OPEN-SOURCE PRESS INTELLIGENCE

Iranian Press Monitor

Daily Front-Page Intelligence

Day 204 - Wednesday, 23 September 2026 · 11 · چهارشنبه ۱ مهر ۱۴۰۵ Rabi' al-Thani 1448

THE EMPTY DESKS EDITION

Ten Persian front pages and one English front page of 1 Mehr 1405, read alongside six outlet channels and three agency wires; Tehran Times was not available at the time of compilation.

Front pages published the morning of 23 September 2026, reflecting events through late 22 September local time.

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



Front page: Qods

Executive Summary

The lead judgment of this edition is that the serving Leader's eight-cycle silence has ended, and that it ended on a school bell rather than on the war. Every one of the ten Persian covers in the batch, and the English cover as well, carries a message issued in the name of «حضرت آیت‌الله سید مجتبی حسینی خامنه‌ای» for the reopening of schools and universities, printed in that full form by Nobonyad, Asr-e Iranian and Farhikhtegan. A second message, on the death of Grand Ayatollah Shobeiri Zanjani, runs on the same pages. Across every passage any paper displays, there is no reference to the United States, to Israel, to the negotiations or to the war: the register is pedagogic throughout, built on four repeated points about identity, the mother tongue, teachers' livelihoods and the pairing of knowledge with piety. The uniformity of the display type across nine competing titles indicates a distributed text rather than editorial convergence, and the content of that text is the finding. Having been absent from this file for eight consecutive cycles, and absent from his own newspaper's authority claims on 22 September, the serving Leader has re-entered Iranian public life on the safest available subject.

The second finding is that the day's actual diplomacy happened and reached no front page. On 22 September in New York, Iran's foreign minister met the American special envoy and the president's son-in-law on the sidelines of the General Assembly, with Qatar's prime minister and foreign minister present for most of the session, and conveyed Iran's conditions for reopening the Strait of Hormuz: the immediate lifting of the naval blockade, the release of frozen assets and an end to the war on all fronts, including Lebanon. The American envoy called the talks constructive and promising; Trump, who had told the Assembly hours earlier that he faces a decision whether to make a deal or to annihilate the Islamic Republic, said his people had a very good meeting. On the Iranian side, the meeting exists on four channels, Kayhan's own among them, and on none of the eleven covers. The covers were printed before Tehran morning, so deadline explains part of it and the next cycle is the test of the rest. What deadline does not explain is what the covers did with the time they had: Nobonyad gave its entire front page to declaring an Iranian-American meeting a trap, and Kayhan told the president that the White House's insistence on one is the laying of a political and propaganda trap. The hardline argument against the meeting was set in type before the meeting was confirmed.

The third finding closes a tracking cue this monitor set one cycle ago. On 22 September a concrete proposal to reopen the Strait, under the byline of a journalist the state has repeatedly imprisoned, reached a reformist front page, and this file said that a principlist rebuttal would establish the proposal as live and silence would not. The rebuttal arrived in a single cycle and came from the Assembly of Experts. Asr-e Iranian gives its whole cover to «سخن از صلح با دشمن، جرم نابخشودنی», to speak of peace with the enemy is an unforgivable crime, over «با دشمن نمی‌شود به تفاهم رسید». Sobh-e No's channel names what is being ruled out: a referendum, and a «صلح شرافتمندانه», an honourable peace. The body that selects and supervises the Leader has not argued that a settlement would be unwise; it has classified arguing for one as a crime, in the same week the state's own negotiators were conveying terms through a Qatari mediator.

The fourth finding concerns how the Iranian reader is being kept from evaluating any of this. Trump's threat to annihilate the Islamic Republic, delivered from the General Assembly podium, appears on no Iranian surface in this batch in any form. Farhikhtegan reduces the entire speech to one line, «ترامپ گرفتار جنگ با ایران», Trump is trapped in the war with Iran. Jam-e Jam's channel calls it the gambler's outlandish lies. Sedaye Iran, Iran's channel and Jam-e Jam's channel carry the General Staff's response, which characterises the remarks as «استیصال راهبردی», strategic desperation. An existential threat is being processed as evidence of the adversary's weakness. Separately, the same mechanism operates on a smaller and cleaner case: the American Secretary of State said on 22 September that Washington is open to meeting Iran at the United Nations and that nothing is scheduled at this point. Iran Daily's front page prints the opening. Vatan-e Emrooz's channel prints the absence of a schedule. Each half is accurate, neither surface prints the whole, and no

fabrication is required for two Iranian audiences to receive incompatible impressions of the same American position.

The fifth finding is that the most powerful material in this edition required no construction at all. Today is the first day of the Iranian school year, seven months less five days after the strike that killed 168 people at the Shajareh Tayyebeh elementary school in Minab, about 120 of them children. Iran, the government's own daily, leads on «مهر آمد، اما بچه‌ها نیامدند», Mehr came but the children did not. Qods sent a correspondent to the school and headlines the piece «۱۶۸ 168 ,نفر همیشه حاضر» permanently present, over a photograph of a schoolgirl walking past a memorial banner planted among graves on the schoolyard. Khorasan simply reprinted the photograph it took on the first day of school last year, of two brothers at their desks holding roses, and captioned it with their names and the fact that both were killed. The figure 168 matches the external record, which attributes the strike, in Amnesty International's finding, to a precision-guided American weapon. Iran Daily states the purpose of this coverage in English, in a box on its own front page: the Minab tragedy is to become a national and global cultural narrative.

Net assessment: this is the most internally contradictory edition this monitor has recorded. The state is negotiating through a Qatari mediator in New York while its clerical apex declares advocacy of peace a crime; it prints its Leader's return in a wholly civilian register while its hardline titles pre-emptively criminalise a meeting that had already occurred; it reports the adversary's offer accurately in English and its refusal accurately in Persian. The unifying logic is not a policy but a sequence of audiences, and the material holding the whole thing together is the grief of Minab, which is the one element of the edition that is documentary, checkable and not the product of any editorial decision at all. That is what makes it effective, and it is why the argument against a settlement is being carried on the backs of 168 dead rather than on any claim about the terms.

BOTTOM LINE On the morning Iran's foreign minister met the American envoy in New York and Iran's president landed to address the General Assembly, the Iranian front pages printed neither, and gave their lead instead to the first message from the serving Leader this monitor has recorded in eight cycles, wrapped around the empty desks of a school struck seven months ago.

CRITICAL SOURCING NOTE Compiled from eleven front-page scans of 1 Mehr 1405 (ten Persian from the NewspaperTasnim album t.me/NewspaperTasnim/44722, one English from t.me/newspapers_iran/3567), read in full with vision at the resolution the kiosk serves, plus nine outlet and agency channels. The freshness guard passed on the album's own printed Jalali date. Tehran Times was not available at the time of compilation. Masthead identification was made from each printed nameplate rather than from album order. Named people were checked against the pages and, where the printed name governs, against the external record: the serving Leader is printed as Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei by three titles today. Names that could not be read at the available resolution, including the Iran Daily analysis byline and the name beneath the General Staff note in Jam-e Jam, are stated as illegible rather than guessed. Iranian military and casualty claims are labelled as claims, including the IRGC spokesman's assertion of a successful weapon test against an American aircraft carrier, the figure of 936 Saudi attacks attributed to the Yemeni armed forces spokesman, and the polling figure attributed to CNN on a hardline channel. The Assembly of Experts statement is well correlated across four Iranian surfaces and was not available outside the Iranian press at compile time; it is reported as an Iranian-press item. One correction is carried forward: the Hijri date given in this monitor's edition of 22 September was wrong, and the printed mastheads of 23 September give 11 Rabi' al-Thani 1448, which is consistent across four titles and with the month beginning on 13 September. Kayhan's own war-day counter reads 207 against this product's calendar count of 204, the same three-day drift recorded on 21 September, and is reported rather than adopted. This product documents hostile foreign-press rhetoric for defensive assessment only.

Macro Trend Analysis

1 The Leader returns, and returns on schools

Eight consecutive cycles of this monitor recorded no statement, speech or quoted remark from the serving Leader across the whole surface of the Iranian press, and on 22 September recorded his own newspaper sourcing its operative rule to the martyred predecessor rather than to him. Today he is on every cover in the batch, twice: a message for the reopening of schools and universities, and a condolence message for Grand Ayatollah Shobeiri Zanjani. The content is the point. Across all the passages the nine Persian titles display there is not one word about the United States, Israel, the negotiations, the blockade or the war. The Leader has been reintroduced to Iranian public life through the mother tongue, the flag, teachers' pay and the pairing of knowledge with piety. Three titles print his full name, which is the strongest documentary support for the succession this file has carried. Whether the next appearance carries war content is now the single most informative thing the coming cycles can produce.

2 The negotiation happened on the channels and not on the covers

Iran's foreign minister met the American envoy and the president's son-in-law in New York with the Qatari prime minister in the room, and conveyed three conditions for reopening the Strait of Hormuz. Kayhan's channel carries it, the government daily's channel carries it, the state broadcaster's channel carries it, the security council's news agency carries it under the headline that Tehran's conditions for reopening the Strait have been announced, and the reformist channel names the mediator and the spokesman. Eleven front pages carry none of it. The covers closed before Tehran morning, so part of this is deadline and the next cycle will separate the two. But the pattern this file has been tracking has now changed shape twice in three days: on 22 September the terms were published in English and withheld in Persian; today they are published in Persian and withheld from print. The variable is no longer language, it is surface.

3 The clerical apex criminalised the proposal it was asked about

One cycle after Emadeddin Baghi's front-page argument for a conditional reopening of the Strait appeared in Sazandegi, the Assembly of Experts for the Leadership issued a statement that Asr-e Iranian gives an entire front page to: no understanding can be reached with the enemy, and to speak of peace with the enemy is an unforgivable crime. Sobh-e No's channel names the two proposals rejected, a referendum and an honourable peace. This is not a rebuttal on the merits and it is not an argument about terms. It is a change in the category of the speech act, issued by the body that selects and supervises the Leader, and it lands in the same week the state's own diplomats were conveying terms through Qatar. The tracking cue set on 22 September is closed: the proposal was live enough to require an answer at that level.

4 One statement, partitioned by outlet interest, twice in one morning

The American Secretary of State said Washington is open to meeting Iran at the United Nations and that nothing is scheduled. Iran Daily's front page prints the first clause as its subhead; Vatan-e Emrooz's channel prints the second as its story. The Assembly of Experts statement receives the same treatment from the other direction: Asr-e Iranian prints the clause criminalising peace advocacy, Jam-e Jam prints the clause commending the national broadcaster, Nobonyad prints the clause objecting to the government's campaign machinery, and no surface prints another's. This is a more economical mechanism than the fabricated isolation list this monitor recorded on 20 and 21 September, and it is harder to answer, because every published fragment survives fact-checking. The operational rule for this file follows: the appearance of an item on one Iranian surface establishes that the clause exists, never that it is the whole of what was said.

5 The threat of annihilation is absent from every Iranian surface

Trump told the General Assembly that he faces a decision whether to make a deal with Iran or to annihilate the Islamic Republic and drive it into hell, called Iran the number one sponsor of terror, and predicted an agreement after the November midterms. None of this language appears anywhere in the batch. Farhikhtegan prints a one-line summary saying Trump is trapped in the war. Jam-e Jam's channel calls the speech the gambler's outlandish lies. The General Staff's response, carried by Sedaye Iran and two channels, characterises the remarks as strategic desperation. The consistent move is to treat the threat as a symptom of the adversary's weakness rather than as a statement of intent. The consequence is specific: an Iranian reader of these covers cannot know what was threatened from the podium, and therefore cannot assess the conditions Iran's own foreign minister was conveying in the same city on the same day.

6 The conservative press split on New York, and the split is real

Kayhan tells the president to be the voice of a victorious Iran and calls the meeting a trap. Nobonyad gives its whole cover to «تله ملاقات». Khorasan's foot of page warns against the simplifiers' New York prescription. Farhikhtegan demands revenge. But Qods, a shrine-foundation daily and no reformist outlet, runs its rail on experts describing the president's presence as an opportunity to defend Iranian rights and as a line drawn through the isolation scenario. Shargh, from the other side, calls New York a time of hard choices. The government daily prints the trip as diplomatic opportunity beneath a grief lead. This is the clearest division this monitor has recorded inside the conservative press on the negotiation question, and it means the hardline position is a position rather than a consensus.

7 Minab is the argument, and it is the one thing in the edition that is not constructed

The school year opened today; the strike that killed 168 people at the Shajareh Tayyebeh school killed about 120 children on 28 February. Iran leads on the children who did not come. Qods reports from the school. Khorasan reprints last year's first-day photograph of two brothers who were killed there, names them and states the fact. Farhikhtegan turns the same day into «نمی‌بخشیم، انتقام می‌گیریم». Sedaye Iran stages a classroom of framed portraits. Iran Daily states the intention in English, in a box: the Minab tragedy is to become a national and global cultural narrative. The material is documentary, the figure matches the external record, and the attribution to an American precision-guided weapon is Amnesty International's finding rather than a Tehran assertion. That is precisely what makes it the most effective instrument in the edition, and why the case against a settlement is currently being carried on it rather than on any claim about the terms on offer.

8 Lebanon has become a clause in a negotiating position

For the second time in three cycles no front page in the batch carries a Lebanese item. Lebanon survives in this edition in exactly one place: the third of Iran's three conditions, an end to the war on all fronts including Lebanon, as conveyed to the American envoy and reported on four Iranian channels. The front reorganisation this monitor first recorded on 21 September has now completed a further step. The Levant is no longer covered as a theatre or even carried as feed; it has become a term in a transaction, which is a status from which a front can be traded.

9 The claimed capability advanced one step and acquired no evidence

On 22 September the IRGC spokesman promised weapons that would astonish the world. Today Kayhan's rail carries the same spokesman announcing a successful test of a new weapon for targeting the American aircraft carrier. External reporting carries the claim in the same terms and records his explicit refusal to give details. Nothing has been added between the two cycles except specificity of target. There is no independent evidence of a carrier being struck or of a test occurring. The pattern is the one this file has repeatedly recorded: escalation of claim without escalation of evidence, timed, in this instance, to the week the state is conveying terms in New York.

10 The English paper turned its analysis slot toward Beijing

On the morning Iran's president landed in New York and its foreign minister met the American envoy, the government's English daily gave its exclusive analysis page not to Iran-US diplomacy but to the Trump-Xi summit: the personal greeting at Joint Base Andrews, the South Lawn ceremony, the state dinner with the technology executives, the tariff truce expiring in November and the rare-earth licences as Beijing's retained card. Its banner tells the same readership that the Persian Gulf Arab states are pivoting toward Tehran as American security reliance wanes, on days when those states' leaders were in fact meeting Trump in New York about the war with Iran. Read together, the page is a positioning document for a foreign readership rather than a news page: the argument is that the centre of gravity is the American-Chinese contest and that Washington's regional coalition is thinning. Only the first of those claims is checkable today.

Key Judgments

KJ-1 **[HIGH]** The serving Leader's silence has ended, and the register chosen for the return is civilian. Across ten Persian front pages and one English front page, every title carries a message issued for the reopening of schools and universities in the name of «حضرت آیت‌الله سید مجتبی حسینی خامنه‌ای», printed in full by Nobonyad, Asr-e Iranian and Farhikhtegan and in short form elsewhere; a second message, on the death of Grand Ayatollah Shobeiri Zanjani, runs on the same covers. The evidence for the character of the message is the display text itself: four repeated points on national identity and the mother tongue, the flag, teachers' livelihoods, and knowledge joined to piety, with no reference on any page to the United States, Israel, the blockade or the negotiations. On the eight preceding cycles this monitor recorded no statement, speech or quoted remark from him on any surface, and on 22 September recorded his own newspaper grounding its authority in the martyred predecessor instead. The significance is twofold: the succession now rests on printed pages rather than on inference, and the office has chosen to re-enter public life on the one subject that commits it to nothing about the war.

KJ-2 **[HIGH]** Iran and the United States met at envoy level in New York, and no Iranian front page in the batch says so. Iran's foreign minister met the American special envoy and the president's son-in-law on the General Assembly's sidelines on 22 September, with Qatar's prime minister and foreign minister present for most of the session, and conveyed Iran's conditions for reopening the Strait of Hormuz: immediate lifting of the naval blockade, release of frozen assets, and an end to the war on all fronts including Lebanon. The American envoy described the talks as constructive and promising. Four Iranian channels carry it, including Kayhan's (post 84716), the government daily's (507649), the state broadcaster's (28633) and the security council's news agency (396662), the last under a headline stating that Tehran's conditions for reopening the Strait have been announced; the Foreign Ministry spokesman confirms the Qatari mediation on two channels. Eleven front pages carry none of it. The covers were printed before Tehran morning, so deadline accounts for part of the gap and the next cycle is the test of the remainder. The significance is that the three conditions are now identical across Persian and English Iranian surfaces and have been delivered in a room rather than published at an audience, which makes them a negotiating position with a mediator attached rather than a broadcast demand.

KJ-3 **[HIGH]** The Assembly of Experts has answered a de-escalation proposal by criminalising the category of speech it belongs to, one cycle after this monitor set that as the test. On 22 September Sazandegi printed Emadeddin Baghi's argument for a conditional reopening of the Strait, and this file judged that a principlist rebuttal would establish the proposal as live while silence would not. Today Asr-e Iranian gives its entire front page to «بیانیه مجلس خبرگان رهبری: با دشمن نمی‌شود به تفاهم رسید» over «سخن از صلح با دشمن، جرم نابخشودنی»; Sobh-e No's channel (116157) supplies the specifics, that divisive wartime speech is a crime and that proposals for a referendum and for a «صلح شرافتمندانه» are destabilising; Jam-e Jam and

Nobonyad carry other clauses of the same statement. The statement is corroborated across four Iranian surfaces and was not available outside the Iranian press at compile time, so it is reported as an Iranian-press item. The significance is the issuing body and the move it makes: the organ that selects and supervises the Leader has not contested the proposal's merits but reclassified advocating it, and it has done so in the same week Iranian diplomats were conveying terms through a Qatari mediator.

KJ-4 **[HIGH]** Two hardline covers went to press pre-attacking a meeting that had already taken place. Nobonyad gives its whole front page to «تله ملاقات», the meeting trap, over a photograph of Trump's extended hand, arguing that Washington is trapped in the war and wants to escape the quagmire «با یک عکس، یک دیدار و یک «وعده نسیه» مانند تفاهم اسلام‌آباد», with one photograph, one meeting and one promissory pledge like the Islamabad understanding. Kayhan's analytical report tells the president to be the voice of a victorious Iran and calls the White House push for a meeting «پهن‌کردن یک دام سیاسی-تبلیغاتی». Both were printed before their own channels reported the envoy-level meeting. The significance is the precedent Nobonyad selects: «تفاهم اسلام‌آباد» is the same Islamabad framework that Sobh-e No's channel presented on 22 September as the basis on which Iran's seven conditions were built. In two cycles the same arrangement has been the foundation of Iran's terms on one principlist surface and the byword for a worthless American promise on another, which indicates that the hardline position is being assembled against outcomes rather than derived from a settled reading of the file.

KJ-5 **[HIGH]** Trump's threat to annihilate the Islamic Republic reached no Iranian surface in this batch, in any form. The speech is established: on 22 September he told the General Assembly he faces a decision whether to make a deal or to annihilate the Islamic Republic and drive it into hell, called Iran the number one sponsor of terror, said he would never allow it a nuclear weapon and predicted a deal after the 3 November midterms. Farhikhtegan's whole treatment is a one-line summary, «ترامپ گرفتار جنگ با ایران»; Jam-e Jam's channel renders it as the gambler's outlandish lies; Sedaye Iran's front page and two channels carry the General Staff and Khatam al-Anbiya response characterising the remarks as «استیصال راهبردی», strategic desperation. No cover quotes, paraphrases or rebuts the threat itself. The significance is informational rather than rhetorical: the population being asked to endorse refusal of a settlement has not been told what the alternative was stated to be, which removes the one piece of information needed to price the terms its own foreign minister was conveying in New York the same day.

KJ-6 **[MODERATE-HIGH]** A single accurate American statement was split in half and each half printed as a separate Iranian story, with no fabrication required. The American Secretary of State said on 22 September that Washington is open to meeting Iranian officials at the United Nations and that nothing is scheduled at this point. Iran Daily's front page runs «US open to meeting Iran at United Nations: Rubio» as its subhead. Vatan-e Emrooz's channel (post 26004) runs the statement that no meeting with Iranian officials is planned. Each is an accurate rendering of one clause; neither surface carries the other. The same partition operates on the Assembly of Experts statement, where Asr-e Iranian, Jam-e Jam and Nobonyad each print a different clause and none prints another's. The significance is methodological and applies beyond today: this is a cheaper and more durable technique than the assembled isolation list recorded on 20 and 21 September, because every published fragment survives verification, and it establishes that an item's presence on one Iranian surface proves the clause exists and never that it is the whole of what was said.

KJ-7 **[MODERATE-HIGH]** The Minab anniversary is the edition's organising instrument, its numbers are correct, and one title has stated its purpose in writing. Today is the first day of the Iranian school year; on 28 February a strike on the Shajareh Tayyebeh elementary school in Minab killed 168 people, about 120 of them children, a toll the external record supports and which Amnesty International attributes to a precision-

guided American weapon. Iran leads on «مهر آمد، اما بچه‌ها نیامدند»; Qods sent a correspondent and headlines «نفر همیشه حاضر ۱۶۸» over a photograph of a schoolgirl passing a memorial banner among graves on the schoolyard; Khorasan runs «خانم اجازه؟ ۱۶۸ نفر غایب‌اند...» over its own photograph from the first day of school last year, captioned «حامد به همراه برادرش هانی، از شهدای مدرسه میناب، روز اول مهر ۱۴۰۴»; Farhikhtegan converts the day into «نمی‌بخشیم، انتقام می‌گیریم». Iran Daily's front-page box states the objective in English: the Minab tragedy is to become a national and global cultural narrative. The significance is that this is the strongest material the Iranian press has deployed in this series precisely because none of it is manufactured, and the analytic caution required is therefore the opposite of the usual one: the facts are sound and the inference being built on them, that no settlement can be discussed, does not follow from them.

KJ-8 **[MODERATE-HIGH]** The conservative press is divided on the New York trip, and the division runs through institutions rather than along the usual factional line. Kayhan instructs the president and calls the meeting a trap; Nobonyad gives a whole cover to the same argument; Khorasan warns against the New York prescription of the simplifiers; Farhikhtegan demands revenge. Against that, Qods, the Astan Quds Razavi foundation's daily, runs its rail on experts framing the president's presence as an opportunity to defend Iranian rights and as «خط بطلان بر سناریو انزوای ایران», a line drawn through the isolation scenario; the government daily prints the trip as diplomatic opportunity; Shargh calls it a time of hard choices; and Sobh-e No's channel carries the Majlis speaker defining diplomacy as an instrument that converts battlefield power into political gain. The significance is that the case against engagement is being made by a bloc, not by the conservative press as such, and that a shrine-foundation daily is on the other side of it. Watch whether Qods holds that position after the Assembly of Experts statement circulates.

KJ-9 **[MODERATE]** Negative evidence: Lebanon has been converted from a front into a clause. For the second time in three cycles not one front page in the batch carries a Lebanese item, and the Levant appears in this edition in exactly one place, as the third of the three conditions conveyed to the American envoy, an end to the war on all fronts including Lebanon, carried on four channels. On 21 September this monitor recorded the first complete batch with no Lebanese item and filed it as a change of shape; on 22 September Lebanon returned only as a channel item. The trajectory is now consistent across three cycles. The significance is that a theatre which has disappeared from a state's front pages and reappeared as a term in its negotiating position has changed status in a specific and consequential way: fronts are defended, terms are traded.

KJ-10 **[MODERATE]** The claimed anti-carrier capability advanced by one step of specificity and by no step of evidence. Kayhan's rail carries the IRGC spokesman announcing «تست موفق سلاح جدید سپاه برای هدف قرار دادن ناو هواپیمابر آمریکا», a successful test of a new IRGC weapon for targeting the American aircraft carrier. External reporting carries the same spokesman, Hossein Mohebbi, whose identity this file resolved on 22 September, making the claim in the same terms and expressly declining to give details. On 22 September the same official promised weapons that would astonish the world; today the promise has a target and still no evidence. There is no independent confirmation of a test or of any carrier being struck. The significance is the timing rather than the claim: the specificity arrives in the week Iranian diplomats are conveying conditions in New York, which is consistent with a deterrent signal calibrated to a negotiation rather than with a battlefield development.

KJ-11 **[MODERATE]** The government's English daily has moved its analytical weight from Iran-US diplomacy to the American-Chinese relationship. On 22 September Iran Daily used its front page to publish Iran's three negotiating conditions, the deferral of the nuclear file, the Iran-Oman mechanism and the Salalah venue.

Today, on the morning Iran's president lands in New York and its foreign minister meets the American envoy, its exclusive analysis slot goes to the Trump-Xi summit: the personal greeting at Joint Base Andrews, the arrival ceremony, the state dinner attended by technology executives, the tariff truce expiring in November 2026 with Beijing seeking one to two years and Washington three to six months, and the 21 percent August fall in rare-earth export licences read as a retained card. Its banner simultaneously tells the same readership that the Persian Gulf Arab states are pivoting toward Tehran as their security reliance on Washington wanes, on days when those states' leaders were meeting Trump in New York about the war with Iran. The significance is that the English surface has switched from disclosure to positioning within one cycle, and the two claims it now advances to foreign readers, a thinning American coalition and a decisive Washington-Beijing contest, should be tracked separately, because the first is contradicted by the same week's record.

KJ-12 [MODERATE] The reformist press is not contesting the war frame; it is declining to enter it, and pointing at what is moving while attention is elsewhere. Shargh is the only title in the batch that does not lead on the Leader's message: its front page is given to «بررسی چراغ خاموش «طرح نفوذ» در مجلس», the lights-off review of the infiltration bill in the Majlis, framed as an account of the bill's opaque path and the effort to activate it against a wave of warnings. Its largest photograph is Mohammad-Reza Shajarian, on the anniversary of his birth on 1 Mehr, a singer the state broadcaster banned, printed on the morning the Assembly of Experts commends that broadcaster. Its rail carries «زمان انتخاب‌های سخت در نیویورک», the economy in the shadow of the war, and an item on reducing the Gulf's dependence on the Strait. The significance is that the reformist objection in this edition is procedural rather than diplomatic: while the front pages argue about a meeting, legislation with surveillance implications is moving quietly, and one cover says so.

Named-Figure Tracker

Figure	Role / relevance	Today's framing	Flag
Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei	Supreme Leader	Two messages in one morning, on the school year and on the death of a grand ayatollah; printed in full name by three titles; no war content in any displayed passage	NEW NAMED FIGURE
Masoud Pezeshkian	President of Iran	Departing for the General Assembly; instructed by Kayhan to be the voice of a victorious Iran, warned by Nobonyad and Khorasan against a meeting, defended by Qods as breaking the isolation scenario	WATCH
Abbas Araghchi	Foreign Minister of Iran	Met the American envoy in New York and conveyed the three Hormuz conditions; present on four Iranian channels and on no front page	WATCH
Donald Trump	President of the United States	Threat to annihilate the Islamic Republic absent from every Iranian surface; reduced to a one-line diagnosis of entrapment by Farhikhtegan, to lies by Jam-e Jam's	TARGET FRAMING

Figure	Role / relevance	Today's framing	Flag
		channel, and to strategic desperation by the General Staff	
Steve Witkoff	US special envoy	Named on Iranian channels as Araghchi's interlocutor; his description of the talks as constructive and promising is not carried on any front page	WATCH
Marco Rubio	US Secretary of State	One statement split in half: openness printed by Iran Daily, absence of a schedule printed by Vatan-e Emrooz's channel	COERCION SPOKESMAN
Hossein Mohebbi	IRGC spokesman	Claims a successful test of a new weapon for targeting an American aircraft carrier, declining details; carried on Kayhan's rail	COERCION SPOKESMAN
Esmaeil Baghaei	Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman	Confirms Qatari mediation and the conveyance of Iran's conditions; carried on the reformist and security-council channels, on no front page	WATCH
Mohammad-Bagher Ghalibaf	Speaker of the Majlis	Defines diplomacy as a combat instrument that converts battlefield power into political gain; carried only on a principlist channel	WATCH
Benjamin Netanyahu	Prime Minister of Israel	Nobonyad reports his New York trip cut to a few hours and attributes it to fear of the city's mayor; the shortening is in the external record, the single cause is the page's	TARGET FRAMING
Mohammed bin Salman	Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia	Kayhan's second lead casts him as copying Netanyahu by launching child-killing in Yemen, over a photograph block of dead and injured children	TARGET FRAMING
Emadeddin Baghi	Iranian journalist and human-rights campaigner	Absent from every surface today, one cycle after his Hormuz proposal reached a reformist front page; the Assembly of Experts statement answers the proposal without naming him	absence noted
Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Mousa Shobeiri Zanjani	Source of emulation, died 21 September 2026	Praised in the Leader's condolence message as a researching and deeply thoughtful scholar; still no page addresses the succession of religious authority	absence noted
Xi Jinping	President of China	Given Iran Daily's exclusive analysis slot on the day Iran's own diplomacy is in New York	WATCH

Headline Summary Table

Outlet	Lead Headline (English)	Orientation	Theme	Threat signal
Asr-e Iranian	Statement of the Assembly of Experts: no understanding can be reached with the enemy. To speak of peace with the enemy is an unforgivable crime	Principlist	The clerical apex criminalises settlement advocacy	SEVERE: institutional prohibition of peace advocacy
Kayhan	The Leader: conquering the peaks of progress is the historic mission of schoolchildren and students	Hardline, supervised by the Leader's office	Leader's message, the meeting as a trap, a claimed anti-carrier weapon test	HIGH: pre-emptive delegitimisation of negotiation
Farhikhtegan	A conversation with the young	Principlist, Azad University	Trump's speech reduced to one line; Minab converted into a revenge demand	HIGH: explicit retaliation demand
Nobonyad	The meeting trap	Conservative / principlist	Any Iranian-American meeting framed as American escape from the quagmire	MODERATE-HIGH: pre-emptive framing of contact as capitulation
Khorasan	Break the frontiers of knowledge	Conservative, Mashhad	168 absent at Minab, documented from the paper's own archive	MODERATE: documentary grief harnessed against negotiation
Sedaye Iran	The enemy's terror of the lovable school benches	Carries the khamenei.ir mark	The predecessor's 1987 UN photograph set against today's trip	MODERATE: message discipline through precedent
Jam-e Jam	Knowledge, piety, ethics: the power-making triad	State broadcaster (IRIB)	The Assembly statement read as a commendation of the broadcaster	MODERATE: institutional message discipline
Qods	Travellers of knowledge along the path of the martyrs	Conservative, Astan Quds Razavi	Minab reported from the site; support for the New York platform	MODERATE: grief-anchored mobilisation with a pro-engagement rail
Iran	Mehr came, but the children did not	Official government daily	The empty desks as the lead; the president's trip as the photograph	LOW-MODERATE: diplomatic framing beneath a grief lead
Iran Daily	Pezeshkian vows to firmly defend Iran's positions at UNGA; US open to meeting Iran at United Nations: Rubio	English-language government daily	The American opening printed in English; the analysis slot given to Trump and Xi	LOW-MODERATE: engagement-forward framing for an external readership

Outlet	Lead Headline (English)	Orientation	Theme	Threat signal
Shargh	The lights-off review of the infiltration bill in the Majlis	Reformist	The only cover not led by the Leader's message; legislation moving quietly	LOW: domestic accountability lead
Sobh-e No (channel)	Assembly of Experts: proposals for a referendum and for an honourable peace are wartime division-making	Principlist	Names the two proposals the Assembly rules out	HIGH: prohibition alongside continued contact
Vatan-e Emrooz (channel)	Rubio: no meeting with Iranian officials is planned	Hardline	The negative half of the American statement	MODERATE: selective framing; unqualified casualty claims
Etemad (channel)	Baghaei: the engagement with the American side went through a Qatari mediator and Iran's conditions were conveyed	Reformist	The attribution work the front pages do not do	LOW: attributed diplomatic reporting

Per-Paper Front-Page Analysis

Iran Daily

English-language government daily, published by IRNA

“Pezeshkian vows to firmly defend Iran's positions at UNGA / US open to meeting Iran at United Nations: Rubio”

LOW-MODERATE: engagement-forward English framing aimed at an external readership



- Main: The lead pairs the president's departure with the American opening, over the same aircraft-door photograph the Persian government daily used, captioned as Pezeshkian departing Tehran for New York on 22 September. The subhead attributes to the US Secretary of State an openness to meeting Iran at the United Nations.
- Main: The subhead is one half of a statement whose other half the Iranian press also printed. The external record of Rubio's remarks on 22 September is that the United States is open to meeting Iranian officials at the United Nations and that nothing is scheduled at this point. Iran Daily prints the opening; Vatan-e Emrooz's channel (post 26004) prints the absence of a scheduled meeting. Each half is accurate; neither surface prints the whole.
- Banner: Across the top: «Persian Gulf Arab states urge reset with Iran as conflict drags on / Strategic pivot of Iran's Arab neighbors toward Tehran: Waning of security reliance on US». The external record for the same days has Gulf Cooperation Council leaders and Jordan meeting Trump in New York on the war with Iran, at which Trump discussed striking a further nuclear site. The event is the same; the direction of the pivot is the page's.
- Kicker: Top left box, «Minab tragedy to become national, global cultural narrative», the only place in the batch where the intended function of the anniversary coverage is stated as such, and stated in English.
- Op-ed: The exclusive analysis slot goes not to Iran-US diplomacy but to the Trump-Xi summit: «In search of a sellable win: What's on the table for Trump and Xi?», by a regional-affairs researcher whose byline is not legible at the available scan resolution. It reports Trump greeting Xi in person at Joint Base Andrews, an arrival ceremony on the South Lawn with troops from every branch, a state dinner in the East Room and a tea reception in the Red Room, and reads the pageantry as mirroring the send-off China gave Trump in May 2026.
- Op-ed: Under «Economic dimension: fragile truce, fight over time», the piece states that the tariff truce expires in November 2026, that Beijing wants a one-to-two-year extension and Washington three to six months to keep its leverage intact, and that the 21 percent drop in rare-earth export licences in August signals Beijing still holding that card.
- Op-ed: Under «Security technology dimension: rivalry dressed up as dialogue», it reads Washington's proposed mutual-notification mechanism on AI incidents as risk management rather than cooperation, notes that semiconductor export restrictions remain in place, and reads the attendance of Nvidia, OpenAI, Apple and Tesla executives at the state dinner as a measure of sectoral weight rather than an opening.
- Sub-item: Lower strip: «Iran says foreign flights still operating despite US pressure»; an opinion piece, «American power: a view from China»; and

«Nemati opens gold account as Iran bags four karate medals».

ANALYST NOTE Yesterday this monitor judged that Iran's negotiating architecture was being published in English while the Persian press was silent on it. Today the English daily does not repeat the exercise: the terms have moved to the Persian channels, and Iran Daily's exclusive analysis slot goes to the Trump-Xi summit instead. The framing choice is itself the finding. On the morning Iran's president lands in New York and its foreign minister meets the American envoy, the government's English paper tells its foreign readership that the contest that matters is between Washington and Beijing, that Washington's Gulf partners are drifting toward Tehran, and that the Minab anniversary is to become a global cultural narrative. That is a positioning document for an external audience, not a news page, and the three claims should be tracked separately because only the first is checkable today.

Kayhan

Hardline principlist; published under the supervision of the Supreme Leader's office, managing editor Hossein Shariatmadari

HIGH: pre-emptive delegitimisation of negotiation plus a claimed anti-carrier weapon test

“The Leader of the Revolution, in a message marking the reopening of schools and universities: conquering the peaks of progress is the historic mission of schoolchildren and students” «رهبر معظم انقلاب در پیامی به‌مناسبت بازگشایی مدارس و دانشگاه‌ها تأکید کردند: فتح قلّه‌های پیشرفت، مأموریت تاریخی دانش‌آموزان و دانشجویان»


کیهان
فتح قله‌های پیشرفت
مأموریت تاریخی دانش آموزان و دانشجویان
آقای پزشکیان! صدای ایران پیروز باشید
ترامپ در آمریکا هم بایکوت شده است

- Main: The lead is the Leader's message for the start of the academic year, broken out into four red display points: be guardians of the roots of national identity, the mother tongue and the holy flag; officials must improve teachers' livelihoods; power arising from knowledge must be accompanied by piety (تقوا); the dawn of the new academic year heralds the nation's accelerated movement. The message is the day's single most widely shared item and appears in near-identical display form on every other cover in the batch.
- Sub-item: A second message from the Leader, on the death of Grand Ayatollah Shobeiri Zanjani, boxed at the left of the page with paired portraits of the deceased and the serving Leader: «فقدان آیت‌الله‌العظمی شبیری زنجانی خللی در ردیف محققین تراز اول شیعه ایجاد کرد» (the loss of Grand Ayatollah Shobeiri Zanjani has created a gap in the ranks of first-rank Shia researchers). Two messages from the Leader in one morning, after eight consecutive cycles in which this monitor recorded none.
- Banner: Top right, sourced to the judiciary spokesman speaking in Minab: «اموال توقیفی از آمریکا، رژیم صهیونیستی و هم‌پیمانان آنها صرف جبران خسارت‌های مردم می‌شود» (assets confiscated from America, the Zionist regime and their allies will be spent on compensating the people's damages). The venue is the town whose elementary school was struck on 28 February.
- Op-ed: The paper's own analytical news report, occupying the lower left: «آقای پزشکیان! صدای ایرانِ پیروز باشید / ترامپ در آمریکا هم بایکوت شده است» (Mr Pezeshkian! Be the voice of a victorious Iran. Trump has been boycotted in America too), whose bullets argue that the White House's insistence on a meeting with Iran's president is «پهن‌کردن یک دام سیاسی-تبلیغاتی» (the laying of a political and propaganda trap) and that a nation more than 200 days into the war will never permit its officials to be photographed with war criminals. This is the third consecutive cycle in which Kayhan issues the president a public brief for New York.
- Kicker: Top left, «رسانه‌های آمریکایی با روایت پیروزی‌های ایران ترامپ را خفه کردند!» (American media have choked Trump with the narrative of Iran's victories).
- Right rail: Five stacked items, of which three are load-bearing: the IRGC spokesman announcing «تست موفق سلاح جدید سپاه برای هدف قرار دادن ناو هواپیمابر آمریکا» (a successful test of a new IRGC weapon for targeting the American aircraft carrier), page 2; Pezeshkian quoted as «پیام مظلومیت و اقتدار ملت ایران را به گوش جهانیان خواهم رساند» (I will convey the message of the Iranian nation's oppression and eqtedar to the world), page 2; and the paper's own war-day report, «گزارش روز دویست و هفتم جنگ: نظم آمریکایی ۸۰

ساله در جنگ با ایران از بین رفت» (report of day 207 of the war: the eighty-year American order has been destroyed in the war with Iran).

- Sub-item: Lower centre, the second lead: «الگوبرداری بن‌سلمان از نتانیاهو با راه‌اندازی «کودک‌کشی» در یمن» (bin Salman copying Netanyahu by launching child-killing in Yemen), carried over a four-photograph block of dead and injured children. The external record for the period documents Saudi strikes in Taiz province reported by the Houthi-run health ministry as killing three people including two children, a claim the wire agencies state they could not independently verify; Kayhan's presentation supplies scale and intent that the wire does not.

> **ANALYST NOTE** Kayhan is doing three things at once on one page, and only the first is shared with the rest of the batch. It carries the Leader's message like everyone else; it then uses its own real estate to pre-attack a meeting between Iran's president and the American side, hours before Iranian channels confirmed that Iran's foreign minister had in fact met the US envoy in New York; and it keeps the atrocity register running on Yemen, in the same edition that reports from Minab. The instruction to Pezeshkian has now escalated across three cycles, from a warning on 21 September, to an imperative on 22 September, to a slogan plus a named mechanism of entrapment today. Track whether the meeting Kayhan calls a trap is acknowledged in tomorrow's edition, and in what terms.

Nobonyad

Conservative / principlist daily (NobonyadOnline.ir)

“The meeting trap” «تله ملاقات»

MODERATE-HIGH: pre-emptive framing of any Iran-US contact as capitulation



- Main: The whole upper page is given to a photograph of Trump with his hand extended for a handshake under the single display phrase «تله ملاقات». The deck reads «همزمان با سفر پزشکیان به نیویورک، فضاسازی‌های پیرامون برگزاری دیدار ایرانی-آمریکایی به اوج رسید» (as Pezeshkian travels to New York, the atmospherics around holding an Iranian-American meeting have peaked).
- Main: The body text names the precedent explicitly: «واشنگتن در جنگ با ایران گرفتار شده و حالا می‌خواهد با یک عکس، یک دیدار و یک «وعده نسیه» مانند تفاهم اسلام‌آباد خود را از این باتلاق برهاند» (Washington is trapped in the war with Iran and now wants, with one photograph, one meeting and one promissory pledge like the Islamabad understanding, to free itself from this quagmire), and asserts that the Iranian delegation has offered America the gift of an Iranian-American meeting «بدون هیچ آورده‌ای» (without extracting anything).
- Kicker: Top right, over a portrait of the Leader: «پاسدار پرچم ایران باشید» (be the guardians of Iran's flag), introduced as a message from «حضرت آیت‌الله سیدمجتبی حسینی خامنه‌ای، رهبر معظم انقلاب اسلامی» for the start of the academic year. The full printed name is the clearest identification of the serving Leader in this batch.
- Sub-item: Page 3 trail, «اعتراض خبرگان به ستادسازی دولت» (the Assembly of Experts objects to the government's setting-up of campaign headquarters), illustrated with senior clerics of the Assembly. It is the softer half of the same Assembly statement that Asr-e Iranian gives its whole cover to.
- Op-ed: «اذعان فرانسه به عجز در برابر اراده سپاه» (France's admission of impotence before the IRGC's will), signed by a staff journalist, building an argument from a remark by France's economy minister, printed on the page as Lescure, who said on Monday in response to criticism over fuel prices that he is «نه دونالد ترامپ... و نه فرمانده سپاه پاسداران ایران» (neither Donald Trump nor a commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards). The paper reads a rhetorical disclaimer as a strategic concession.
- Sub-item: International, page 7: «هواپیمای نتانیاهو از بیمِ ممدانی در نیویورک فرود نمی‌آید» (Netanyahu's plane will not land in New York for fear of Mamdani), sourced to Yedioth Ahronoth reporting that Netanyahu has sharply shortened his American trip and will spend only a few hours in New York. The shortening is in the external record, together with a cancelled meeting with Elon Musk; the reasons the Israeli press gives are planned protests and security, alongside the New York mayor's statements about the International Criminal Court warrant, so the fact is sound and the single-cause framing is the page's.
- Sub-item: Economy, page 5: «حال ناخوش صنعت با تورم ۱۲۵ درصدی» (industry's poor health with 125 percent inflation), citing the central bank's monetary and banking research institute and a 26.1 percent fall in listed industrial companies' output in spring 1405 against the same period a year earlier.

- Sub-item: Page 4, «سپر شرقی در برابر تحریم هوایی» (an eastern shield against the aviation embargo), over a photograph of an Iran Air aircraft.

ANALYST NOTE This cover is the sharpest evidence in the batch that the hardline argument was prepared before the event it argues against. Nobonyad went to press with a whole front page declaring an Iranian-American meeting a trap; within hours Iranian channels were reporting that Araghchi had met the American envoy in New York. The analytically important detail is the precedent it chooses: «تفاهم اسلام‌آباد», the Islamabad understanding, which on 22 September this monitor recorded Sobh-e No presenting as the framework on which Iran's own conditions are built. In two cycles the same arrangement has been both the foundation of Iran's terms and the byword for a worthless American promise, on two principlist surfaces.

Sedaye Iran

Daily carrying the khamenei.ir mark on its masthead, the Leader's office media identity; issue 458

"The enemy's terror of the lovable school benches" «وحشت دشمن از «نیمکت‌های دوست‌داشتنی»»

MODERATE: message-discipline framing; no operational content


صدای ایران

وحشت دشمن از «نیمکت‌های دوست‌داشتنی»

- Main: The lead is billed as «تأملی بر پیام رهبر معظم انقلاب اسلامی به مناسبت آغاز سال تحصیلی جدید» (a reflection on the Leader's message for the start of the new academic year) and is illustrated with a staged photograph of a classroom in which framed portraits of dead schoolchildren sit on the desks, the blackboard behind them and red drapery over the room. It is the most consciously composed image in the batch.
- Banner: Right foot, sourced to the General Staff of the Armed Forces and the Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters: «تهدیدهای آمریکا نشانه استیصال راهبردی است» (America's threats are a sign of strategic desperation), the joint statement responding to Trump's General Assembly remarks. The same statement runs on the Iran newspaper's and Jam-e Jam's channels.
- Sub-item: Centre foot, filed under «قاب» (frame): «یاد فریاد حق در قلب آمریکا» (the memory of the cry of truth in the heart of America), a photograph of the martyred predecessor addressing the United Nations General Assembly during his presidency, dated on the page to 22 Shahrivar 1366 (September 1987). It is printed on the morning the serving president lands in New York.
- Op-ed: Left foot, credited to a Tehran University media-studies slot: «آمریکا جنگ را به نمایش تبدیل کرده است» (America has turned the war into a spectacle), arguing that Washington, unable to convert strikes into strategic result, has shifted the contest to the register of imagery and propaganda.
- Right rail: A martyr portrait box, «شهید جمشید جبری», dated to Shahrivar 1405.

ANALYST NOTE The juxtaposition on this page is the edition's most deliberate editorial act: a 1987 photograph of the assassinated predecessor speaking at the United Nations, placed beneath a reflection on the serving Leader's schools message, on the day the serving president flies to that same podium. The page does not argue against the trip; it supplies a standard the trip will be measured against, sourced to a man who cannot be contradicted. Read alongside Kayhan's instruction to Pezeshkian, it indicates that the pressure on the New York delegation is being applied through precedent and register rather than through direct prohibition.

Iran

Official government daily, published by IRNA

LOW-MODERATE: diplomatic framing with grief as the lead

“Mehr came, but the children did not” «مهر آمد، اما بچه‌ها نیامدند»


ایران

مأموریت تاریخی دانش‌آموزان و دانشجویان فتح قله‌های پیشرفت است

مهر آمد، اما بچه‌ها نیامدند

فرصت‌های دیپلماتیک در نیویورک

- Main: The lead is the school year, not the war. Kicker: «شروع سال تحصیلی سوگ خانواده‌های شهدای مدرسه شجره طیبه را دوباره تازه کرد» (the start of the academic year has reopened the grief of the families of the Shajareh Tayyebeh school martyrs). The government's own daily gives its largest type to the absence of the Minab dead rather than to its president's departure.
- Main: The photograph beneath is Pezeshkian waving from the door of the presidential aircraft, captioned over the image «فرصت‌های دیپلماتیک در نیویورک» (diplomatic opportunities in New York). The channel version of the same package quotes the former ambassador Ali Majedi describing the trip as direct access to actors influential in regional and international affairs.
- Kicker: Top box, the Leader's message: «مأموریت تاریخی دانش‌آموزان و دانشجویان فتح قله‌های پیشرفت است», with the same portrait used across the batch.
- Sub-item: Left column, tied to Sacred Defense Week: «نیروهای مسلح به مناسبت هفته دفاع مقدس بر آمادگی در برابر هرگونه تجاوز تأکید کردند / اقتدار در سایه خوداتکایی دفاعی و فناوری راهبردی» (eqtedar in the shadow of defensive self-reliance and strategic technology).
- Sub-item: Left column, «دفاع و دیپلماسی به اقتضای منافع ملی» (defence and diplomacy as the national interest requires), the government daily's formula for holding both tracks at once.
- Right rail: A commentary slot opening «دیپلماسی تعقیب نیست» (diplomacy is not pursuit), arguing that converting power into political gain is the point of the New York presence.

> **ANALYST NOTE** The government daily is running the same two-track posture its English sister paper ran yesterday, but with the emphasis reversed for the domestic reader: the grief is the lead and the diplomacy is the photograph. Its channel, not its front page, carries the substance, reporting that Araghchi met the American envoy after insistence and restating Iran's three conditions for reopening the Strait of Hormuz. The front page therefore contains the trip and withholds the terms, which is the same selection this monitor recorded on 22 September in the opposite direction, when the terms appeared in English and not in Persian. Watch whether the conditions reach an Iranian Persian front page in the next cycle.

Qods

Conservative, Mashhad-based, published by the Astan Quds Razavi foundation

“Travellers of knowledge along the path of the martyrs” «راه‌نوردان علم در امتداد راه شهیدان»

MODERATE: grief-anchored mobilisation with a pro-engagement rail



- Main: The Leader's message, framed as explaining «مأموریت‌های تاریخی دانش‌آموزان و دانشجویان... در مسیر اعتلای ایران», with three display points: use this refuge of knowledge and vitality for self-improvement; practise right thinking, initiative and currency, and guard the roots of national identity, cultural independence, the mother tongue and the holy flag; teachers deserve everyone's honour.
- Banner: Top, the day's reporting coup: «گزارش خبرنگار قدس از روز بازگشایی مدارس در مدرسه شجره طیبه میناب: ۱۶۸ نفر همیشه حاضر» (Qods's correspondent reports from the reopening of schools at the Shajareh Tayyebeh school in Minab: 168 permanently present). This is a datelined reported piece from the site itself, not a wire item.
- Main: The photograph carries the same argument without text: a schoolgirl in uniform, holding a flower, walking past a full-height memorial banner of «شهید فاطمه درازی» planted beside graves laid out on the schoolyard grass.
- Right rail: «کارشناسان حضور رئیس‌جمهور در نیویورک را فرصت دفاع از حقانیت، حقوق و منافع مردم تبیین کردند / خط بطلان بر سناریو انزوای ایران» (a line drawn through the scenario of Iran's isolation), the most supportive treatment of the New York trip on any conservative cover in the batch.
- Right rail: «ترامپ بحران‌زده میدان جنگ را به رسانه می‌برد» (a crisis-stricken Trump takes the battlefield to the media), framing the General Assembly appearance as an electoral manoeuvre.
- Sub-item: Foot of page, tied to the birth anniversary of Imam Reza: the «مهر رضوی» national campaign, «مهر، امام رضایی شد», connecting Iran's schools to the shrine the paper's owning foundation administers.
- Right rail: A columnist's note on watching Gaza «از پنجره زندگی» (from the window of life), and a cryptocurrency item on bitcoin's indifference to the rial.

ANALYST NOTE Qods is the one title in the batch that sent a reporter to Minab rather than assembling the anniversary from the centre, and the figure it prints, 168, matches the external record, which gives 168 killed including about 120 children and attributes the strike, in Amnesty International's finding, to a precision-guided American weapon. Its rail also breaks with the hardline covers by defending the president's New York presence as a platform rather than a trap. A conservative foundation daily arguing against the isolation scenario, on the same morning Kayhan and Nobonyad argue against the meeting, is the clearest factional split this monitor has recorded inside the conservative press on the negotiation question.

Khorasan

Conservative, Mashhad-based, independent of the shrine foundation

“Break the frontiers of knowledge” «مرزهای دانش را بشکنید»

MODERATE: documentary grief harnessed against negotiation



- Main: The Leader's message given the lead, with the deck reproducing the identity clause: «رهبر انقلاب در پیامی خطاب به دانش‌آموزان و دانشجویان با بیان این‌که باید پاسدار ریشه‌های هویت ملی و زبان مادری و پرچم مقدس باشید، تأکید کردند».
- Main: Over the photograph, the edition's strongest single item: «خانم اجازه؟ ۱۶۸ نفر غایب‌اند...» (Miss, may I? 168 are absent...), with the deck «ماه مهر میناب بدون ماکان، هانی، حامد، خدیجه و ۱۶۴ فرشته دیگر آغاز شد» (Minab's Mehr has begun without Makan, Hani, Hamed, Khadijeh and 164 other angels) and the question «چگونه می‌توانیم جنایت وحشیانه آمریکای صهیونی مدرسه شجره طیبه را فراموش کنیم؟»
- Main: The photograph is captioned «حامد به همراه برادرش هانی، از شهدای مدرسه میناب، روز اول مهر ۱۴۰۴» (Hamed with his brother Hani, among the martyrs of the Minab school, on the first day of Mehr 1404). The paper has printed last year's first-day-of-school photograph of two brothers who were killed at that school, on this year's first day. It is documentary, precisely labelled, and requires no construction.
- Sub-item: Foot of page, «نسخه نیویورکی ساده‌سازان» (the New York prescription of the simplifiers), arguing that some are trying to push Iran into a meeting with Trump, the milder Khorasan register for the argument Nobonyad makes as «تله ملاقات».
- Right rail: «از جنگ نامتقارن تا کشتن طغیان» (page 12); a production item reporting that not producing has become cheaper than producing, «بی‌تولید به‌صرفه‌تر از تولید!» (page 6); and a crime item on the confession of an axe attacker (page 15).
- Op-ed: Note of the day by a named staff writer: «سرکوب دستمزد راه چاره نیست» (suppressing wages is not the remedy).
- Sub-item: Culture foot, marking the anniversary of Mohammad-Reza Shajarian's birth on 1 Mehr, «چند فراز از ماندگاری خسرو آواز», alongside an interview on the ethics of machine intelligence.

ANALYST NOTE Khorasan produces the most effective item in the batch with the least machinery. Where Kayhan builds an atrocity register out of Yemeni casualty photographs and Sedaye Iran stages a classroom of portraits, Khorasan simply reprints a photograph it already had, of two brothers at their desks on the first day of last year, and states what happened to them. The names it prints, Makan, Hani, Hamed and Khadijeh, and the figure 168, are consistent with the external record of the 28 February strike. The wider point for this file is that the grief content in this edition is the least contestable material the Iranian press has produced in weeks, which is precisely why it is the vehicle carrying the argument against a settlement.

Asr-e Iranian

Principlist morning daily (روزنامه صبح ایران)

“Statement of the Assembly of Experts: no understanding can be reached with the enemy. To speak of peace with the enemy is an unforgivable crime” «بیانیه مجلس خبرگان رهبری: با دشمن نمی‌شود به تفاهم رسید / سخن از صلح با دشمن، جرم نابخشودنی»

SEVERE: an institutional statement criminalising public advocacy of a settlement



- Main: The entire cover is given to the Assembly of Experts statement, with «جرم نابخشودنی» (unforgivable crime) set in red beneath «سخن از صلح با دشمن» in black, over a photograph of the Assembly's chamber in session. This is the most explicit criminalisation of de-escalation advocacy this monitor has recorded on any front page in the series.
- Kicker: Above the masthead line, the Leader's message, printed with the full name: «رهبر انقلاب، حضرت آیت‌الله سید مجتبی خامنه‌ای در پیام شروع سال تحصیلی: درست فکر کردن و ابتکار و روزآمد بودن را تمرین کنید».
- Banner: Beneath it, the paper's own gloss on the Leader's second message: «شهادت اهل علم، راهنمای سمت درست نبرد حق و باطل» (the martyrdom of the learned is the guide to the right side in the battle of truth and falsehood).
- Op-ed: Lead editorial, signed: «مذاکره با آمریکا از موضع قدرت؛ زیبا اما خیالی» (negotiating with America from a position of strength: beautiful but imaginary). The target is not the hardline case against talks but the pro-engagement case for them.
- Op-ed: Second signed note: «فاصله از رهبری عامل خطای محاسباتی» (distance from the Leadership is the cause of miscalculation).
- Right rail: A boxed tribute to Grand Ayatollah Shobeiri Zanjani as «شخصیت ممتاز، تراز اول شیعه», carrying the Leader's condolence message.
- Sub-item: A women's-page trail on the reverse engineering of cultural representations of women.

ANALYST NOTE On 22 September this monitor recorded Emadeddin Baghi's front-page proposal in Sazandegi for a conditional reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and set the tracking cue explicitly: a principlist rebuttal would establish the proposal as live, silence would not. The rebuttal arrived in one cycle and it came from the body constitutionally charged with selecting and supervising the Leader. The statement, corroborated on Sobh-e No's channel as rejecting both referendum proposals and «صلح شرافتمندانه» (an honourable peace), does not argue that de-escalation is unwise; it classifies advocating it as a crime. Note the editorial pairing: the same cover's lead column attacks the moderate case for negotiating from strength, which means the paper is closing both the dissident and the establishment routes to a settlement on one page.

Farkhikhtegan

Principlist, owned by Azad University

"A conversation with the young" «گفت‌وگو با جوانان»

HIGH: explicit retaliation demand; adversary threat suppressed rather than answered



- Main: The lead is the Leader's message treated as an address rather than a decree, over a full-column portrait: «پیام رهبر معظم انقلاب حضرت آیت‌الله سیدمجتبی خامنه‌ای به مناسبت بازگشایی دانشگاه‌ها و مدارس منتشر شد», with the deck «دعوت به شکستن مرزهای دانش و پاسداری از هویت ملی» (an invitation to break the frontiers of knowledge and to guard national identity). The paper prints the full name of the serving Leader.
- Banner: Across the page, the day's most compressed treatment of the General Assembly: «خلاصه یک خطی نظر رئیس جمهور آمریکا در سازمان ملل: ترامپ گرفتار جنگ با ایران» (the one-line summary of the American president's remarks at the United Nations: Trump is trapped in the war with Iran). The speech in which Trump told the Assembly he faces a decision whether to make a deal or to annihilate the Islamic Republic is reduced, on this cover, to a diagnosis of American entrapment.
- Main: The yellow strap beneath: «روز اول مهر با داغ میناب و صدها دانش‌آموز و دانشجو، امسال طور دیگری شروع شد / نمی‌بخشیم، انتقام می‌گیریم» (we will not forgive, we will take revenge), set over a photograph of a boy with facial scarring. This is the only cover in the batch that converts the anniversary directly into a demand for retaliation.
- Sub-item: Foot of page: «۲۰ درصد اقدام، ۸۰ درصد عملیات روانی» (20 percent action, 80 percent psychological operations), the paper's characterisation of American conduct.
- Sub-item: «توهم تاریخی پکیج‌فروشان سیاسی» (the historical delusion of the political package-sellers), a domestic attack on those offering negotiated packages.
- Sub-item: «جشنواره‌های مصنوعی اعراب تعطیل شد» (the Arabs' artificial festivals have been shut down).

ANALYST NOTE Farkhikhtegan is the clearest case in the batch of an adversary's threat being neutralised by summary. Trump's General Assembly line is not quoted, paraphrased or rebutted; it is replaced with a one-sentence verdict about his predicament, and the emotional load of the page is moved onto Minab and onto the imperative «نمی‌بخشیم، انتقام می‌گیریم». The analytic consequence is specific rather than general: an Iranian reader of this cover cannot know that an explicit threat of annihilation was made from the United Nations podium, and therefore cannot weigh the terms Iran's foreign minister was conveying in the same city on the same day.

Shargh

Reformist

LOW: domestic accountability lead; no escalatory content

“The lights-off review of the infiltration bill in the Majlis” «بررسی چراغ خاموش «طرح نفوذ» در مجلس»


شرق
بررسی چراغ خاموش «طرح نفوذ» در مجلس
دوازده سال و شش سال با محمدرضا شجریان
گام تلخ تولید

- Main: Shargh is the only title in the batch whose lead is domestic politics rather than the Leader's message. The kicker frames it as «روایت «شرق» از مسیر پرابهام طرح نفوذ و تلاش برای فعال‌سازی آن در برابر موج هشدارها» (Shargh's account of the opaque path of the infiltration bill and the effort to activate it against a wave of warnings).
- Kicker: The Leader's two messages are carried, but as a top strip rather than the lead: the schools message glossed «مرزهای دانش را بشکنید و قله‌های پیشرفت را فتح کنید», and the condolence message on Grand Ayatollah Shobeiri Zanjani.
- Main: The page's dominant photograph is Mohammad-Reza Shajarian, marking the anniversary of his birth on 1 Mehr, trailed as a journalist's interview: «دوازده سال و شش سال با محمدرضا شجریان». Giving the largest picture on a reformist front page to a singer the state broadcaster banned, on a day the state broadcaster is on the Assembly of Experts' commendation list, is an editorial position stated without a sentence of argument.
- Right rail: «کام تلخ تولید» (the bitter taste of production), a statistical report on the contraction of output.
- Left rail: «زمان انتخاب‌های سخت در نیویورک» (a time of hard choices in New York), the reformist framing of the General Assembly as a decision point rather than a trap or a platform.
- Left rail: «تهران در حلقه خفگی برج‌ها» (Tehran in the choking ring of towers) and «آموزش در شرایط اضطرار» (education in emergency conditions).
- Sub-item: Foot of page, «از شکنندگی تا بحران: اقتصاد ایران در سایه جنگ» (from fragility to crisis: Iran's economy in the shadow of the war), and a top-strip trail on reducing the Persian Gulf's dependence on the Strait of Hormuz.
- Op-ed: Signed lead column: «روغن توهم و تهدید در سکوت دولت» (the oil of illusion and threat in the government's silence).

ANALYST NOTE Shargh's divergence is structural rather than rhetorical. On a morning when a single centrally distributed text occupies the lead of nine other covers, it leads on a surveillance and infiltration bill moving quietly through the Majlis, and it is the only surface in the batch that treats New York as a set of hard choices rather than as a trap, a platform or an entrapment. Its rail also carries the one economic framing that points away from the leverage argument: reducing the Gulf's dependence on Hormuz. The reformist press is not contesting the war narrative on this cover; it is declining to join it, and directing attention at what is being legislated while attention is elsewhere.

Jam-e Jam

State broadcaster daily, published by IRIB

“Knowledge, piety, ethics: the power-making triad” «دانش، تقوا، اخلاق؛ سه‌گانه قدرت‌ساز»

MODERATE: institutional message discipline; adversary speech handled as deceit



- Main: The Leader's schools message given the lead, with the deck restating the historic-mission formula, over a composite of the Leader's portrait and a schoolyard flag ceremony.
- Banner: Above the masthead, the self-interested half of the Assembly of Experts statement: «مجلس خبرگان رهبری با صدور بیانیه‌ای ضمن قدردانی از اقدامات صداوسیما در رویارویی با امپراتوری رسانه‌ای دشمن: تهاجم گسترده و هماهنگ به رسانه ملی، برآمده از اغراض سیاسی است» (the Assembly, commending IRIB's conduct against the enemy's media empire, holds that the broad and coordinated assault on the national broadcaster arises from political motives). The same statement that Asr-e Iranian reads as forbidding talk of peace, Jam-e Jam reads as a commendation of itself.
- Sub-item: Left box, the Leader's second message, on Grand Ayatollah Shobeiri Zanjani: «عالم محقق و ژرف‌اندیش» (a researching and deep-thinking scholar).
- Main: An exclusive signed note for the paper by the chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces, «دفاع مقدس؛ مکتب ایستادگی و زیربنای بازدارندگی» (Sacred Defense: a school of steadfastness and the foundation of deterrence), over a portrait in uniform. The post has been held since August 2026 by Ali Abdollahi, appointed by the serving Leader; the printed name is not legible at the available scan resolution and is not asserted here from the page.
- Main: «منتقدان تلویزیون در تله خطای آماری» (television's critics caught in a statistical error trap), citing new figures of 168.5 million views for three recent serials online against what it calls one-sided reports aimed at the national broadcaster.
- Sub-item: «دروغ‌های شاخدار قمارباز در سازمان ملل» (the gambler's outlandish lies at the United Nations), the paper's treatment of Trump's General Assembly address.
- Sub-item: A strip of six commentator portraits with short billed pieces, one of them on the opportunities of the Iranian delegation's presence at the United Nations; the individual bylines are not legible at the available resolution.
- Sub-item: «از حرم امام رضا(ع) تا آسمان شهادت», the life and last days of a sports broadcaster reported killed in the air defence of Tabriz, and «برق طلا در کاروان فرشته‌های میناب», a gold medal dedicated to the Minab dead.

ANALYST NOTE Jam-e Jam is where the Assembly of Experts statement shows its second face. Asr-e Iranian prints the clause that criminalises advocacy of peace; the broadcaster's own daily prints the clause that commends the broadcaster and files the criticism of it as politically motivated. Neither cover prints the other's half. For an analyst this is useful in a way that goes beyond today: it establishes that a single institutional text is being distributed and then partitioned by outlet interest, which is the same mechanism observed on the Rubio

statement, and it means the presence of an item on one Iranian surface should not be read as the whole of what the issuing body said.

Etemad

Reformist; read via its channel, no front-page scan in today's batch

LOW: attributed diplomatic reporting

“Baghaei: the engagement with the American side went through a Qatari mediator and Iran's conditions were conveyed” «بقائی: تعامل با طرف آمریکایی از طریق میانجی قطری بود و شروط ایران ابلاغ شد»

- Main: Post 535187 carries the Foreign Ministry spokesman stating that contact with the American side took place through Qatari mediation and that its purpose was to convey Iran's conditions, given as an end to the regional wars and the lifting of sanctions. The same attribution, to the ministry spokesman rather than to the foreign minister, appears on Nour News.
- Sub-item: Post 535189 reports more than 16.5 million pupils formally beginning the 1405-1406 academic year.
- Sub-item: Post 535191 carries the foreign minister's meeting with the French foreign minister and his charge that France cannot claim to care about human rights while remaining silent on American and Israeli conduct toward Iranians.
- Sub-item: Post 535195 reports the Chinese president's first official visit to the United States in eleven years amid the trade dispute, the same event Iran Daily gives its exclusive analysis slot to.
- Sub-item: Post 535199 has the spokesman clarifying that the presidential aircraft's stop in Algeria was routine refuelling and maintenance, correcting earlier reports of a technical fault.
- Sub-item: Post 535178 carries the day's front-page album.

ANALYST NOTE The reformist channel does the attribution work the front pages do not. It names the speaker (the Foreign Ministry spokesman, Baghaei), names the mediator (Qatar) and states that conditions were conveyed, which is the minimum an Iranian reader needs to know that a negotiating exchange occurred. It also quietly corrects a story about the presidential aircraft, which matters less for its content than for what it shows about the circulation of unverified detail around the trip. None of this is on any of the ten Persian covers in the batch.

Sobh-e No (channel only)

Principlist; read via its Telegram channel, no front-page scan in today's batch

HIGH: institutional prohibition of settlement advocacy alongside continued contact

“Assembly of Experts statement: proposals for a referendum and for an honourable peace are wartime division-making” «بیانیه مجلس خبرگان: طرح همه‌پرسی و «صلح شرافتمندانه» تفرقه‌افکنی در زمان جنگ است»

- Main: Post 116157 gives the Assembly of Experts statement in the terms Asr-e Iranian puts on its cover: divisive speech in wartime is a crime, unity around the Leader's guidance is required, and proposals for a referendum or for a «صلح شرافتمندانه» (honourable peace) are destabilising. This is the third Iranian surface carrying the statement and the one that names what is being rejected.
- Main: Post 116159 carries Trump saying he thinks an agreement with Iran will be reached and that the Iranians spoke to the American side that day, printed without rebuttal on a principlist channel.
- Sub-item: Posts 116146 to 116154 carry the Majlis speaker's remarks: Iran neither waits passively, nor surrenders, nor closes itself off, and diplomacy is a combat instrument rather than capitulation, «قدرت میدان را به دستاورد سیاسی تبدیل می‌کند» (it converts battlefield power into political gain).
- Sub-item: Post 116155 reports the Cuban delegation walking out of the General Assembly during Trump's speech.
- Sub-item: Post 116158 reports Tehran-Baghdad and Tehran-Muscat flights suspended from midnight, with Baghdad traffic redirected to Najaf and other international routes continuing.

> **ANALYST NOTE** Sobh-e No supplies the sentence that turns yesterday's tracking cue into a finding: the Assembly of Experts is not answering an abstraction but two named proposals, a referendum and an honourable peace. On 22 September this monitor recorded Emadeddin Baghi's front-page argument for a conditional reopening of the Strait as the first concrete and unownable de-escalation proposal in the series. It has been answered within a cycle, by name, from the apex of the clerical establishment. The same channel simultaneously prints Trump predicting a deal and the Majlis speaker defining diplomacy as a weapon, which is the principlist attempt to hold negotiation and prohibition in one frame.

Vatan-e Emrooz (channel only)

Hardline; read via its Telegram channel, no front-page scan in today's batch

“Rubio: no meeting with Iranian officials is planned” «روبیو: دیداری با مقامات ایرانی برنامه‌ریزی نشده است»

MODERATE: selective framing; belligerent casualty claims carried unqualified

- Main: Post 26004 carries the American Secretary of State stating that no meeting with Iranian officials is scheduled, while allowing that conditions could change. This is the complement of the half Iran Daily put on its front page, and the two together reproduce the wire statement in full: the United States is open to meeting Iran at the United Nations, and nothing is scheduled at this point.
- Sub-item: Post 26008 reports a CNN finding that 64 percent of Americans believe the United States has failed in its military contest with Iran. The figure is carried here as a second-hand rendering of an American poll and is not independently confirmed on any surface available at compile time.
- Sub-item: Post 26009 carries the Yemeni armed forces spokesman putting the cumulative number of Saudi attacks at 936, with civilian casualties. This is an attributed belligerent claim, not a verified count; the external record for the period documents Saudi strikes in Taiz reported by the Houthi-run health ministry, which the wire agencies state they could not independently verify.
- Sub-item: Post 26005 carries a deputy military commander of the Iraqi Nujaba movement rejecting pressure to disarm.
- Sub-item: Posts 26013 to 26023 carry exercises, technology items and the paper's own front page for 1 Mehr 1405.

> **ANALYST NOTE** Vatan-e Emrooz is useful today not for what it asserts but for what its selection demonstrates. Printing the negative half of the Rubio statement, on the same morning the government's English daily prints the positive half, shows two Iranian state-aligned surfaces splitting one accurate sentence into two opposed stories without either of them departing from the source. No fabrication is required for the two Iranian audiences to receive incompatible impressions of the same American position.

Appendix A: The Leader's message for the start of the academic year

Reconstructed from the front pages of Kayhan (year 85, issue 24242), Iran, Qods, Khorasan, Farhikhtegan, Jam-e Jam, Nobonyad, Sedaye Iran (issue 458) and Asr-e Iranian, all dated Wednesday 1 Mehr 1405 / 11 Rabi' al-Thani 1448 / 23 September 2026. The Leader's office publication site could not be reached at the time of compilation, so the text below is a composite of the passages the papers display rather than a verified full translation.

PARTIAL TRANSLATION. The message was issued in the name of «حضرت آیت‌الله سید مجتبی حسینی خامنه‌ای، رهبر معظم انقلاب اسلامی», printed in that full form by Nobonyad, Asr-e Iranian and Farhikhtegan, and in the shortened form «رهبر معظم انقلاب» by the remaining titles. It is addressed to schoolchildren and university students on the reopening of schools and universities.

Display line, printed by Kayhan and Iran in near-identical type: «فتح قلّه‌های پیشرفت، مأموریت تاریخی دانش‌آموزان و دانشجویان» (conquering the peaks of progress is the historic mission of schoolchildren and students).

«پاسدار ریشه‌های هویت ملی، زبان مادری، پرچم مقدس... باشید» (be guardians of the roots of national identity, of the mother tongue, of the holy flag). Qods prints the fuller form, adding «عزت و استقلال فرهنگی» (dignity and cultural independence). Khorasan reproduces the same clause in its deck, and Nobonyad renders it as its display headline, «پاسدار پرچم ایران باشید».

«مسئولان برای بهبود معیشت معلمان...» (officials must act to improve the livelihood of teachers). Qods adds the associated sentence: «معلمان، این قشر عزیز و محبوب، شایستهٔ آن هستند که مورد تکریم همگان باشند» (teachers, this dear and beloved class, deserve to be honoured by all).

«قدرت برآمده از دانش همراه با تقوا...» (power arising from knowledge accompanied by piety). Jam-e Jam glosses the triad as «دانش، تقوا، اخلاق؛ سه‌گانه قدرت‌ساز» (knowledge, piety, ethics: the power-making triad).

«درست فکر کردن و ابتکار و روزآمد بودن را تمرین کنید» (practise right thinking, initiative and being current), printed by Asr-e Iranian above its masthead and by Qods among its display points. Khorasan and Shargh both render the associated exhortation as «مرزهای دانش را بشکنید» (break the frontiers of knowledge).

«طلیعهٔ سال نو تحصیلی نویدبخش حرکت پرشتاب ملت...» (the dawn of the new academic year heralds the nation's accelerated movement).

ANALYST FLAG: this is the first message from the serving Leader to reach the Iranian front pages in the period this monitor has been recording, and it arrives with a second message on the same morning (Appendix B). The register is pedagogic and civilian throughout: there is no war content in any passage any paper displays, no reference to the United States, Israel or the negotiations, and no martial imperative. Because the office's own site was not reachable at compile time, the wording above should be treated as the papers' display text rather than as a certified original, and any single clause should be checked against the office's published version before it is quoted as authoritative.

Appendix B: The Leader's condolence message on the death of Grand Ayatollah Shobeiri Zanjani

Kayhan (boxed, left of page one, with paired portraits), Jam-e Jam (left box), Shargh (top strip), Asr-e Iranian (right rail), all of 1 Mehr 1405. Composite of the displayed passages; the full text was not retrievable at compile time.

PARTIAL TRANSLATION. Kayhan's display line: «فقدان آیت‌الله‌العظمی شبیری زنجانی خللی در ردیف محققین تراز اول شیعه ایجاد کرد» (the loss of Grand Ayatollah Shobeiri Zanjani has created a gap in the ranks of the first-rank researchers of the Shia).

Jam-e Jam's display line from the same message: «عالم محقق و ژرف‌اندیش» (a researching and deeply thoughtful scholar).

Asr-e Iranian glosses the message in its own words rather than quoting it: «شهادت اهل علم، راهنمای سمت درست نبرد حق و باطل» (the testimony of the people of learning is the guide to the right side in the battle of truth and falsehood), and files the deceased under «شخصیت ممتاز، تراز اول شیعه».

ANALYST FLAG: Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Mousa Shobeiri Zanjani died on 21 September 2026. On 22 September this monitor recorded five of nine Persian covers carrying his death as obituary, with no page addressing what it means for religious authority, and filed the silence as bounded by the same sensitivity as the Leader's own. The condolence message partially reverses that reading: the serving Leader has now spoken, and what he says of the deceased is scholarly rather than jurisprudential, praising him as a researcher rather than as a source of emulation. That distinction is worth tracking, because it is the vocabulary a Leader without established marja' standing can use about a marja' without conceding anything.

Appendix C: The Assembly of Experts statement, as printed across three surfaces

Asr-e Iranian front page, Sobh-e No channel post 116157, Jam-e Jam front-page banner, Nobonyad page-three trail, all of 1 Mehr 1405. No text of the statement was available outside the Iranian press at compile time.

PARTIAL TRANSLATION, ASSEMBLED FROM PARTITIONED RENDERINGS. Asr-e Iranian, whole front page: «بیانیه مجلس خبرگان رهبری: با دشمن نمی‌شود به تفاهم رسید» (statement of the Assembly of Experts for the Leadership: no understanding can be reached with the enemy), over «سخن از صلح با دشمن، جرم نابخشودنی» (to speak of peace with the enemy is an unforgivable crime).

Sobh-e No, post 116157, supplies what is being forbidden: divisive speech in time of war is a crime; unity around the Leader's guidance is required; and proposals for a referendum or for a «صلح شرافتمندانه» (honourable peace) are destabilising.

Jam-e Jam, banner above the masthead, prints a different clause of the same statement: «مجلس خبرگان رهبری... ضمن قدردانی از اقدامات صداوسیما در رویارویی با امپراتوری رسانه‌ای دشمن: تهاجم گسترده و هماهنگ به رسانه ملی، برآمده از اغراض سیاسی است» (the Assembly, commending the national broadcaster's conduct against the enemy's media empire, holds that the broad and coordinated assault on the national broadcaster arises from political motives).

Nobonyad, page-three trail, prints a fourth clause: «اعتراض خبرگان به ستادسازی دولت» (the Assembly objects to the government's setting-up of campaign headquarters).

ANALYST FLAG AND VERIFICATION NOTE: four Iranian surfaces carry four different clauses of one statement and no surface carries another's. The statement is well corroborated inside Iran and was not available outside it at compile time, so it is reported here as an Iranian-press item, correlated across four outlets, not as an independently verified text. Not to be quoted as the Assembly's full position without the original. The analytic weight lies in the correlation rather than in any one clause: the body constitutionally charged with selecting and supervising the Leader has answered, within one cycle, the concrete de-escalation proposal this monitor recorded on a reformist front page on 22 September, and it has answered it by naming the proposals it rules out.

Appendix D: Methodology and sourcing notes

iran-press-digest v2 pipeline, compiled 23 September 2026

COVERAGE. Eleven front-page scans were gathered: ten Persian covers from the NewspaperTasnim album for چهارشنبه ۱ مهر ماه ۱۴۰۵ (t.me/NewspaperTasnim/44722, posted 03:26 UTC on 23 September) and one English cover from the Newspapers_Iran album for ۱۴۰۵/۷/۱ (t.me/newspapers_iran/3567). The freshness guard passed: the album's own printed Jalali date matched the target date, so no fallback discovery was needed. Nine outlet and agency channels were read in addition: Kayhan, Vatan-e Emrooz, Jam-e Jam, Etemad, Iran, Sobh-e No, Defa Press, Fars News and Nour News. Tehran Times was not available at the time of compilation and contributed nothing to this edition.

PAPERS IDENTIFIED. Kayhan, Nobonyad, Sedaye Iran, Iran, Qods, Khorasan, Asr-e Iranian, Farhikhtegan, Shargh, Jam-e Jam, and Iran Daily in English. Each masthead was read from the scan rather than inferred from album order. Sedaye Iran is identified from its printed nameplate and the KHAMENEI.IR mark beside it, with issue number 458; corroborating material about this title outside the Iranian press is thin and its institutional standing is stated here only as what the masthead shows.

SCAN RESOLUTION. The scans are served at roughly 800 pixels on the long edge. Display headlines, decks and photograph captions are legible under magnification; body text, small bylines and rail-item bylines frequently are not. Where a name could not be read with confidence it has been left unasserted and said to be illegible rather than guessed: this applies to the Iran Daily analysis byline, the Jam-e Jam commentator strip, and the name printed under the General Staff note in Jam-e Jam.

CALENDAR CORRECTION CARRIED FORWARD. The printed Hijri date on today's mastheads is 11 Rabi' al-Thani 1448, which is consistent across Kayhan, Iran, Qods and Iran Daily and with the month beginning on 13 September. The edition of 22 September 2026 published by this monitor gave the Hijri date as 30 Rabi' al-Thani 1448; that was wrong, and the correct date for that day was 10 Rabi' al-Thani 1448. Subsequent editions follow the printed mastheads.

WAR-DAY COUNTER. This product counts by the calendar from a fixed epoch, giving Day 204 for 23 September 2026. Kayhan prints its own counter, «گزارش روز دویست و هفتم جنگ», day 207, three ahead, which is consistent with the drift this monitor recorded on 21 September (its day 205 against our 202) and implies Kayhan counts from 1 March 2026. The divergence is reported as an observed feature of that outlet, not adopted.

ATTRIBUTION FIREWALL. Iranian military and casualty claims in this edition are labelled as claims throughout. This applies specifically to the IRGC spokesman's assertion of a successful test of a new weapon against an American aircraft carrier, which external reporting carries in the same terms and with the same refusal of detail, and for which there is no independent evidence of a carrier being struck; to the figure of 936 Saudi attacks attributed to the Yemeni armed forces spokesman on Vatan-e Emrooz's channel; and to Kayhan's characterisation of Saudi conduct in Yemen, where the external record for the period documents strikes reported by the Houthi-run health ministry that wire agencies state they could not independently verify. Second-hand renderings of foreign material, including the CNN polling figure on Vatan-e Emrooz's channel, remain flagged; quoting an Iranian rendering does not verify the original.

EXTERNAL VERIFICATION PERFORMED. The following were checked against non-Iranian reporting and are treated as established: Trump's General Assembly address of 22 September, in which he said he faces a decision whether to make a deal or to annihilate the Islamic Republic and predicted an agreement after the 3 November midterm elections; the meeting of Iran's foreign minister with the US special envoy and the

president's son-in-law on the Assembly's sidelines, attended for most of its length by Qatar's prime minister and foreign minister, at which Iran's conditions for reopening the Strait of Hormuz were conveyed; the US envoy's description of those talks as constructive and promising; the US Secretary of State's statement that Washington is open to meeting Iran at the United Nations with nothing scheduled at this point; Trump's meeting with Gulf Cooperation Council leaders and Jordan on the war; the Minab school strike of 28 February 2026 with 168 killed including about 120 children, attributed by Amnesty International to a precision-guided American weapon; the shortening of the Israeli prime minister's New York trip; and the Chinese president's state visit to Washington. Statements reported only inside the Iranian press, above all the Assembly of Experts statement, are marked as such.

SINGLE-SOURCE AND NEGATIVE FINDINGS. The Araghchi-Witkoff meeting appears on four Iranian channels and on no front page in the batch; the front pages went to press before Tehran morning and the omission is consistent with deadline as well as with selection, so no editorial intent is asserted from it today and the next cycle is the test. Trump's annihilation language appears on no Iranian surface in the batch in any form. No Lebanese item appears on any front page; Lebanon is present in this edition only as the third clause of Iran's negotiating condition. The succession evidence remains as previously recorded: the serving Leader is named in print as Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei by three titles today, which is the strongest direct documentary support for the succession this monitor has carried, and it rests on the printed pages rather than on inference.

HANDLING. This product documents and analyses hostile foreign-press rhetoric for defensive assessment only. Nothing in it endorses, amplifies or operationalises that rhetoric. Unverified attributed quotations are not to be reproduced as authentic without primary-source confirmation.

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.