with retaliation; that the Leader-anchored off-ramp has disappeared from the page rather than being contested; that the flagship editor has proposed undersea-cable sabotage as a new lever; that the pivot East is now being enforced domestically against a reformist elder; and that only the economic and establishment titles are still pricing the war rather than prosecuting it. The threads to watch are whether any official echoes the cable proposal, whether the memorandum or the Iran-Oman channel resurfaces once the retaliation cycle cools, whether the '15 bases' claim is repeated or dropped, and whether Israel and Lebanon, still confined to the wires on the day of maximum escalation, return to the fronts.

BOTTOM LINE The Kuhestak wedding strike has collapsed the two-track posture of the last two editions into a single atrocity-and-retaliation frame across every faction, the memorandum off-ramp that the Leader was placed behind on 2 September has vanished from the pages within a day as Washington declares it expired, and the Leader's flagship has used the moment to propose a new lever, sabotage of the Gulf's undersea internet cables, that no official has yet endorsed.

CRITICAL SOURCING NOTE Eight Persian fronts from the NewspaperTasnim album for 12 Shahrivar 1405 and one English front from Newspapers_Iran were read by vision; Kayhan and Sobh-e No are analyzed from their own channels because no scan of either reached the batch; Jam-e Jam posted an image without text and is not analyzed; Tehran Times was unavailable at the time of compilation. Defa Press, Fars and Nour News were used for corroboration only. All Iranian military and battle-damage statements are attributed as claims. Corrections: the 'unforgettable lessons' line attributed by several foreign outlets to a new Leader statement on 2 September is, on the Persian record, the Leader's 17 July message recirculated, and no fresh Leader message appears on the

fronts; Vatan-e Emrooz's 'flames of Putin's anger' concerns Russian strikes on Ukrainian energy infrastructure, not Iran, and is placed beside the Kuhestak image by editorial choice.

Macro Trend Analysis

1 One atrocity, one frame, every faction

All eight scanned Persian fronts carry the Kuhestak wedding strike, and the retaliation is reported approvingly across the spectrum: Vatan-e Emrooz's 'the Kuhestak crime', Javan's 'America's madness', Sazandegi's 'wedding of blood', Chahar Sough's blood-pen Trump, and above all Etemad's 'crushing response' lead naming the Jordan garrison strike. The two-track posture the last two editions tracked, deterrent claim on one page and memorandum-conditional diplomacy on another, has collapsed into a single track for this cycle. The differences that remain are of register (elegy on Ta'adol, kill-chain on Kayhan), not of direction.

2 The memorandum off-ramp vanishes from the page in a day

Rubio's statement that the memorandum 'has expired', relayed by the Iran newspaper channel as 'the memorandum no longer exists', coincides with the disappearance of every pro-memorandum line printed on 2 September. Etemad's Leader-anchored 'fulfillment of the memorandum's conditions' and Jomhouri Eslami's 'Washington should return to the Islamabad memorandum' do not reappear. The document survives on the fronts only as a target: Nobonyad's 'beyond a miscalculation' attacks officials still defending 'a scrap of paper', and Jalili's banner turns the Leader's 'conditions and requirements' into obligations for students to police. Sobh-e No names the Iran-Oman negotiations as the live channel instead.

3 Kayhan proposes a second Hormuz lever: the undersea cables

Shariatmadari's Yadasht-e Rooz moves from shipping to infrastructure: roughly seven international fiber-optic systems on the Gulf floor, 'the backbone of the global internet', whose disruption or cutting he calls Iran's 'undeniable right' and a duty of reciprocity for the wedding dead and the assassinated Leader, addressed explicitly to 'the proud Army and IRGC'. Continuing the standing Hormuz-as-coercion thread from the dual-chokepoint editorial of mid-July, this is the thread's first extension beyond navigation. It is advocacy, not policy; whether any official echoes it is the edition's priority tracking cue.

4 Retaliation reported in kill-chain register, verified in outline only

Kayhan's 'track, identify, fire', Etemad's precision-ballistic deck on Camp Titin, Javan's 'network of US bases under Iran's fire' with 'access to 15 bases ended', and the IRGC's Erbil claim carried by Fars describe the overnight response; Jordan, Kuwait and Bahrain confirmed interceptions and Kuwait's airport suspended operations. SNSC secretary Mohsen Rezaei's 'new strategy' that 'will shatter your foundations' gives the cycle its official threat text. The base count and casualty claims remain single-source Iranian claims; the confirmed Iranian toll is the health ministry's 18 dead and 142 wounded over three days.

5 Trump's 'rise up' and 'Trump Strait' posts harvested as proof of failure

Vatan-e Emrooz's 'Trump's return to point zero', Sobh-e No's 'desperation in solving the Hormuz equation' and 'siege did not work, so he called for riots', Nour News's 'unwitting confession of inability', and the Vatan-e Emrooz channel's obscene mockery of the renaming all read the US president's own words as an admission that strikes and blockade have not moved Tehran. The frame lets the hardline lane present the heaviest US strikes in a month as American exhaustion before the midterms. Sobh-e No's 'not one barrel in 72 hours' is the batch's maximal Hormuz-control claim and is contradicted by transit data.

6 The pivot East is enforced at home: the Marashi campaign

Nobonyad's lead, Chahar Sough's Uncle Sam montage and Javan's column converge on Kargozaran secretary-general Hossein Marashi for his denied claim of four Chinese conditions on a Ghalibaf visit, branding China skepticism as service to America. China's G20 dissent on Hormuz is the campaign's proof, offered by Javan and by Marashi's own party paper Sazandegi. The Bishkek summit's one concrete item, Putin-Pezeshkian talks on Bushehr and Rosatom's small-reactor interest, is carried by Jomhouri Eslami and Iran Daily, answering last edition's question of whether the East would deliver anything with a nuclear-energy line rather than a security one.

7 The titles that refused mobilization still price the war

Jomhouri Eslami leads on 13,000 crypto farms and the grid, boxes Beheshti against wartime profiteering, and reports a housing market of collapsed purchasing power; Ta'adol leads on the liquidity-and-inflation puzzle with housing at the purchasing-power ceiling, unaffordable private tuition and a fearful bourse in the rail; Chahar Sough keeps a jab at a vice president's 100-billion-toman convoy on its atrocity page. The domestic-cost lane flagged in prior editions holds its space even on the day of maximum escalation, and Ta'adol's decision to print no retaliation item is the clearest negative evidence that the economic press has not been enrolled.

Key Judgments

KJ-1 **[HIGH]** The Kuhestak wedding strike has unified the Iranian press into a single atrocity-and-retaliation frame, closing the two-track posture of the previous two editions for this cycle. Evidence: all eight scanned Persian fronts carry the strike; the reformist flagship Etemad leads with 'a crushing response' naming the ballistic-missile strike on the US garrison in Jordan, Javan with 'America's madness', Vatan-e Emrooz with 'the Kuhestak crime', Sazandegi with 'wedding of blood' and Chahar Sough with Trump signing in blood; SNSC secretary Mohsen Rezaei's 'shatter your foundations' supplies the official text. Significance: when the reformist and hardline titles carry the same retaliation approvingly, the intra-system argument over leverage-for-terms is suspended; understating this convergence would miss the moment at which the diplomatic lane lost its own newspapers.

KJ-2 **[HIGH]** The memorandum off-ramp printed on 2 September has been withdrawn from the page within a day, and the document now survives on the fronts only as a target. Evidence: Rubio's statement that the memorandum 'has expired' is relayed by the Iran newspaper channel; Etemad's Leader-anchored 'fulfillment of the memorandum's conditions' and Jomhouri Eslami's 'return to the Islamabad memorandum' do not recur; Nobonyad attacks officials 'still busy defending the memorandum' and prints Jalili turning the Leader's 'conditions and requirements' into obligations to be policed; Sobh-e No names the Iran-Oman track instead. Significance: the Leader's authority, cited yesterday for fulfilling the memorandum, is cited today for enforcing its conditions, which shows the authority is being read by factions rather than exercised in print; the off-ramp's return, if any, will most likely come first through the Oman channel or through Jomhouri Eslami.

KJ-3 **[MODERATE-HIGH]** Kayhan's managing editor has extended the Hormuz-coercion doctrine from navigation to infrastructure by publicly calling on the Army and IRGC to disrupt or cut the Gulf's undersea internet cables. Evidence: the Yadasht-e Rooz 'The cables are waving at us' names roughly seven cable systems, calls their obstruction Iran's 'undeniable right', answers the legal objection with the wedding dead and the assassinated Leader, and closes with a direct appeal to the armed forces. Significance: this is advocacy by an editor and no official has endorsed it, so overstating it as policy would inflate the signal; but

Kayhan's mid-July dual-chokepoint editorial preceded official use of that language, so any echo by a commander, the SNSC or the Majlis national-security committee should be treated as an escalation of the highest order.

KJ-4 **[MODERATE-HIGH]** The overnight retaliation is real in outline and inflated in detail, and the papers' specificity is not evidence of damage. Evidence: the IRGC's Camp Titin and Erbil claims, Kayhan's Kuwait explosions and airport suspension, and the host governments' interception reports establish that a multi-country salvo occurred; Javan's 'access to 15 bases ended', Etemad's precision-strike deck and the 'killed a number of terrorists' line are single-source Iranian claims; the confirmed Iranian toll is the health ministry's 18 dead and 142 wounded over three days. Significance: Rezaei's promise of a 'new strategy' spanning battlefield, diplomacy and blockade is the first strategic language from the secretariat since his 9 August appointment and should be tracked for content; the '15 bases' figure should be watched for repetition or quiet withdrawal.

KJ-5 **[MODERATE]** The hardline lane is converting Trump's own posts into proof of American failure, a more durable morale narrative than battle-damage claims. Evidence: Vatan-e Emrooz's 'return to point zero', Sobh-e No's 'desperation' editorial and 'siege did not work, so he called for riots', Nour News's 'unwitting confession of inability' on the 'Trump Strait' renaming, and the Vatan-e Emrooz channel's mockery all rest on confirmed Trump statements ('when are the Iranian people going to rise up', 'almost total control of the Hormuz Strait'). Significance: as with last edition's use of the Driscoll resignation, the events are real and the causal reading is the outlets' inference, not adopted here; Sobh-e No's 'not one barrel in 72 hours' is contradicted by tracking data and marks the ceiling of the control claim.

KJ-6 **[MODERATE]** The pivot East is now being enforced domestically through a coordinated principlist campaign against a reformist elder, with China's G20 dissent as the proof text. Evidence: Nobonyad's lead 'Sinophobia to America's benefit', Chahar Sough's Uncle Sam montage captioned 'the guardian of America's interests in Iran', and Javan's 'whose field is Marashi playing on?' target Hossein Marashi for a denied claim of four Chinese conditions; Javan and Sazandegi both present Beijing's lone G20 objection as vindication; Jomhouri Eslami and Iran Daily carry the Bishkek Bushehr and Rosatom items. Significance: three titles on one day indicate coordination rather than one paper's polemic, and Sazandegi's praise of Beijing without a defense of its own secretary-general suggests the campaign is working; the East's deliverable remains nuclear-energy cooperation, not a security commitment.

KJ-7 **[LOW-MODERATE]** Negative-evidence finding: Israel and Lebanon stay off the fronts on the day of maximum escalation, and no fresh Leader message appears despite foreign reports of one. Evidence: the only Israel items on the fronts are foreign-press pieces on Jomhouri Eslami (French settler-violence remark, German missile test); the Lebanon material (Israeli strikes on Nabatieh al-Fawqa, Hezbollah's denial of a security-cell link, Nujaba's 30 September ultimatum in Iraq, Trump's 'Israel shouldn't worry') runs only on the Vatan-e Emrooz and Fars channels; the 'unforgettable lessons' line reported abroad as a new Leader statement is, on Defa Press's own posting, the 17 July text. Significance: the Israel-Lebanon front is being held off the page even while the wires carry it, so its return to a lead would be a deliberate editorial elevation; and the absence of a Leader message on the largest single-day loss of civilian life in weeks is itself a finding, consistent with the pattern of the Leader appearing through intermediaries (Jalili, Shariatmadari's 'present Imam') rather than in his own voice.

Named-Figure Tracker

Figure	Role / relevance	Today's framing	Flag
Donald Trump	US President	Author of the wedding strike (Chahar Sough's blood-pen signature); 'return to point zero' and 'desperation' for his rise-up and 'Trump Strait' posts; 'heavy attack last night, ready for another' (Fars video)	TARGET FRAMING
Mohsen Rezaei	Secretary, Supreme National Security Council (since 9 August)	'Iran's new strategy on the battlefield, in diplomacy and in confronting the economic blockade will shatter your foundations' (Javan)	COERCION SPOKESMAN
Hossein Shariatmadari	Managing editor, Kayhan	Calls on the Army and IRGC to disrupt or cut the Gulf's undersea internet cables as a second Hormuz lever	COERCION SPOKESMAN
Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf	Speaker of the Majlis	'Minab school, Lamerd gym, Kuhestak wedding': a power that kills like Satan and shields a smaller Satan 'is the Great Satan' (X post via Fars)	COERCION SPOKESMAN
Saeed Jalili	Supreme Leader's representative on the SNSC (as printed)	Students should police 'the Leader's conditions and requirements in the memorandum'; Hormuz opportunities 'must be used to the maximum' (Nobonyad)	WATCH
Mojtaba Khamenei	Supreme Leader	Absent in his own voice; invoked as 'the Leader's conditions' (Jalili), 'divine gift' and 'our present Imam' (Kayhan); the 'unforgettable lessons' line reported abroad is the 17 July text recirculated	absence noted
Hossein Marashi	Secretary-general, Kargozaran party	'The guardian of America's interests in Iran' (Chahar Sough, Uncle Sam montage); 'Sinophobia to America's benefit' (Nobonyad); 'whose field is he playing on?' (Javan)	TARGET FRAMING
Marco Rubio	US Secretary of State	'The memorandum has expired'; Hormuz 'will not fall under Iranian control' (Iran newspaper channel, as 'the terrorist government's foreign minister')	TARGET FRAMING
Pete Hegseth	US Secretary of Defense (printed as 'war minister')	Extended US deployments in the region into 2027 (Iran newspaper channel citing the Wall Street Journal)	WATCH
Vladimir Putin	Russian President	Bishkek talks with Pezeshkian on Bushehr; Rosatom small-reactor interest (Jomhouri Eslami, Iran Daily); Vatan-e Emrooz's 'flames of Putin's anger' concerns Ukraine	WATCH
Masoud Pezeshkian	President	'Effective consultations' in Kyrgyzstan (Jomhouri Eslami); his government's memorandum defense attacked by Nobonyad; his vice president's convoy mocked by Chahar Sough	WATCH

Figure	Role / relevance	Today's framing	Flag
Elias Hazrati	Head of the government Information Council; Etemad license holder	'The document of America's crime' on the Sirik strike, in his own paper	WATCH
Akram al-Kaabi	Secretary-general, Harakat al-Nujaba (Iraq)	US soldiers remaining in Iraq after 30 September 'will not return home safe' (Vatan-e Emrooz channel)	COERCION SPOKESMAN
Amin Mokarrami	Economic analyst	Iran can withstand the US sanctions campaign through China and land routes (Iran Daily interview)	NEW NAMED FIGURE
Benjamin Netanyahu	Israeli Prime Minister	Not named on any front; Israel appears only via foreign-press items and the Lebanon wires	absence noted

Headline Summary Table

Outlet	Lead Headline (English)	Orientation	Theme	Threat signal
Vatan-e Emrooz	The Kuhestak Crime	Hardline / principlist	Wedding strike as war crime; Trump's 'rise up' post as 'return to point zero'	HIGH: atrocity mobilization plus 'siege failed' reading
Javan	America's Madness in Attacking a Wedding Ceremony	Hardline, IRGC-affiliated	Rezaei's 'shatter your foundations'; '15 bases' retaliation claim; China's G20 dissent	HIGH: SNSC 'new strategy' threat plus base-strike claims
Etemad	A Crushing Response	Reformist	Reformist flagship leads with the Jordan garrison strike; no memorandum off-ramp	MODERATE-HIGH: reformist title adopts the retaliation as lead
Sazandegi	Wedding of Blood	Reformist / Kargozaran	Human-interest atrocity narrative; Beijing's G20 'no' praised	MODERATE: grief and documentation, retaliation as kicker
Chahar Sough	America's New Crimes, Signed by Trump	Economic, principlist-leaning	Trump personally indicted; Marashi as 'guardian of US interests'	MODERATE-HIGH: personal targeting of Trump and a domestic reformist
Kayhan	Track, Identify, Fire! Iran's Blow to the American Terrorists	Ultra-hardline flagship	Retaliation as kill-chain; editorial advocacy of undersea-cable sabotage	SEVERE: editor calls on the armed forces to cut Gulf internet cables
Sobh-e No	Trump's Desperation in Solving the Strait of Hormuz Equation	Principlist	US exhaustion thesis; 'not one barrel in 72 hours'; Oman track as live channel	MODERATE-HIGH: total Hormuz-control claim
Nobonyad	Sinophobia to America's Benefit	Principlist	Marashi attacked; Jalili on the Leader's memorandum 'conditions'; memorandum defenders 'beyond miscalculation'	MODERATE-HIGH: memorandum track attacked from the right

Outlet	Lead Headline (English)	Orientation	Theme	Threat signal
Jomhouri Eslami	Shocking Statistics on the Damage of 13,000 Crypto Farms	Traditional / establishment	Grid damage lead; Sirik as 'new crime'; Putin-Bushehr deliverable	MODERATE: declines mobilization; off-ramp dropped
Ta'adol	A Bank-Centered Economy and the Inflation Puzzle	Economic / business	Liquidity and inflation; housing and tuition; Kuhestak as elegy	LOW-MODERATE: economic-cost lead, no retaliation item
Iran Daily	Iran reaffirms willpower to defend sovereignty after renewed US attacks	Official English-language daily	Sovereignty framing for foreign readers; economic diversification via China	MODERATE: softened register, no retaliation headline

Per-Paper Front-Page Analysis

Iran Daily

Official English-language daily (government / IRNA)

“Iran reaffirms willpower to defend sovereignty after renewed US attacks” Iran reaffirms willpower to defend sovereignty after renewed US» «attacks (English original)

MODERATE: sovereignty framing for foreign readers; no retaliation headline

- Main: 'Iran reaffirms willpower to defend sovereignty after renewed US attacks', red deck 'At least 12 killed in missile strikes on southern cities', over an aerial image of the Sirik house captioned 'People inspect the aftermath of a US missile attack on a house in Sirik, southern Iran, where a wedding party was going on overnight on September 1, 2026', with an inset of an injured child (photo credit Tasnim). The English title uses 'sovereignty' and 'willpower', not 'crime' or 'revenge', and keeps its casualty figure (12) below the health ministry's three-day total of 18.
- Interview: 'Iran can withstand US pressure by diversifying economic options', with economic analyst Amin Mokarrami on the Trump-Bessent campaign of 'economic warfare' and 'exploitation': China is 'the most important external factor'; land routes through Turkey, Iraq, Pakistan, Azerbaijan and Armenia are 'not a replacement for maritime trade' but diversify options. This is the English-facing counterpart of the domestic anti-Marashi campaign: China as indispensable, said calmly.
- Sub-item: 'Rosatom in talks with Tehran on building small nuclear power plants', the Bishkek Putin-Pezeshkian deliverable in its English form.
- Top and culture strip: 'Ancient 4,600-year-old board game unearthed in Iran's Burnt City', 'Luri kamancheh has universal language', Mohitizadeh at the Asian Games, Alamut Castle: the English title keeps a normal-life cultural surface above the war lead.

> **ANALYST NOTE** The English title softens every register the Persian fronts sharpen: 'sovereignty' for 'crime', 12 dead for 18, an economist's diversification plan for a montage of Uncle Sam hats. Its function is to present Iran to foreign readers as a state absorbing attacks and adapting economically, not as a state mobilizing for revenge. The absence of any retaliation headline on the English front, while Etemad leads with one in Persian, is a deliberate audience split and should be read as such. Tracking cue: whether the retaliation is acknowledged in English in the next edition.

Vatan-e Emrooz

Hardline / principlist

“The Kuhestak Crime” جنایت «کوهستک»

HIGH: atrocity mobilization plus 'siege failed' reading of Trump's uprising call

- Main: the entire page is given to a single image, a body under a blue sheet on a clinic floor beside a suction pump, under the red headline «جنایت کوهستک» (the Kuhestak crime, jenayat/crime) and the deck '5 martyred and 68 wounded in the terrorist US Army's attack on a wedding ceremony in Kuhestak, Sirik, Hormozgan province' (۵ شهید و ۶۸ مجروح در حمله ارتش تروریست آمریکا به مراسم عروسی). The casualty figures match the Red Crescent's revised tally carried internationally.
- Right rail: «شعله‌های خشم پوتین» (the flames of Putin's anger) is not an Iran item: the deck reads 'the Russian president ordered the army to target Ukraine's energy infrastructure'. It is placed beside the Kuhestak image so that Russian escalation and Iranian grievance read as one anti-Western column; the pairing is editorial, not causal.
- Right rail: «بازگشت ترامپ به نقطه صفر» (Trump's return to point zero), on the US president 'again' calling on the Iranian people to rise, is the paper's reading of the 1 September Truth Social post ('When are the Iranian people going to rise up and fight?'), which it treats as an admission that strikes and siege have failed. The channel's companion post (t.me/vatanemrooz/23949) mocks the 'Trump Strait' renaming in obscene register: 'the Strait is ours; ship traffic is not even one-seventh of pre-war'.
- Special: «عروسی‌های خونین» (the bloody weddings) is a boxed 'Vatan-e Emrooz report' on the US military's record of striking wedding parties in other countries, building a pattern narrative (the paper's own comparative claim, not verified here).
- Top: «افسانه «فروش نفت صفر»» (the myth of 'zero oil sales') reports on Trump's claims versus the 'realities of Iran's oil-sales network during the siege', keeping the economic-warfare theme in the masthead strip.

ANALYST NOTE The hardline daily abandons yesterday's 'collapse of the generals' morale line for a pure atrocity front: one photograph, one word, and a body count. The 'point zero' framing of Trump's rise-up post does analytic work for the whole hardline lane: it converts the heaviest US strikes in a month into evidence of American exhaustion rather than pressure, which is the frame Sobh-e No and Kayhan also run today. Tracking cue: whether the 'bloody weddings' pattern narrative migrates into official statements as a war-crimes brief.

Javan

Hardline, IRGC-affiliated

HIGH: SNSC secretary's 'new strategy' threat plus a 15-base retaliation claim

“America's Madness in Attacking a Wedding Ceremony” «جنون آمریکا در حمله به مراسم عروسی»

- Main: over a full-page image of the shattered Kuhestak house, the lead reads 'the name Kuhestak in Sirik county, Hormozgan, is now tied to one of the bitterest images of these days of war: a house where a wedding was under way was targeted; at least five were martyred and nearly 70 wounded, a number of them children'. The framing word is «جنون» (madness), which removes intent from the US decision and casts it as loss of control.
- Sub-item: «بنیان‌تان را در هم خواهیم شکست» (We will shatter your foundations), 'the reaction of the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council to America's criminal act'. The text quotes Major General Mohsen Rezaei, the SNSC secretary since 9 August, addressing the White House: 'with that flailing you will not climb out of the hell you built for yourselves; you will soon see that Iran's new strategy on the battlefield, in diplomacy and in confronting the economic blockade will shatter your foundations'. The wording matches the X post reported internationally.
- Sub-item: «شبکه پایگاه‌های آمریکا زیر آتش ایران» (the network of US bases under Iran's fire): 'according to official IRGC and Army announcements' the overnight missile and drone response struck 'bases and infrastructure of the terrorist US Army in several countries of the region and killed a number of terrorists'; a kicker claims 'an end to access to 15 bases'. The base-count and casualty claims are Iranian military claims and are not verified; the Jordan (Camp Titin), Kuwait and Bahrain strikes are corroborated by those governments.
- Banner: «دیوار چین مقابل بیانیه جی۲۰ درباره تنگه» (The Great Wall of China against the G20 statement on the Strait): at Tuesday's G20 finance ministers' meeting 'America tried to use its chairmanship and hosting to increase pressure on Iran, but China was the only member to object to inserting a phrase on freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz', which Javan reads as Beijing fearing a precedent for the Taiwan Strait and South China Sea. The underlying event is confirmed (China alone dissented; no communique issued).
- Right rail: «فاصله ادعای تسلط آمریکا بر تنگه تا واقعیت میدان» (the gap between America's claim of controlling the Strait and the reality on the ground) and «مرعشی در زمین چه کسی بازی می‌کند؟» (Whose field is Marashi playing on?), the latter joining the day's coordinated attack on Kargozaran secretary-general Hossein Marashi over his claim that Beijing set four conditions for a Ghalibaf visit.
- Bottom: «ماهواره‌های ایرانی برای پرتاب به خط شدند» (Iranian satellites lined up for launch), a capability-continuity item, beside a review of a book on the 'zero-day attack' as a hybrid of sedition (fetneh) and social problems.

ANALYST NOTE Javan supplies the batch's authoritative retaliation text: the SNSC secretary's 'shatter your foundations' and the 15-bases claim. Note that Rezaei frames the response as a 'new strategy' spanning battlefield, diplomacy and blockade, which is the first time the secretariat has spoken of a strategy rather than a reaction since his 9 August appointment. The China banner converts the G20 dissent into proof that the pivot East pays, directly serving the anti-Marashi campaign in the right rail. Tracking cue: whether the '15 bases' figure is repeated by an IRGC spokesman or quietly dropped.

Sazandegi

Reformist / Kargozaran party daily

“Wedding of Blood” «عروسی خون»

MODERATE: atrocity documentation; retaliation confined to a kicker

- Main: «عروسی خون» (Wedding of blood) over an aerial image of the roofless Kuhestak house and three inset photographs of injured children in hospital: 'the story of one ill-omened night in Kuhestak, Sirik county, where its people's wedding was turned into mourning by American missiles'. The reformist paper's treatment is human-interest and forensic, not vengeful; no retaliation headline appears on the page.
- Kicker: «پاسخ به توحش» (Response to savagery), a page-2 pointer to 'a report on America's savage attacks on the south of the country and Iran's reciprocal response', which is the only place the retaliation enters the page.
- Top strip: «مسیر مقاومت: چرا پکن به بیانیه G20 نه گفت؟» (The path of resistance: why did Beijing say no to the G20 statement?), so the Kargozaran paper, whose secretary-general Hossein Marashi is being attacked today by three principlist titles for questioning Beijing, itself presents China's G20 dissent as resistance.
- Op-ed (Yaddasht-e Rooz): an obituary of Mohammad Moezzeddin, a former tourism official of the Khatami-era culture ministry, 'the man who saw tourism as part of Iran's development'; the same death notice runs on Etemad's page, marking a shared reformist-technocratic milieu rather than a political statement.

ANALYST NOTE Sazandegi's front is the reformist camp's answer to the atrocity: grief and documentation rather than threat, with the retaliation relegated to a kicker. The G20 strip matters for the intra-system fight: by praising Beijing's 'no', the Kargozaran paper distances itself from its own secretary-general's China skepticism on the very day Nobonyad, Chahar Sough and Javan brand him a US agent. Tracking cue: whether Sazandegi prints a defense of Marashi or lets the attack stand.

Chahar Sough

Economic daily, principlist-leaning

MODERATE-HIGH: Trump personally indicted; domestic reformist figure branded a US agent

“America's New Crimes, Signed by Trump” «جنایات جدید آمریکا با امضای ترامپ»

- Main: an illustrated composite of Trump signing with a blood-dipped pen on a blood-spattered surface, flanked by photographs of bandaged children from the Kuhestak strike, under «جنایات جدید آمریکا با امضای ترامپ» (America's new crimes with Trump's signature). The image continues yesterday's 'crimes bearing Trump's signature' motif and now attaches the wedding strike to it, so the signature that the previous edition's satire said was worthless is today the signature on an atrocity.
- Sub-item: «حافظ منافع آمریکا در ایران» (The guardian of America's interests in Iran), captioned 'the reformists' effort to wreck Iran-China relations': the text opens 'Hossein Marashi, secretary-general of the Kargozaran party', and the photograph shows Marashi with an Uncle Sam hat montaged onto his head. The trigger is his claim that Beijing set four conditions (reopening the Strait, no tolls, ending disputes with Saudi Arabia and with the US) for a Ghalibaf visit, a claim the office of Iran's special representative for China has denied.
- Sub-item: «توجه به فقرا به سبک دولت پزشکیان» (Attention to the poor, Pezeshkian-government style): Vice President Abdolkarim Hosseinzadeh's visits to deprived areas 'in 100-billion-toman vehicles' have drawn wide criticism, an economic-populist jab at the government kept on the page beside the war material.

ANALYST NOTE Chahar Sough carries the day's two-front hardline message on one page: Trump as the personal author of the atrocity, and a reformist elder as the domestic 'guardian of American interests'. The Uncle Sam montage on Marashi is the sharpest personal targeting of a domestic figure in this batch and, appearing in parallel with Nobonyad's lead and Javan's column, indicates a coordinated principlist campaign rather than one paper's polemic. Tracking cue: whether the campaign escalates to calls for prosecution.

Illustrated composite: Donald Trump signing with a blood-dipped pen on a blood-spattered surface, framed by photographs of bandaged children from the Kuhestak wedding strike. Below, a photograph of Kargozaran secretary-general Hossein Marashi with an Uncle Sam hat montaged on, captioned 'the guardian of America's interests in Iran'.

Etemad

Reformist; license holder Elias Hazrati, currently head of the government's Information Council

“A Crushing Response” «پاسخ کوبنده»

MODERATE-HIGH: reformist flagship leads with the retaliation, no off-ramp printed

اعتماد
پاسخ کوبنده
هم تاریخ‌سازی کردیم
هم حسرت خوردیم
سیاست
صداوسیمای سیاسی
سند جنایت امریکا
تله جنگ فرسایشی
بازسازی ارزش پول ملی

- Main: «پاسخ کوبنده» (A crushing response, kubandeh) with the kicker '«Etemad» reports on Iran's decisive reaction to America's crime in Sirik'. The deck is specific: 'the strategic US garrison in Jordan, known as the command hub of the Marines and of the US Army's rapid-reaction force in the east of the region, was targeted with a chain of precision ballistic missiles'. This is the reformist flagship reporting the retaliation approvingly, with the IRGC's Camp Titin claim adopted as the lead; Jordan's confirmation of missile interceptions corroborates that an attack occurred, not the damage claim.
- Sub-item: «سند جنایت آمریکا» (The document of America's crime), 'Elias Hazrati's reaction to the Sirik crime': the government information chief, who is also the paper's license holder, places the strike on the record as a war crime in the paper he owns.
- Sub-item: «تله جنگ فرسایشی» (The trap of an attrition war): an interview with Morteza Makki on 'America's struggle in the Middle East swamp', supplying the analytic frame that the US, not Iran, is the side being worn down.
- Sub-item: «سیاست صداوسیمای سیاسی» (The politics of a political broadcaster) and «بازسازی ارزش پول ملی» (Rebuilding the value of the national currency, a proposal to reform the monetary unit) keep the paper's domestic-critique and economic lanes alive under the war lead.
- Right rail (notes): «یمن؛ گرانیگاه منازعات ژئوپلیتیک» (Yemen: the center of gravity of geopolitical conflict), «جنگ با دو جبهه نظامی و اقتصادی» (a war on two fronts, military and economic), «صورت‌حساب روز بعد از جنگ» (the bill for the day after the war) and «بن‌بست پرهزینه‌ی آمریکا در خلیج فارس» (America's costly dead end in the Persian Gulf); one column references 'Operation Economic Outcast', the US sanctions campaign, by name.

ANALYST NOTE The most consequential shift in this title is tonal: yesterday Etemad reframed the Speaker's threats as 'the language of power' in service of a Leader-sanctioned memorandum; today it leads with a 'crushing response' and prints no memorandum off-ramp at all. When the reformist flagship adopts the retaliation as its lead, the two-track posture the last two editions tracked has collapsed into one track for this cycle. The 'attrition trap' interview and the 'day after' note show the paper still hedging toward an eventual settlement, but as analysis, not as headline. Tracking cue: whether Etemad revives the memorandum language once the retaliation cycle cools.

Ta'adol

Economic / business daily

LOW-MODERATE: economic-cost lead; atrocity as elegy, no retaliation

“A Bank-Centered Economy and the Inflation Puzzle” «اقتصاد بانک‌محور و معمای تورم»

تعادل

اقتصاد بانک‌محور و معمای تورم

بازهم جنایت

- Main: «اقتصاد بانک‌محور و معمای تورم» (A bank-centered economy and the puzzle of inflation), kicker 'why is containing liquidity so hard in Iran?', keeps the economic daily's lead on the structural money-supply question rather than the war.
- Sub-item: «بازهم جنایت» (Crime, again) is the paper's Kuhestak treatment, written as an elegy: 'a lament in mourning for joy: Kuhestak and Amir-Ali, a child who went to a celebration' and the strapline «انفجار به خنده‌ها رنگ خون زد» (the explosion painted the laughter the color of blood). No retaliation item appears on the page.
- Right rail: «خانه تا کجا می‌تواند گران شود؟» (How much more expensive can a house get?), housing 'has hit the ceiling of purchasing power'; «شهریه غیردولتی‌ها خارج از توان خانواده‌ها» (private-school tuition beyond families' means), the return-to-school cost story; «تقابل نقدینگی و هراس در بورس» (liquidity versus fear on the bourse).
- Op-eds: «دور باطل ارز و تورم در تله تنش و انتظارات» (the vicious circle of currency and inflation in the trap of tension and expectations), «بورس در دوراهی ریسک سیاسی و اختلال معاملات» (the bourse at the crossroads of political risk and trading disruption), «راهکار عبور از ناترازی بنزین» (a way past the gasoline imbalance) and «گزینه‌هایی برای مدیریت ارز» (options for managing the currency).
- Sub-item: «تجارت ایران هنوز نفس می‌کشد» (Iran's trade still breathes), trade continuing 'in the grip of big risks', an implicit rebuttal of the 'zero oil sales' claim from the trade side.

> **ANALYST NOTE** Ta'adol is the only Persian title in the batch that keeps the war off the lead, and even its Kuhestak item is an elegy rather than a threat. The page therefore documents the domestic-cost lane the previous edition flagged: liquidity, housing at the purchasing-power ceiling, tuition, the bourse, gasoline. Its silence on retaliation is the clearest negative evidence in the batch that the economic press has not been enrolled in the mobilization frame. Tracking cue: whether the 'tension and expectations' framing of the currency spiral is picked up by the government's economic team.

Jomhouri Eslami

Traditional / establishment; managing director Masih Mohajeri

“Shocking Statistics on the Damage of 13,000 Crypto Farms to Energy, Fuel and Agriculture” «آمار تکان‌دهنده خسارات ۱۳ هزار مزرعه رمز ارز به انرژی، سوخت و کشاورزی»

MODERATE: domestic-infrastructure lead; strike as 'new crime'; no off-ramp printed

جمهوری اسلامی

آمار تکان‌دهنده خسارات ۱۳ هزار مزرعه رمز ارز به انرژی، سوخت و کشاورزی

- Main: the lead is domestic and infrastructural: as the Majlis passed the double-urgency of a bill against unlicensed miners, MP Alireza Salimi is quoted that 'unfortunately we have more than 13,000 crypto farms in the country' inflicting annual damage on energy, fuel and agriculture (the paper's figure, attributed to the MP). The establishment daily thus leads on the grid crisis, not the strike.
- Sub-item: «جنایت جدید آمریکا در سیریک هرمزگان» (America's new crime in Sirik, Hormozgan), a photo block of the destroyed house and hospitalized children placed mid-page, the wedding strike framed as one more entry in a series ('new crime') rather than as the day's turning point.
- Top: Pezeshkian on the results of the Kyrgyzstan trip: 'we had effective consultations toward regional cooperation and bilateral interactions'; a separate item reports a 'detailed conversation between Pezeshkian and Putin on the Bushehr power plant', matching the Kremlin readout of the Bishkek meeting and Iran Daily's Rosatom item.
- Right rail: 'French foreign minister: Israeli settler violence is shameful' and 'Germany tested an Israeli missile in the Atlantic' are the page's only Israel references; both are foreign-press items, not Iranian claims.
- Sub-item: «از کاهش شدید قدرت خرید مشتریان تا سهم ناچیز تسهیلات و سیاستگذاری‌های ناکارآمد» (from the sharp fall in buyers' purchasing power to the negligible share of loans and ineffective policymaking), a housing-market report; First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref: 'the government has a plan to confront the economic war and the situation will improve'; 'continued rise in world oil prices'.
- Bottom: a boxed quotation from 'the oppressed martyr Ayatollah Beheshti' that 'tradesmen and merchants must know that reaping excessive profit is against the Islamic system', a signal against wartime profiteering; the weekly political analysis column (تحلیل سیاسی هفته) opens on the Kuhestak attack and the US 'terrorist army'.

ANALYST NOTE Jomhouri Eslami is the establishment title that declines to be mobilized: the wedding strike is a mid-page 'new crime', the lead is crypto mining and the grid, and the memorandum off-ramp it printed yesterday ('Washington should return to the Islamabad memorandum') is gone without replacement. The Beheshti anti-profiteering box and the housing report continue its habit of pricing the war domestically. Its Putin-Bushehr item is the batch's only concrete deliverable from the Bishkek summit, which is why it matters more than the summit rhetoric. Tracking cue: whether the memorandum language returns here first, as it did after the last escalation.

Nobonyad

Principlist (new daily, first year)

“Sinophobia to America's Benefit” «چین‌هراسی به نفع آمریکا»

MODERATE-HIGH: memorandum defenders attacked; reformist China critic branded pro-Western

- Main: «چین‌هراسی به نفع آمریکا» (Sinophobia to America's benefit) over a full-width photograph of Hossein Marashi: 'Hossein Marashi's recent statements on Iran-China relations, rather than an analysis based on facts, are a repetition of the same narrative the pro-Western current pursues to discredit the look-East policy' (page 7). The target is Marashi's claim of four Chinese conditions for a Ghalibaf visit, which the office of the special representative for China has denied.
- Banner: «لزوم پیگیری مستمر شروط و الزامات رهبر انقلاب در تفاهم‌نامه» (the need to continuously pursue the Leader's conditions and requirements in the memorandum): Saeed Jalili, printed as 'the Supreme Leader's representative on the Supreme National Security Council', tells students of the Velayat program that 'if the developments of the past month and 40 days, including the Strait of Hormuz, have put opportunities before the country, they must be used to the maximum', and that after the memorandum's signature 'the university and students can, through precise oversight and persistent demand, monitor implementation of the conditions and requirements the Leader emphasized'. The Leader is not named beyond the title; per standing context this is Mojtaba Khamenei.
- Sub-item: «فراتر از خطای محاسباتی» (Beyond a miscalculation): 'while America has launched a total war against our country and, insisting that the memorandum is a worthless 'scrap of paper', imposes new economic restrictions on Iran every day, our officials are still busy defending the memorandum', an explicit attack on the government's memorandum line.
- Op-ed: «دشمن را نشانه بگیرید؛ خیابان را رها کنید» (Aim at the enemy; leave the street alone) by Mohammad Amin Bagheri-Kani, arguing against turning the street into an arena of factional slogans in wartime.
- Sub-items: the head of the Majlis cultural commission calls the parliament's virtual sessions 'ceremonial'; the IRIB chief says the culture ministry committed a 'dereliction' in audio-visual policy; 'a different account of fuel-consumption management in Kerman'.

> **ANALYST NOTE** Nobonyad prints the hardline flank's two disciplinary messages on one page: Marashi's China skepticism is Western-serving, and officials defending the memorandum are 'beyond miscalculation'. Jalili's banner is the more important item: he speaks of the Leader's 'conditions and requirements in the memorandum' as things to be enforced rather than of the memorandum as something to return to, which is the opposite pole from yesterday's Etemad reading of the Leader as guarantor of the diplomatic track. Both readings claim the same Leader; the difference is who is doing the reading. Tracking cue: any text of the 'conditions' themselves.

Kayhan

Ultra-hardline flagship of the Supreme Leader's office; managing editor Hossein Shariatmadari

SEVERE: flagship editor calls on the Army and IRGC to disrupt or cut Gulf undersea internet cables

"Track, Identify, Fire! Iran's Blow to the American Terrorists" «رصد، شناسایی، شلیک! ضرب‌شست ایران به تروریست‌های آمریکایی»

- Main (from the paper's channel, t.me/kayhan_online/82800; no scan of the Kayhan front reached today's batch): «رصد، شناسایی، شلیک! ضرب‌شست ایران به تروریست‌های آمریکایی» (Track, identify, fire! Iran's blow, zarb-e shast, to the American terrorists). The three-verb headline presents the overnight retaliation as a kill-chain, the most operational framing in the batch. Other listed fronts: 'Venezuela's parliament voted in favor of the looting of its own oil by America', a 100-bed hospital opened in Golbahar, and 'unusual electricity bills and subscribers' complaints'.
- Op-ed (Yadasht-e Rooz, t.me/kayhan_online/82802): Hossein Shariatmadari, «کابل‌ها برای ما دست تکان می‌دهند!» (The cables are waving at us!). Point 1 restates the Hormuz doctrine: sovereignty over the Strait, which 'the Supreme Leader wisely called a divine gift' (hediyeh-ye elahi), has brought the US and its allies 'to their knees' and 'close to suffocation'. Point 2 introduces a new lever: 'in the depths of the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz lies one of the international fiber-optic highways, the backbone of the global internet'; 'nearly seven main cable systems' whose 'slightest damage can disrupt the world's internet system and knock out more than 80 percent of commercial, banking, military and AI communications' (the paper's figures).
- Op-ed (continued): Point 4 asks 'is it not our undeniable right, to bring these germs of filth to their knees and cut off their breath, to obstruct the passage of internet cables from the depths of the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz? This necessary action can be realized by creating serious disruption in the cables' functioning and even cutting them'. Objections on international law are answered with the assassination of 'the Leader and guide of the Islamic world', the wedding-party dead, and a hadith attributed to Imam Ali: 'return the stone to where it came from, for evil is repelled only by evil'.
- Op-ed (close): Point 5 addresses 'the respected officials of our country and especially the proud Army and IRGC': 'look carefully! the world's internet cables beneath the waters of the Strait of Hormuz and the ever-Persian Gulf are waving at us and saying in a thousand tongues: why have you forgotten our role in this war? We too are the devoted of the late Imam, the martyred Leader, and our present Imam'. 'Our present Imam' (emam-e hazer) is the editorial's reference to the sitting Leader, Mojtaba Khamenei.
- Wire (t.me/kayhan_online/82795, 82797, 82799): 'Arab media report drone and missile attacks on US interests and facilities in Kuwait early Thursday and the sound of heavy explosions'; 'Kuwait airport suspends operations'; health ministry spokesman: 'from 20:30 on 8 Shahrivar to 20:30 on 11 Shahrivar, 142 wounded and 18 martyred' in enemy attacks.

> **ANALYST NOTE** This is the single highest-significance editorial of the cycle. Shariatmadari has for weeks argued the Strait is leverage 'more powerful than missiles'; today he names a second, non-shipping lever and explicitly asks the Army and IRGC to act on it, framing cable sabotage as a religious duty of reciprocity. It is advocacy by a newspaper editor, not a declared policy, and no official has endorsed it; but Kayhan's editorials have previously preceded official positions (the dual-chokepoint line of mid-July), so this is the tracking priority of the edition. The 'track, identify, fire' headline and the Kuwait wire complete the picture of a title fully in kill-chain register.

Sobh-e No Principlist

“Trump's Desperation in Solving the Strait of Hormuz Equation” «استیصال ترامپ در حل معادله تنگه هرمز»

MODERATE-HIGH: total Hormuz-control claim; Trump 'desperation' thesis; retaliation wire

- Main (from the paper's channel, t.me/sobhe_no/115636; no scan reached today's batch): «استیصال ترامپ در حل معادله تنگه هرمز» (Trump's desperation, estisal, in solving the Strait of Hormuz equation), by Fatemeh Keihani: 'if we see last night's American attack on southern Iran apart from the developments of the past few days it may look like just another attack in Washington's months-long chain; but set beside the state of the Strait, the Iran-Oman negotiations, economic and political pressures inside America and the approaching midterm elections, a different picture forms: Trump is flailing to escape an attritional dead end rather than designing a new victory'.
- Main (continued): 'Washington wants to show it can guarantee safe passage in this vital waterway, but the reality on the ground is that shipping in the Strait will stay stopped until Iran wills otherwise, as Iran showed in the past 72 hours that without its permission not even one barrel of oil will pass through the Strait of Hormuz'. This is a claim of total Iranian control; international tracking data reported six transits on Tuesday, so 'not one barrel' is rhetorical.
- Sub-item (t.me/sobhe_no/115630 area, morning post): «حمله نظامی و محاصره اقتصادی جواب نداد؛ ترامپ دعوت به اغتشاش و شورش کرد» (Military attack and economic siege did not work; Trump has called for riots and revolt), the principlist reading of the 'When are the Iranian people going to rise up?' post.
- Wire (t.me/sobhe_no/115628, evening of 1 September): 'one of Iran's most extensive missile salvos (relative to recent clashes) toward American bases and areas was carried out tonight; Iran had warned that an enemy attack would meet a multiplied response; the important targets struck tonight will be officially announced'; and 'IRGC: the US Marines' barracks in Jordan known as Camp Titin was targeted with ballistic missiles'.

> **ANALYST NOTE** Sobh-e No supplies the day's 'exhaustion' thesis in its most developed form: the strikes, the Trump Strait post and the rise-up call are all read as symptoms of a US dead end before the midterms, with the Iran-Oman track mentioned as the live diplomatic channel rather than the memorandum. The 'not one barrel in 72 hours' claim is the maximalist Hormuz-control assertion of the batch and is contradicted by transit data. Tracking cue: whether the Oman channel is elevated by other titles as the memorandum is dropped.

Appendix A: The Leader's voice in this edition (no fresh message; Jalili's 'conditions' banner translated)

Nobonyad front page, Thursday 12 Shahrivar 1405 (banner, page 3 pointer); Kayhan Yadasht-e Rooz, t.me/kayhan_online/82802; Defa Press channel, t.me/defapress_ir/66634

Verification note first. Several foreign outlets on 2 September attributed to Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei a new statement that 'the dear nation of Iran and the resistance front have unforgettable lessons for the American enemy'. The Persian record does not support a new message: the Defa Press channel carries that sentence with the printed date 26 Tir 1405 (17 July 2026), the date of the Leader's message after the farewell ceremony for his father, and none of the eight scanned Persian fronts of 12 Shahrivar leads with, or boxes, a fresh Leader message on the Kuhestak strike. The line should be treated as a July text recirculated on 1 and 2 September, not as a new pronouncement. The Leader's authority enters today's pages indirectly, through Saeed Jalili on Nobonyad and through Hossein Shariatmadari on Kayhan. Both passages are translated below.

Nobonyad banner, as printed: «لزوم پیگیری مستمر شروط و الزامات رهبر انقلاب در تفاهم‌نامه» (The necessity of continuously pursuing the Leader of the Revolution's conditions and requirements in the memorandum).

Dr. Saeed Jalili, the Supreme Leader's representative on the Supreme National Security Council, said among the students attending the Velayat program: 'If the developments of the past month and forty days, including the matter of the Strait of Hormuz, have placed opportunities before the country, these opportunities must be used to the maximum.' He added: 'After the signing of the memorandum and in the new conditions that have taken shape, the role of students is not limited to comment and analysis; rather, the university and the student can, through precise oversight, demand-making (motalebeh-gari) and persistent follow-up, supervise the implementation of the conditions and requirements emphasized by the Supreme Leader of the Revolution.' (Pointer to page 3.)

Analyst flag on the Jalili passage: the Leader is invoked by title only; per standing context the office-holder is Mojtaba Khamenei. Jalili speaks of 'conditions and requirements' the Leader attached to the memorandum as obligations to be enforced on Iran's negotiators, which is a different use of the same authority from Etemad's 2 September rendering of the Leader as the guarantor of fulfilling the memorandum. The text of the 'conditions' is not printed; the phrase should be tracked until a text appears.

Kayhan editorial references, translated: 'The importance and strategic role of the Strait of Hormuz, which the Supreme Leader of the Revolution wisely called a divine gift (hediyeh-ye elahi), is such that many media, experts and renowned strategists of the world have considered sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz more dangerous for the enemies of Islamic Iran than an atomic bomb, and so it is.' And in the closing paragraph: 'We too, in this arena, are the devoted (jan-feda) of the late Imam, the martyred Leader (aqa-ye shahid) and our present Imam (emam-e hazer).'

Analyst flag on the Kayhan references: 'the martyred Leader' is Ali Khamenei, assassinated 28 February 2026; 'our present Imam' is the sitting Leader. The 'divine gift' attribution is Shariatmadari's paraphrase and is not verified against a dated Leader text; it should not be reproduced as a quotation without primary-source confirmation.

Source line: Nobonyad, year 1, no. 124, 12 Shahrivar 1405, banner and page 3; Kayhan Online channel post 82802, 12 Shahrivar 1405; Defa Press channel post 66634 carrying the 26 Tir 1405 line.

Appendix B: Full translation of the flagged editorial, Kayhan Yadasht-e Rooz, Hossein Shariatmadari, 'The cables are waving at us!'

Kayhan, Thursday 12 Shahrivar 1405, Yadasht-e Rooz; channel permalink t.me/kayhan_online/82802; author verified from the printed byline (#حسین_شریعتمداری); raw Persian text saved to raw/kayhan-yadasht-e-rooz-2026-09-03.txt

«کابل‌ها برای ما دست تکان می‌دهند!» (The cables are waving at us!) by Hossein Shariatmadari, managing editor of Kayhan.

1. The twelve-day war and the Ramadan war have left not the slightest doubt that Iran's sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz, and closing it to the ships and vessels belonging to hostile states, has been and remains one of the most efficient and effective levers (read: weapons) of the Islamic Republic in our country's nearly year-and-several-months confrontation with America, the Zionist regime and their other European and regional allies; to the point that today Iran's sovereignty over one of the world's principal and most vital economic chokepoints has not only brought America and its allies to their knees, but Iran's pressure on this chokepoint has blocked their breathing passage and brought them close to suffocation. The importance and strategic role of the Strait of Hormuz, which the Supreme Leader of the Revolution wisely called a 'divine gift', is such that many media, experts and renowned strategists of the world have considered sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz more dangerous for the enemies of Islamic Iran than an atomic bomb, and so it is.

2. The Strait of Hormuz, however, is not only the transit route of ships and vessels carrying oil, gas and commercial goods. This divine gift holds another precious treasure within it, the use of which in the all-out war we face is many times over more terrifying and dangerous for our enemies than the Strait of Hormuz remaining closed. In the depths of the waters of the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz lies one of the international fiber-optic highways, that is, the very 'backbone' of the global internet. A highway through which most internet communications, international calls, banking transactions, cloud services, and even artificial-intelligence communications and data centers pass through these same cables. Nearly seven principal systems of the world's internet cables lie in the depths of the waters of the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, the slightest damage to which can disrupt the world's internet system and knock out more than 80 percent of commercial, banking, military, artificial-intelligence and other communications.

3. America and the Zionist regime and their other European and regional allies have repeatedly shown that in savagery, killing and tearing apart innocent people, attacking infrastructure, hospitals, schools, wedding parties, massacring children and all manner of other horrifying crimes, they have no other example in the history of humanity, and they attach not the slightest importance to any moral or human principles or to international treaties and protocols. These germs of corruption and filth have, in the twelve-day war and the recent war, used every means and lever they had access to against Islamic Iran and its honorable people, and, in the words of the late Imam and our martyred Leader, if they have refrained from committing any crime it was neither for lack of ability nor out of human and moral principles or international protocols.

4. Now, if you make not your helmet but your conscience and honor the judge, do you not reach the definite conclusion that we must use the lever of the passage of international fiber-optic cables to confront America and its allies? And is it not our undeniable right, in order to bring these germs of filth to their knees and cut off their breath, to obstruct the passage of internet cables from the depths of the waters of the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz?! This necessary action can be realized by creating serious disruption in the functioning of the cables and even cutting them.

You say this action conflicts with international principles and protocols and is not legal?! We ask: was the military attack on our country, the martyring of the Leader and guide of the Islamic world, the massacre of the

people and of primary-school children and of participants in a wedding party, and the assassination of scientists and military commanders and so on, legal?! You say other countries will also be harmed! We say: are the crimes of America and its filthy allies not against all humanity? Why do they not rise to confront them?! In short, in the words of His Holiness the Commander of the Faithful, peace be upon him: 'Return the stone to where it came to you from, for evil is not repelled except by evil.'

5. And finally, this word is addressed to the respected officials of our country and especially to the proud Army and IRGC: look carefully! The world's internet cables from beneath the waters of the Strait of Hormuz and the ever-Persian Gulf are waving at us and are saying in a thousand tongues: why have you forgotten our role in this war? We too, in this arena, are the devoted of the late Imam, the martyred Leader and our present Imam.

Analyst flag: this is the first Kayhan editorial in the monitored series to name the Gulf undersea cable systems as a lever and to call on the armed forces to disrupt or cut them. It is editorial advocacy by the managing editor of the Leader's flagship, not a stated policy of any Iranian body, and no official has endorsed it as of the morning of 3 September. The cable-count and the '80 percent' figure are the author's and are not verified. The 'twelve-day war' refers to June 2025; the 'Ramadan war' is the paper's name for the war that began on 28 February 2026. Not to be reproduced as policy without primary-source confirmation of any official uptake.

Source line: Kayhan, Yadasht-e Rooz, 12 Shahrivar 1405, channel post 82802.

Appendix C: Methodology and sourcing notes

Pipeline record for 3 September 2026

Scans. Eight Persian fronts were retrieved from the NewspaperTasnim album for Thursday 12 Shahrivar 1405 (t.me/NewspaperTasnim/44309, posted 04:00 UTC) and one English front from the Newspapers_Iran album (t.me/newspapers_iran/3553). The stale-batch guard matched the album's printed Jalali date to the target date. The scans are web-preview resolution; each was upscaled and read in halves, and small body text was read only where legible. Papers identified by masthead: Vatan-e Emrooz, Javan, Sazandegi, Chahar Sough, Etemad, Ta'adol, Jomhouri Eslami, Nobonyad, Iran Daily.

Text channels. Kayhan and Sobh-e No did not appear in the scan album and are analyzed from their own channels (front-page list t.me/kayhan_online/82800; editorial 82802; Sobh-e No lead 115636). The Jam-e Jam channel posted its front page as an image without text and is not analyzed. The Iran newspaper channel carried wire items (Rubio on the memorandum, Hegseth's deployment extension, Yemen exercises) but no readable front page. The Etemad channel confirmed the front-page image and the Sirik controlled-demolition notice. Tehran Times was unavailable at the time of compilation.

Agencies. Defa Press, Fars and Nour News were used only for corroboration and threat context, never as front pages: Defa Press's SLAM-ER debris analysis (66705) and 'which bases did Iran hit' (66710); Fars's Trump video quotes (459827, 459843), the health-ministry toll (459841), Ghalibaf's 'Great Satan' post (459679) and the IRGC Erbil claim (459656); Nour News's 'Trump Strait' and 'ship versus ship' analysis (390745, 390750) and the 18-dead, 142-wounded figure (390748). All Iranian military and battle-damage statements are labeled as claims.

External verification. The Kuhestak wedding strike (Sirik county, Hormozgan, night of 1 to 2 September; five dead including a child, 63 to 68 wounded per the Red Crescent's revised count; fragments consistent with an AGM-84 SLAM-ER) is confirmed by international reporting. Iranian retaliation on Camp Titin in Jordan, on US facilities in Kuwait and Bahrain and on Erbil is corroborated by the host governments' interception reports; damage and casualty claims are not. Mohsen Rezaei has been SNSC secretary since 9 August 2026 and his 'shatter your foundations' post is confirmed. China's lone dissent from the G20 finance ministers' Hormuz language at Asheville, Rubio's statement that the memorandum has expired, Hegseth's extension of regional deployments into 2027, Trump's 'Trump Strait' and 'rise up' posts, and the Putin-Pezeshkian meeting in Bishkek are all confirmed. Hossein Marashi's 'four Chinese conditions' claim and the official denial are confirmed from Iranian reporting.

Single-source flags. (1) Javan's 'end of access to 15 bases' is a single Iranian claim without corroboration. (2) Sobh-e No's 'not one barrel in 72 hours' is contradicted by tracking data showing limited transits. (3) The Iran Daily figure of 12 killed and the health ministry's 18 over three days are different windows, not a contradiction. (4) Kayhan's cable-system count and '80 percent' figure are the editorial's own. (5) The 'unforgettable lessons' line attributed abroad to a new Leader statement is, on the Persian record, the 17 July message recirculated; no fresh Leader message was found on the fronts.

Translation caveats. Persian headlines are retained in original script beside editorial English renderings. Loaded terms are glossed inline (jenayat/crime, jonun/madness, kubandeh/crushing, estisal/desperation, zarb-e shast/blow, hediyeh-ye elahi/divine gift). Honorifics are rendered as printed. The em dash is not used in this product.

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.