OPEN-SOURCE PRESS INTELLIGENCE

Iranian Press Monitor

Daily Front-Page Intelligence

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THE SEVENTH DAY EDITION

Nine Persian front pages and one English front page of 4 Mehr 1405, read alongside six outlet channels and three agency wires; Kayhan is reconstructed from its own channel, and Tehran Times was not available at the time of compilation.

Front pages published the morning of 26 September 2026, reflecting events through late 25 September local. No Iranian dailies were published on Friday 25 September, so this batch carries two days of accumulated material.

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



Executive Summary

The lead judgment of this edition is that Iran has converted its position from a list of conditions into a timetable, and that the timetable has a price clause its own security establishment will not pay. On 24 September this monitor recorded that Iran's published conditions had grown from three to five with a named spokesman and a named mediator, that a hardline cover asserted the total was seven, and that the only clause describing an arrangement rather than a cessation was bilateral maritime safety, which made it the clause on which any agreement would have to be written. That clause is now a date. Iran Daily leads the batch with "Iran offers US new seven-day proposal to end war"; the foreign minister set out the sequence in New York on 25 September, and the Strait of Hormuz reopens on the seventh day, after hostilities end on all fronts including Lebanon, after frozen assets are released, after oil sanctions are waived and after the naval blockade is lifted. Sazandegi prints «توافق تا قبل از انتخابات», an agreement before the elections, over the president's Fox News statement that Iran is ready to reach a deal before the American midterms.

The contradiction arrived on the same morning and on a front page. Charsoogh, an economic daily in a principlist register, prints «سرلشکر رضایی: مذاکره بس است», Major General Rezaei: enough of negotiation. The Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council wrote that Iran's new diplomacy will not return to the past, that Iran will compel America to respect the rights of the Iranian nation and act on the stated conditions, and that otherwise the Strait of Hormuz will not be opened. Both men speak for the same state and both statements are authentic. They differ on sequencing, which in a coercive bargain is the whole of the matter: the foreign minister offers the Strait as the closing concession of an agreed programme, and the security council withholds it until Washington moves first. The offer and the refusal of its central term were published within hours of each other, and no Iranian front page sets them side by side.

A second chokepoint opened this cycle, and the Iranian press has already given it the grammar of the first. On 23 September the American treasury secretary threatened secondary sanctions against any airport servicing Iranian carriers, and Iraq closed Baghdad, Najaf, Erbil and Sulaimaniyah to Iranian airlines. Javan, the IRGC-affiliated daily, answers with a banner reading «پرواز در منطقه یا برای همه یا هیچ‌کس!», flight in the region is either for everyone or for no one, which is the standing Hormuz formula transposed from sea to air. Kayhan's lead states that «محاصره دریایی و هوایی با قدرت شکسته می‌شود», the naval and air blockade will be broken by force, and names American installations in the region as the answer. Kata'ib Sayyid al-Shuhada, carried on three separate Iranian surfaces, warns of strikes on Iraqi airports if Iranian flights are not resumed. Sobh-e No supplies the domestic cost on its own channel: the Civil Aviation Organisation has halted ticket sales for Iraq and ordered refunds.

The negotiation thread this file has tracked since 23 September reached its maximum published extent and met its first published resistance in the same cycle. Three covers now carry the settlement position in plain language, including the president's readiness to deal before the American midterms and his return to the Islamabad framework, offered in a CBS interview and carried on the Iran newspaper channel. Two reformist-register titles felt obliged to explain the venue to their readers: Sazandegi glosses Fox News as «مورد حمایت ترامپ», supported by Trump, and Ta'adol as «تندروترین شبکه آمریکایی», the most hardline American network. That two independent newsrooms judged an explanation necessary is a measure of how far the act travelled ahead of the audience prepared for it.

Against that, Kayhan rejects the premise of the day outright, and the rejection is aimed inward as much as outward. Its lead calls negotiation «عملیات فریب», a deception operation. Its «یادداشت روز», written by Hossein Shariatmadari, attacks the president's executive deputy and a former foreign minister by name for attending the Saudi National Day reception in Tehran, calls the episode ugly and foul, tells the Yemenis that

the participants «از ما نیستند», are not of us, and disputes that the step was cleared with the leadership of the system. A flagship supervised by the Leader's office publicly denying that a diplomatic act carries the Leader's sanction, while the foreign minister meets the Saudi foreign minister in New York, is a factional rupture with an institutional address.

Net assessment: this is the most consequential edition of the war this file has compiled, and it is consequential for what the covers could not yet contain. Nine of the eleven titles read here are written around an offer, and the answer to that offer, reported by the Wall Street Journal and carried overnight on three Iranian channels, is that the American president has rejected it and expects bombing to resume after the November midterms. Not one front page carries it. On the evidence of 23 to 24 September, when an identical eleven-cover silence resolved into three covers the following morning, the most probable explanation is again the deadline and not concealment; the next cycle is the test, and this file will report it either way. What is already established without waiting is narrower and harder: Iran has put its single instrument of coercion on a published clock, its own security council has refused to honour that clock, and the office that would ordinarily settle the disagreement has not appeared on any Iranian surface for three consecutive cycles.

BOTTOM LINE Iran published a dated, sequenced settlement offer that ends with surrendering the Strait of Hormuz, and did so on the morning its own security council publicly refused to surrender it and the American president was reported to have already rejected the plan.

CRITICAL SOURCING NOTE Front-page scans for 4 Mehr 1405 were taken from the NewspaperTasnim and Newspapers_Iran kiosk albums, posts 44769 and 3569, whose captions print the target date; the stale-batch guard passed on the first attempt and no fallback sources were needed. Mastheads were identified from the pages themselves. Six newspaper channels and three agency wires were read for text, with agency material treated as claims. Kayhan has no scan in the album and is reconstructed from posts 84999 to 85017 on its own channel. Tehran Times was not available at the time of compilation, and khamenei.ir could not be reached, which is why Appendix A records the Leader's absence as an absence on the Iranian press surface rather than a global one. The seven-day proposal and its sequence, the reported American rejection, the Iraqi airport closures and the American secondary-sanctions threat behind them, Friday's motorcyclist rally, the New York arrests, the Saudi National Day episode and Mohsen Rezaei's statement in the original were each confirmed against sources outside the Iranian press. The Yemeni strike claim on Kayhan's cover and the Fars News channel could not be independently confirmed and is labelled a claim. Iranian battle-damage and casualty claims throughout are attributed and not adopted.

Macro Trend Analysis

1 The coercive instrument acquired a published expiry date

Iran's position stopped being a list and became a schedule. The foreign minister's seven-day plan sequences an end to hostilities on all fronts including Lebanon, the release of frozen assets, waivers on oil sanctions and the lifting of the naval blockade, with the Strait of Hormuz reopening on day seven and the clock starting only when Washington accepts. Iran Daily makes it the lead of the batch; Sazandegi pairs it with the president's readiness to deal before the American midterms. The analytic point is not the generosity of the offer but its structure: every American obligation falls before day seven and Iran's single concession falls on it, which is the sequencing a party adopts when it does not expect to have to perform.

2 Two offices of one state gave opposite answers about the Strait in one cycle

Charsoogh prints «سرلشکر رضایی: مذاکره بس است», and the statement behind the headline is that Iran will compel America to act on the stated conditions and that otherwise the Strait will not be opened. This is the same man whose account of the conditions Vatan-e Emrooz printed above its masthead on 24 September, and the same office. Read against the seven-day plan, the disagreement is not about whether to negotiate but about who moves first on the only asset Iran holds. The pairing is not new in form: external reporting recorded the identical juxtaposition in August, the American president claiming the Strait on Truth Social and Rezaei answering that it stays shut until Washington changes. What is new is that the foreign ministry has now put a reopening date in writing while the security council has not moved at all.

3 The blockade doctrine extended from the sea to the air within seventy-two hours

The American treasury secretary's secondary-sanctions threat of 23 September closed Baghdad, Najaf, Erbil and Sulaimaniyah to Iranian carriers. The Iranian press did not file this as a sanctions story. Javan published «پرواز در منطقه یا برای همه یا هیچ‌کس!», the Hormuz formula in a new medium; Kayhan published that the naval and air blockade will be broken by force and named American regional installations as the target set; Sobh-e No commissioned an interview on Iran's instruments against the air embargo; Kata'ib Sayyid al-Shuhada threatened Iraqi airports. A second chokepoint has been absorbed into the existing doctrine faster than the first one was, and unlike the Strait it is a chokepoint Iran does not control, which is why the threatened response is directed at third countries.

4 A checkable distortion completed the journey from channel to front page in one cycle

On 24 September this file recorded the Kayhan and Sobh-e No channels reporting that eight crew of the carrier Abraham Lincoln had killed themselves, when the source document, a letter from the acting Secretary of the Navy to Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, reported eight attempted suicides and no deaths. Today Hamshahri leads its lower fold with «آبراهام لینکلن؛ ناو خودکشی‌ها» and attributes eight suicides to CNN. The direction is the surprise. The hardline Vatan-e Emrooz printed «اقدام به خودکشی», attempted suicide, and named the acting head of the US Navy; the centrist municipal daily printed the altered claim and misattributed its source. The distortion is propagating through aggregation rather than through hardline intent, which makes it harder to correct and more likely to recur.

5 The Saudi opening is being fought over inside the system, by name

Iran's foreign minister met the Saudi foreign minister in New York, with maritime safety corridors reported on the agenda. On Friday the IRGC-affiliated Fars News rebuked the president's executive deputy for cutting a cake at the Saudi National Day reception in Tehran. On Saturday Shariatmadari escalated it to Kayhan's editorial slot, named the deputy and a former foreign minister, called the episode ugly and foul, and disputed that it had been coordinated with the leadership. Sobh-e No ran a Yemeni interviewee arguing that Saudi Arabia has been left alone, and Kayhan cited Foreign Policy that the Saudi gamble on Trumpism has failed. A rapprochement track and a campaign against it are running simultaneously, and the campaign is being waged by outlets attached to the Leader's office and the IRGC against officials of the executive.

6 Israel's isolation remained the one construction that needed no manufacture

Hamshahri devotes almost its whole cover to a photographic grid of the Assembly and prints «جهان رو به ایران، پشت به اسرائیل». Jomhouri Eslami leads on the Assembly as a scene of revulsion and prints two checkable figures, 77 delegations leaving the hall and a hundred arrested in New York; both match the external record. Sobh-e No leads «منفور جهان», loathed by the world, and reports the arrest of Susan Sarandon. The Iranian framing is accurate on the facts and silent on one of them: the demonstration that produced the arrests was organised by Jewish Voice for Peace, which does not fit the construction and is therefore not mentioned.

7 Mobilisation delivered what it promised, and one establishment daily punctuated its doubt

On 24 September this file recorded the Fars News announcement of a 40,000-motorcyclist Janfada exercise for Friday between Imam Hossein Square and Azadi Square, and judged that a volunteer formation acquiring a training pipeline and a mass public event inside 24 hours was producing visible manpower at low cost. It happened, on Friday, with the IRGC's Greater Tehran commander presenting it during Sacred Defense Week, and Javan and Jomhouri Eslami both carry it. Jomhouri Eslami carries it as «رزمایش ۴۰ هزار نفری موتورسواران جانفدا! در تهران», with the exclamation mark set inside the headline. On a title of that age and register, that is an editorial verdict on the number.

8 Lebanon exists on one photograph and in one clause

For the fifth time in six cycles Lebanon reaches no Persian front page as a story. It appears twice in this batch: as one of four bilateral photographs on Iran Daily's cover, the president with the Lebanese prime minister, and as the first clause of the seven-day plan, which ends hostilities on all fronts including Lebanon. The Sobh-e No channel carries video of an alleged Hezbollah ambush in the south. The theatre-to-clause conversion this file first recorded on 21 September now holds across six cycles, and the clause has become load-bearing: Lebanon is no longer a place the Iranian press prepares its readers for, it is a line item in a document Iran is asking Washington to sign.

9 The answer to the offer existed overnight on three channels and on no cover

The Wall Street Journal reported that the American president has rejected the seven-day proposal and told aides he expects bombing to resume after the November midterms. The report is carried on the Vatan-e Emrooz channel at post 26368, the Etemad channel at post 535746 and the Jam-e Jam channel at post 29009: a hardline title, a reformist title and the state broadcaster's daily. No front page in the batch carries it. The 23 to 24 September precedent, when an identical silence resolved the following morning and the hardline press surfaced the news first, argues for deadline rather than policy, and this file records the prediction rather than the conclusion. The Etemad channel also carries the American president posting a map renaming the Strait the Trump Strait, which reached no cover either.

Key Judgments

KJ-1 [HIGH] KJ-1: Iran has put the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz in writing as a dated concession, which converts its principal instrument of coercion into a negotiable term for the first time in the war. The foreign minister set out the sequence in New York on 25 September: hostilities end on all fronts including Lebanon, frozen assets are released, oil sanctions are waived, the naval blockade is lifted, nuclear talks begin, and the Strait reopens on the seventh day, the clock starting only on American acceptance. Iran Daily leads the batch with it; Sazandegi pairs it with the president's Fox News statement that Iran is ready to deal before the American midterms; the Iran newspaper channel carries him saying at post 507968 that Tehran will honour its commitments if Washington accepts. On 24 September this file judged that bilateral maritime safety, the only condition describing an arrangement rather than a cessation, was the clause on which any agreement would have to be written. It has been written. The significance is that Iran has now specified what it would give and when, which is the information an adversary needs to price the offer and the information a party withholds while it still expects to escalate.

KJ-2 [HIGH] KJ-2: Two offices of the Iranian state published incompatible positions on the Strait within the same cycle, and the incompatibility is about sequencing rather than about whether to settle. Charsoogh prints «سرلشکر رضایی: مذاکره بس است», and the statement behind it, made by the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, is that Iran's new diplomacy will not return to the past, that Iran will

compel America to respect the rights of the Iranian nation and act on the stated conditions, and that otherwise the Strait will not be opened. The foreign minister's plan surrenders the Strait on day seven of a programme Washington accepts in advance; the security council withholds it until Washington performs first. Both are authentic and neither is a leak. The significance is that the Iranian position as published cannot be executed as published: an American negotiator reading both texts cannot determine which office can deliver the only term that matters, and that ambiguity is either a deliberate bargaining structure or a genuine split. The distinguishing evidence would be an arbitration from the Leader's office, which has not appeared.

KJ-3 [HIGH] KJ-3: The Iranian press published the offer and not the answer, and the answer was available on its own channels overnight. The Wall Street Journal reported that the American president rejected the seven-day plan and expects bombing to resume after the November midterms. It is carried on three Iranian channels spanning the factional range: Vatan-e Emrooz post 26368, Etemad post 535746 and Jam-e Jam post 29009. Not one of the ten front pages carries it, including the two that lead on the offer. The significance is calibrated in both directions. Overstating this would repeat an error this file avoided on 23 September, when eleven covers carried nothing of the envoy-level meeting and the following morning three did, establishing deadline rather than concealment; the Journal report broke late on 25 September and the same mechanism most probably applies. Understating it would miss that Iranian readers were given a timetable for peace on the morning their government had already been told no. The test is the 27 September batch, and this file will record which way it falls.

KJ-4 [HIGH] KJ-4: The blockade doctrine has been extended from the sea to regional airspace, and the threatened response is directed at third countries rather than at the United States. On 23 September the American treasury secretary threatened secondary sanctions against any airport servicing Iranian carriers, and Iraq closed Baghdad, Najaf, Erbil and Sulaimaniyah to Iranian airlines. Javan's banner reads «پرواز در منطقه یا برای همه یا هیچ‌کس!», the Hormuz formula transposed to the air. Kayhan's lead states that the naval and air blockade will be broken by force and names more than 430 mostly American multinational technology firms in the region. Kata'ib Sayyid al-Shuhada, on the Kayhan, Jam-e Jam and Fars News channels, warns of strikes on Iraqi airports if flights are not resumed. Javan's strap tells America's «گاوان شیرده», milch cows, to forget about butting horns. The significance is that Iran does not control this chokepoint and cannot close it, so the doctrine of symmetrical denial can only be enforced against the states that complied, which makes Iraqi and Gulf aviation infrastructure the most likely target set for any Iranian response to the air embargo.

KJ-5 [MODERATE-HIGH] KJ-5: A documented distortion has moved from the channel layer to a mainstream front page in one cycle, and it moved through the centre rather than the hard right. On 24 September this file recorded the Kayhan and Sobh-e No channels reporting the suicides of eight Abraham Lincoln crew, against a public letter from the acting Secretary of the Navy to Senator Kirsten Gillibrand reporting eight attempted suicides and stating that no service member died by suicide. Today Hamshahri, owned by the Tehran municipality, prints «آبراهام لینکلن؛ ناو خودکشی‌ها» over a line attributing eight suicides to a CNN report. Vatan-e Emrooz, the hardline title, prints «اقدام به خودکشی», attempted suicide, and correctly names the acting head of the US Navy as the source. The significance is diagnostic: the alteration is not being driven by the outlets with the strongest motive, it is surviving the aggregation and translation layer and being picked up downstream as established fact, which is a failure mode that produces durable false beliefs without anyone deciding to lie.

KJ-6 [MODERATE-HIGH] KJ-6: The campaign against the Saudi opening is now being run by outlets attached to the Leader's office and the IRGC against named officials of the executive, and the executive's defence concedes the facts. Iran's foreign minister met the Saudi foreign minister in New York, with maritime safety corridors reported on the agenda by Defa Press at post 68549. Fars News rebuked the president's executive deputy on 25 September for cutting a cake at the ninety-sixth Saudi National Day reception in Tehran. On 26 September Shariatmadari's «یادداشت روز» in Kayhan named him and a former foreign minister, called the episode «زشت و پلشت», and disputed that it had been coordinated with the leadership of the system. The deputy told state television he had not been eager to attend and had gone on the instructions of those responsible for foreign policy. The significance is that the dispute has moved inside the state and acquired named principals on both sides: the question is no longer whether Iran should talk to Washington but whether the executive may conduct regional diplomacy at all without the security establishment's endorsement.

KJ-7 [MODERATE-HIGH] KJ-7: The venue of the president's media offensive required explanation to Iranian readers, which locates the domestic constraint more precisely than any of the week's polling-free assertions about public opinion. He gave interviews to Fox News, CBS and Al Jazeera, per the Iran newspaper channel at post 507970, and told CBS at post 507971 that Iran would return to the Islamabad framework if America agreed. Two titles glossed the Fox News choice in their own standfirsts: Sazandegi as «مورد حمایت ترامپ», supported by Trump, and Ta'adol as «تندروترین شبکه آمریکایی», the most hardline American network. Ta'adol paired the photograph with the pull-quote «تا آخرین لحظه مقاومت می‌کنیم», we will resist to the last moment. The significance is that two independent newsrooms, neither hostile to the president, judged that an Iranian head of state appearing on that channel could not be reported without justification, and that the justification offered was the resistance register. The act travelled ahead of the vocabulary available to describe it.

KJ-8 [MODERATE] KJ-8: Negative evidence, and the strongest instance of it this file has recorded. The serving Leader is absent from all ten front pages and all nine channels read for this edition, in the cycle that most required him. The pattern on this surface is now eight cycles absent to 22 September, present on 23 September on a school-opening message, absent on 24 September, absent again today: three cycles since the single reappearance. The Kayhan channel's devotional video at post 85002, «فکر مرگ», is homiletic material on a religious subject whose printed name could not be resolved from the web preview, and under this file's rule it is logged unresolved rather than counted as a presence. khamenei.ir was not reachable, so this is an absence on the Iranian press surface and not a global one. The significance is the coincidence of the absence with the dispute: the foreign ministry and the security council published incompatible positions on Iran's single coercive asset, and the office whose function is to settle exactly that has issued nothing. Either it is being withheld from a contested question, or it is not available to be used.

KJ-9 [MODERATE] KJ-9: The Janfada mobilisation delivered on schedule, and the first published scepticism about it came from inside the establishment press. On 24 September this file recorded the announcement of a 40,000-motorcyclist exercise for Friday and judged it leverage that is cheap to build and expensive to stand down. It took place on 25 September in Tehran, presented by the IRGC's Greater Tehran commander during Sacred Defense Week, and is externally documented. Javan reports it as «رژه و رزمایش ۴۰ هزار نفری موتورسواران جانفدا! در پایتخت». Jomhouri Eslami reports it as «موتورسواران جان‌فدا در تهران», with the exclamation mark inside the headline. The significance is twofold: the formation is now demonstrably able to produce announced numbers on an announced date, which validates the earlier

judgment, and a traditional establishment daily has found a way to print a figure and doubt it in the same line, which is the first visible domestic friction over the mobilisation track and worth watching for repetition.

KJ-10 [MODERATE] KJ-10: Lebanon has completed its conversion from a theatre into a contract term and now survives on the Iranian front pages only as a handshake and a clause. For the fifth time in six cycles no Persian cover carries a Lebanon story. Lebanon appears in this batch as one of four bilateral photographs on Iran Daily's cover, the president with the Lebanese prime minister, and as the opening clause of the seven-day plan, which ends hostilities on all fronts including Lebanon. The Sobh-e No channel at post 116223 carries video of an alleged Hezbollah ambush in the south, unverified. The significance is that Lebanon's status in Iranian public argument is now wholly instrumental: it is something Iran offers to stop rather than something Iran prepares its population to sustain, and the earliest warning of a reversal would be a Lebanon story returning to a Persian front page on its own merits rather than as a line in a document.

KJ-11 [MODERATE] KJ-11: The Iranian press reported an American withdrawal from the region on the morning American pressure closed four airports to Iranian aircraft, and the two claims were printed by the same outlet. Vatan-e Emrooz gives its entire cover to «خاورمیانه پساآمریکایی», the post-American Middle East, sourced to an Economist analysis of the 40-day war, illustrated by an American soldier walking away across the desert with his luggage. On its own channel the same outlet carries a former Iraqi prime minister condemning the closure of Iraqi airports to Iranian flights, which happened because Washington threatened the servicing airports with exclusion from the dollar system, and the Wall Street Journal report that the American president intends to resume bombing. The significance is the specific form of the contradiction, which this file also recorded on 24 September over the Emirati central bank: the cover is not exaggerating an Iranian success so much as advancing a thesis that the outlet's own newsroom documented against on the same day, which indicates the front page is written to a position and the channel to the wire.

KJ-12 [MODERATE] KJ-12: The Iranian coverage of Israel's isolation was factually accurate and selectively silent, and the silence is more informative than the accuracy. Jomhouri Eslami prints 77 delegations leaving the hall and a hundred arrested in New York; both figures match the external record. Sobh-e No reports the arrest of Susan Sarandon, confirmed, among roughly a hundred detained near the United Nations on 24 September. Hamshahri gives almost its whole cover to a photographic grid of the Assembly under «جهان رو به ایران، پشت به اسرائیل». None of them reports that the demonstration was organised by Jewish Voice for Peace. The significance is that the omission is costly to the Iranian argument rather than incidental to it: a Jewish-organised protest against an Israeli prime minister is stronger evidence of isolation than an anonymous crowd, and it was dropped because it does not fit a frame in which the opposition to Israel is civilisational. That is a constraint on the propaganda, and constraints are more predictive than capabilities.

Named-Figure Tracker

Figure	Role / relevance	Today's framing	Flag
Abbas Araghchi	Foreign Minister of Iran	Author of the seven-day plan, presented to reporters in New York on 25 September; met the Saudi foreign minister; named on the Iran Daily lead and on the Sazandegi standfirst	NEW NAMED FIGURE
Masoud Pezeshkian	President of Iran	Interviewed by Fox News, CBS and Al Jazeera; says it is for America to choose whether to end the war and that Iran is ready	WATCH

Figure	Role / relevance	Today's framing	Flag
		to deal before the midterms; the venue glossed by two papers as Trump-supported and as the most hardline American network	
Mohsen Rezaei	Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council	Printed on Charsoogh's cover as «مذاکره بس است»; states that the Strait will not be opened unless Washington acts on the stated conditions, on the morning the foreign ministry offers to reopen it on day seven	COERCION SPOKESMAN
Donald Trump	President of the United States	Reported by the Wall Street Journal to have rejected the seven-day plan and to expect bombing to resume after the midterms; carried on three Iranian channels and no front page; separately reported posting a map renaming the Strait the Trump Strait	TARGET FRAMING
Hossein Shariatmadari	Managing editor of Kayhan, appointed by the Leader's office	Author of «برادران یمنی! آنها از ما نیستند!», attacking named executive officials over the Saudi National Day reception and disputing that the step was cleared with the leadership	WATCH
Mohammad Jafar Ghaempanah	Executive deputy to the President of Iran	Named target of the Kayhan editorial and of a Fars News rebuke for attending the Saudi National Day reception in Tehran; told state television he attended on the instructions of those responsible for foreign policy	NEW NAMED FIGURE
Ali Akbar Salehi	Former Foreign Minister of Iran	Named alongside Ghaempanah in the Kayhan editorial over the same reception	NEW NAMED FIGURE
Benjamin Netanyahu	Prime Minister of Israel	«فضاحت نتانیاهو!» on Vatan-e Emrooz; the 77-delegation walkout and the New York arrests carried with accurate figures on three covers	TARGET FRAMING
Scott Bessent	United States Treasury Secretary	Not named on any Iranian front page, though his 23 September secondary-sanctions threat is the direct cause of the airport closures the same covers are answering with doctrine	absence noted
Sayyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei	Supreme Leader of Iran	No message, speech or quoted remark on any of the ten front pages or the nine channels read; third consecutive cycle of absence, in the cycle containing an unresolved dispute between the foreign ministry and the security council	absence noted
Susan Sarandon	American actor	Arrest reported by Sobh-e No as «انزوای شیطان»; confirmed externally, among roughly a hundred detained; the organising body, Jewish Voice for Peace, is not reported	WATCH

Figure	Role / relevance	Today's framing	Flag
Hassan Hassanzadeh	Commander, IRGC Greater Tehran Corps	Presented Friday's 40,000-motorcyclist Janfada rally during Sacred Defense Week; the event is carried by Javan and, with an exclamation mark, by Jomhouri Eslami	WATCH

Headline Summary Table

Outlet	Lead Headline (English)	Orientation	Theme	Threat signal
Iran Daily	Iran offers US new seven-day proposal to end war	English-language government daily	The seven-day plan named in the headline for an external audience	LOW
Sazandegi	An agreement before the elections	Reformist, Kargozaran party	Fox News interview; a deal sought before the American midterms; the plan reported alongside	LOW-MODERATE
Charsoogh	Major General Rezaei: enough of negotiation	Economic daily, principlist register	The Strait withheld by the security council on the morning it is offered by the foreign ministry	HIGH
Kayhan (channel)	Negotiation is a deception operation; the naval and air blockade will be broken by force	Hardline, supervised by the Leader's office	The premise rejected outright; the Saudi opening attacked from inside the system	SEVERE
Javan	We write the equation of the battlefield	Hardline, IRGC-affiliated	Flight in the region for everyone or no one: the chokepoint doctrine extended to the air	HIGH
Sobh-e No	Loathed by the world	Principlist	Israel's isolation; the air embargo as an administrative fact and a diplomatic test	MODERATE-HIGH
Vatan-e Emrooz	The post-American Middle East	Hardline / principlist	American withdrawal claimed via The Economist; the rejection and the airport closures held on the channel	MODERATE-HIGH
Jomhouri Eslami	The United Nations General Assembly, a scene of revulsion at Israel	Traditional establishment	Verifiable isolation figures; Iran's conditions conveyed; the rally doubted in its own headline	MODERATE
Hamshahri	The world faces Iran and turns its back on Israel	Centrist, Tehran Municipality	Isolation as a photo grid; the Lincoln casualty claim promoted from channel to cover	MODERATE
Etemad	The language of rightful claim	Reformist	Negotiation and its refusal defined as interchangeable instruments of policy	LOW-MODERATE
Ta'adol	The market comes out of its trading coma	Economic daily	The Fox News venue explained to readers; the market priced off New York signals	LOW-MODERATE

Per-Paper Front-Page Analysis

Iran Daily

English-language government daily (IRNA group)

“Iran offers US new seven-day proposal to end war”

LOW - the settlement offer stated plainly for a foreign readership



- Main: "Iran offers US new seven-day proposal to end war", printed across the full width of the page as the lead, which makes the English-language state daily the most explicit surface in the batch about the substance of the offer.
- Main (panel): "Pezeshkian: It is up to US to choose if it wants to end war", the line the president gave Fox News, rendered for a foreign readership as a choice presented to Washington rather than as a concession offered by Tehran.
- Photographs: four bilateral meetings on the Assembly sidelines, captioned as the President of the European Council, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, the Dutch and the Lebanese prime ministers. The Lebanese meeting is the only appearance of Lebanon anywhere on a front page in this batch.
- Feature: "Once Upon a Time in the Middle East: Finding humanity amid ruins of war", an interview about a film.
- Bottom strip: "Exports to Armenia rise 7.5% to $305m in seven months", an opinion item on American campaign finance, and Asian Games rowing medals.
- Top strip: "India, Iran look to traditional medicine for new health cooperation".

> **ANALYST NOTE** The English-language title is doing the work the Persian titles are not: it names the instrument, the seven-day proposal, in the headline, and it turns the president's sentence into an invitation addressed to Washington. This is the paper aimed at the audience that could accept the offer, which is why the offer is stated plainly here and glossed, hedged or contradicted on the Persian covers. Armenia in the economic strip is not filler: with Iraqi airports closed, Armenia is one of the few remaining corridors, and the trade figure is the quiet version of the air-embargo story the Persian press is telling loudly.

Hamshahri

Centrist, owned by the Tehran Municipality

“The world faces Iran and turns its back on Israel” «جهان رو به ایران، پشت به اسرائیل»

MODERATE - documented distortion reaching a mainstream front page



- Banner: «صدای ملت ما در جهان پیچید، انزوای صهیونیست‌ها عیان شد», the voice of our nation echoed through the world, the isolation of the Zionists became plain. The page is built as a photographic grid of the General Assembly rather than as a text lead: roughly a dozen panels of the hall, of delegations leaving, and of the Iranian president holding a photograph aloft.
- Main: A panel states that 77 countries left the hall («۷۷ کشور ... خارج شدند»), the same figure Jomhouri Eslami prints as its sub-headline and the figure the external record supports for the walkout before the Israeli prime minister spoke on 23 September.
- Sub-item: «۱۶۸ مدرسه میناب ... دانش‌آموز ...», a panel keeping the Minab school among the exhibits, alongside a panel on the Iranian president displaying the portrait of his assassinated predecessor.
- Main (lower fold): «آبراهام لینکلن؛ ناو خودکشی‌ها», Abraham Lincoln: the carrier of suicides, over «گزارش سی‌ان‌ان از ۸ خودکشی در چند ماه مأموریت ناو لینکلن خبر می‌دهد: آماری که برای یک مأموریت بسیار بالاست», a CNN report reports 8 suicides during several months of the Lincoln's deployment, a figure very high for one mission. The source document is a letter from the acting Secretary of the Navy to Senator Kirsten Gillibrand reporting eight attempted suicides in the strike group and stating that no service member died by suicide.
- Right rail: «مالیات پشت در خانه‌های خالی», tax stuck at the door of the empty houses, on the failure of the empty-homes tax to reach its targets, and «بخشش به‌نام بچه‌های محروم», a domestic education-funding item.

ANALYST NOTE Hamshahri is the entry this file did not expect. On 24 September the Lincoln distortion existed only on the Kayhan and Sobh-e No Telegram channels and this monitor recorded it as the cheapest technique in the repertoire and the most fragile, because the original is a named official's letter in the public record. One cycle later it is on a front page, and not a hardline one: the Tehran municipality's centrist daily has printed the altered version (eight suicides) and attributed it to CNN rather than to the Navy letter, while Vatan-e Emrooz, the hardline title, printed «اقدام به خودکشی», attempted suicide, and named the acting head of the US Navy as the source. The distortion is therefore travelling through the aggregation layer rather than through hardline editorial intent, which is a different and more durable problem: track whether any Iranian outlet corrects it.

Vatan-e Emrooz

Hardline / principlist

“The post-American Middle East” «خاورمیانه پساآمریکایی»

MODERATE-HIGH - triumphal order-change framing; the rejection held off the cover



- Main: «خاورمیانه پساآمریکایی» over «تحلیل قابل تأمل هفته‌نامه اکونومیست از پیامدهای جنگ تحمیلی ۴۰ روزه: پایان نظم آمریکایی در غرب آسیا و افزایش قدرت ایران در تعیین معادلات منطقه», a notable analysis by The Economist of the consequences of the 40-day imposed war: the end of the American order in West Asia and the rise of Iran's power in setting the region's equations. The whole cover is given to a single illustration of an American soldier walking away across the desert with wheeled luggage.
- Right rail: «خودکشی از ترس مرگ!», suicide out of fear of death, over «سرپرست نیروی دریایی آمریکا از اقدام به خودکشی ۸ نظامی ناو آبراهام لینکلن در جریان جنگ علیه ایران خبر داد», the acting head of the US Navy reported the attempted suicide of 8 service members of the carrier Abraham Lincoln during the war against Iran. The body text is accurate to the source letter; the display headline is not.
- Right rail: «فضاحت نتانیاهو!», Netanyahu's disgrace, over «سخنرانی نخست‌وزیر رژیم صهیونیستی در مجمع عمومی سازمان ملل با هو کردن و خروج گسترده هیات‌های نمایندگی مواجه شد», the speech was met with booing and a wide walkout of delegations.
- Right rail: «بازگشت اژدها به بازار نفت», the dragon returns to the oil market, on Chinese purchasing, and «اعترافنامه یک امپراتوری خسته», the confession of a tired empire.
- Op-ed: «جنگ، نظم تازه می‌سازد», war builds a new order, by Mohsen Redadi, and a lower feature «درس پکن برای تهران», Beijing's lesson for Tehran, under «قدرت چگونه زبان دیپلماسی را تغییر می‌دهد؟», how power changes the language of diplomacy.
- Channel (not on the cover): post 26368 carries «وال‌استریت‌ژورنال مدعی شد: ترامپ طرح ایران برای دستیابی به آتش‌بس هفت روزه را رد کرده», the Wall Street Journal claimed Trump has rejected Iran's seven-day ceasefire plan and expects military confrontation after the midterm elections. Post 26370 carries a former Iraqi prime minister calling the suspension of Iranian flights a sacrifice of Iraq's national interests.

ANALYST NOTE The cover argues that the war has already been won at the level of regional order, and it makes the argument through a Western source rather than an Iranian one, which is the outlet's standard method for claims it wants read as independent. Two things sit against it on the outlet's own surfaces on the same morning: its channel carries the Wall Street Journal report that the American president has rejected Iran's seven-day plan, which no Iranian front page prints, and its channel carries the Iraqi airport closure, which the cover also does not print. This is the same configuration this file recorded on 24 September with the Emirati central bank's move against Bank Melli: the front page is written to a position and the channel to the wire.



Full-cover illustration: an American soldier in helmet and body armour walks away from the viewer across an ochre desert under a column of smoke, towing a wheeled suitcase plastered with travel stickers and carrying a duffel bag; the stickers carry small Gulf-state flags, reading the withdrawal as a departure from client states rather than a defeat in battle.

Javan

Hardline, IRGC-affiliated

HIGH - explicit extension of the chokepoint doctrine to regional airspace

"We write the equation of the battlefield" «معادله میدان را ما می‌نویسیم»



- Main: «معادله میدان را ما می‌نویسیم» over the strap «امریکا میدان را خالی کرده است، گاوان شیرده او شاخ‌زدن را فراموش کنند», America has vacated the field; let its milch cows forget about butting horns. The metaphor is aimed at the Gulf states, and it lands on the morning Iran's foreign minister met his Saudi counterpart in New York.
- Banner (yellow, top of page): «پرواز در منطقه یا برای همه یا هیچ‌کس!», flight in the region is either for everyone or for no one. This is the grammatical form of the standing Hormuz doctrine transposed from the sea to the air, published two days after Iraq closed Baghdad, Najaf, Erbil and Sulaimaniyah to Iranian carriers under an American secondary-sanctions threat.
- Sub-item: The body text attributes to the IRGC Intelligence Organisation the claim that «ابتکارهای نیروهای مسلح ایران، معادله میدان را تغییر داده است», the initiatives of Iran's armed forces have changed the equation of the field.
- Sub-item: «میدان‌داری جهانی ایران», Iran's global command of the arena, over a montage of the president walking in front of a statue of Arash the Archer and a map of the Gulf.
- Sub-item: «رژه و موتورسواران جان‌فدا در پایتخت», the parade and the Janfada motorcyclists in the capital, reporting Friday's rally, and «بزرگ‌ترین سرمایه امنیتی ایران نیروی انسانی است», Iran's greatest security asset is its manpower.
- Left rail: «دومین «خروج بزرگ» سازمان ملل علیه اسرائیل», the second great walkout at the United Nations against Israel.

> **ANALYST NOTE** Javan supplies the doctrinal sentence of the edition. «پرواز در منطقه یا برای همه یا هیچ‌کس» is not a complaint about the Iraqi airport closure, it is the Hormuz formula applied to regional airspace, and an IRGC-affiliated daily is the appropriate surface to publish it on. Read with Kayhan's «محاصره دریایی و هوایی با قدرت شکسته می‌شود» and with Kata'ib Sayyid al-Shuhada's warning about Iraqi airports, it indicates that the air embargo is being absorbed into the existing chokepoint doctrine rather than treated as a separate sanctions problem. The milch-cow strap is the tell for who is expected to bear the cost: the Gulf states, not the United States.

Sobh-e No

Principlist

MODERATE-HIGH - air embargo absorbed as doctrine while its domestic cost surfaces

“Loathed by the world” «منفور جهان»



- Main: «منفور جهان» over «رسوایی منفورترین رژیم جهان در نیویورک», the disgrace in New York of the world's most loathed regime, above a photograph of a New York demonstration with Palestinian flags and a BOARD OF BUTCHERS placard.
- Sub-item: «انزوای شیطان», the devil's isolation, reporting the arrest of Susan Sarandon among demonstrators against Netanyahu and Trump and describing her as a Hollywood star who supports Palestine. The external record confirms the arrest, on 24 September near the United Nations, among roughly 100 detained; it also records that the protest was organised by Jewish Voice for Peace, which the Iranian framing omits.
- Masthead strap: «عزت، حکمت و مصلحت؛ سه ضلع سخنرانی پزشکیان», dignity, wisdom and expediency: the three sides of Pezeshkian's speech, with three named commentators including «بهنام سعیدی: پزشکیان، چهره واقعی آمریکا را آشکار کرد» and «حمید رضایی: پاسخی بود به یاوه‌گویی ترامپ».
- Bottom: «مالکی در گفت‌وگو با صبح نو مطرح کرد؛ ابزارهای ایران در برابر تحریم هوایی», Maleki, in conversation with Sobh-e No: Iran's instruments against the air embargo, with the secondary line «تحریم هوایی و آزمون دیپلماسی منطقه‌ای», the air embargo and the test of regional diplomacy.
- Bottom: «رئیس انجمن یمنی‌ها در ایران در گفت‌وگو با صبح نو: سعودی تنها مانده», the head of the Association of Yemenis in Iran tells Sobh-e No that Saudi Arabia has been left alone.
- Channel: post 116229 reports that the Civil Aviation Organisation has suspended the sale of tickets for Iraq until further notice and ordered airlines to refund passengers; posts 116227 and 116228 carry the president's Fox News remarks, including a documented death toll of 3,015; post 116224 carries an IRGC spokesman warning that if Iran is attacked again it will use different weapons, altered geography and new targets.

ANALYST NOTE Sobh-e No is where the air embargo stops being rhetoric and becomes an administrative fact: its own channel reports that Iranian carriers have stopped selling Iraq tickets and are refunding passengers, which is the domestic cost showing up before the doctrine on the front page has had time to settle. The paper commissions an interview on «ابزارهای ایران در برابر تحریم هوایی», instruments against the air embargo, which is the question a principlist title asks when the answer is not obvious. The Yemen interview arguing Saudi Arabia is isolated runs on the same morning Iran's foreign minister met the Saudi foreign minister, which is the contradiction to watch on this surface.

Sazandegi

Reformist, Kargozaran party

LOW-MODERATE - the settlement position published in full

“An agreement before the elections” «توافق تا قبل از انتخابات»



- Main: «توافق تا قبل از انتخابات» over «مسعود پزشکیان، رئیس‌جمهور، در گفت‌وگو با شبکه تلویزیونی فاکس‌نیوز که مورد حمایت ترامپ است، صراحتاً اعلام کرد: ایران آمادگی دارد تا پیش از انتخابات میان‌دوره‌ای با آمریکا به توافق برسد», President Masoud Pezeshkian, in an interview with the Fox News television network, which is supported by Trump, explicitly announced that Iran is ready to reach an agreement with America before the midterm elections.
- Main (second deck): «همزمان عراقچی نیز از ارائه طرح ۷ روزه ایران به آمریکا خبر داد», at the same time Araghchi announced the presentation of Iran's seven-day plan to America. The plan, as set out by the foreign minister in New York on 25 September, sequences an end to hostilities on all fronts including Lebanon, the release of frozen assets, waivers on oil sanctions and the lifting of the naval blockade, with the Strait of Hormuz reopening on the seventh day.
- Photograph: the full upper half of the cover is the Fox News interview set, the president seated opposite the interviewer with studio lights and an Iranian flag between them.
- Op-ed: «اقتدار برای صلح، دیپلماسی برای توسعه», authority for peace, diplomacy for development.
- Top rail: «تحقیق و تفحص از نفت», a parliamentary investigation of the oil sector.

ANALYST NOTE This is the most consequential Iranian front page of the cycle and the gloss in its own standfirst is the analytic content: Sazandegi does not simply report the interview, it tells its readers that Fox News is «مورد حمایت ترامپ», supported by Trump, which is an explanation of why the president chose that network rather than a description of what he said. A reformist party daily printing that the president wants a deal before the American midterms, on the same page as the seven-day plan, is the negotiation thread this file has tracked since 23 September arriving at its maximum published extent. What the page cannot print, because of the deadline, is that the offer had already been rejected.

Charsoogh

Economic daily, principlist register

HIGH - the Strait withheld by the security council on the morning it is offered by the foreign ministry

“The food-coupon payment must be raised to 2 to 3 million tomans” «مبلغ کالابرگ باید به ۲ تا ۳ میلیون تومان افزایش یابد»



- Main: «برای حفظ قدرت خرید مردم و طبق وعده پزشکیان و قالیباف؛ مبلغ کالابرگ باید به ۲ تا ۳ میلیون تومان افزایش یابد», to preserve people's purchasing power and in line with the promises of Pezeshkian and Qalibaf, with two bar charts comparing the household food basket before the war with Mordad 1405.
- Main (left): «سرلشکر رضایی: مذاکره بس است», Major General Rezaei: enough of negotiation. The item reports the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council writing on X that Iran's new diplomacy will not return to the past, that Iran will compel America to respect the rights of the Iranian nation and act on the stated conditions, and that otherwise the Strait of Hormuz will not be opened.
- Sub-item: «هزینه مسئولیت اجتماعی شرکت‌های زیرمجموعه هلدینگ خلیج فارس: ۱۲ برابر عدد اعلام شده!», the social-responsibility spending of the Persian Gulf holding's subsidiaries is twelve times the announced figure.
- Bottom: a satirical illustration of a figure taking a selfie at a United Nations rostrum.

ANALYST NOTE Charsoogh is the only cover in the batch to print the other half of the Iranian position, and it is the half that contradicts the lead of every other paper. On the morning Sazandegi and Iran Daily publish a plan whose seventh day is the reopening of the Strait, this cover prints the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council saying the Strait will not be opened. Both men speak for the same state and both statements are real. The sequencing is what separates them: Araghchi offers the Strait as the final concession in an agreed programme, Rezaei withholds it until Washington acts first. That gap, not the number of conditions, is now the thing to track.

Ta'adol

Economic daily, published by the Iran Chamber of Guilds

“The market comes out of its trading coma” «خروج بازار از کمای معاملاتی»

LOW-MODERATE - the negotiation read as a market event


تعادل

سیاست‌های کلان اقتصادی پایان آزمون و خطا

«تعادل» روند معاملات بازار سهام را بررسی می‌کند

خروج بازار از کمای معاملاتی

دیپلماسی عمومی یا لیس جمهور

- Main: «خروج بازار از کمای معاملاتی» over «"تعادل" روند معاملات بازار سهام را بررسی می‌کند», Ta'adol examines the course of equity-market trading.
- Photograph and caption: the Fox News interview, captioned as the president's «دیپلماسی عمومی», public diplomacy, and glossing the network as «تندروترین شبکه آمریکایی», the most hardline American network, with the pull-quote «تا آخرین لحظه مقاومت می‌کنیم», we will resist to the last moment.
- Banner: «کارگران بدون حاشیه امن اقتصادی» over «کارگران در محاصره هزینه‌ها», workers besieged by costs, keeping the siege vocabulary on a domestic subject.
- Top strap: «سیاست‌های کلان اقتصادی: پایان آزمون و خطا», macroeconomic policy: the end of trial and error.
- Left rail: «سیگنال‌های نیویورک و تنش‌زدایی اقتصاد ایران», New York's signals and the de-escalation of Iran's economy, a signed column reading the trip as an economic event.

ANALYST NOTE Ta'adol supplies the second of two reformist-register glosses on the same act: where Sazandegi tells readers Fox News is supported by Trump, Ta'adol tells them it is the most hardline American network. Two papers independently judged that an Iranian president appearing on that channel needed explaining to an Iranian audience, which is a measure of how far the venue itself travelled ahead of the policy. The paper then does what this file has recorded it doing since 24 September: it prices the war rather than narrating it, and its lead indicator is a market recovering on New York signals rather than on anything that has actually been agreed.

Etemad

Reformist

LOW-MODERATE - de-escalation framing insulated against either outcome

“The language of rightful claim” «زبان حق‌طلبانه»



- Main: «زبان حق‌طلبانه» under «گزارش بازتاب سخنرانی و دیدارهای رییس جمهور در نیویورک», a report on the reception of the president's speech and meetings in New York, over a photograph of a bilateral delegation meeting.
- Masthead strap: «محمدجواد حق‌شناس در گفت‌وگو با «اعتماد»: ماهیت سفر رییس جمهور به نیویورک را بررسی می‌کند» over «در مسیر تنش‌زدایی», on the path of de-escalation, with the formulation «مذاکره، عدم مذاکره و حتی ملاقات در بالاترین سطوح، ابزار سیاست خارجی‌اند؛ آنچه باید ثابت بماند استقلال، امنیت و منافع مردم ایران است», negotiation, non-negotiation and even meetings at the highest levels are instruments of foreign policy; what must remain constant is the independence, security and interests of the people of Iran.
- Right rail: «دیپلماسی در نیویورک با یادداشت‌هایی از نویسندگان «اعتماد»», diplomacy in New York with notes from Etemad's writers, a stacked column of signed commentary photographs.
- Left column: «حمله تحمیلی کار و آرامش آنها را گرفت», the imposed attack took their work and their calm, a domestic report on war-displaced livelihoods.
- Channel: post 535746 carries the Wall Street Journal report that the American president has rejected the seven-day ceasefire plan; post 535750 reports him posting a map on Truth Social renaming the Strait of Hormuz the Trump Strait.

ANALYST NOTE The masthead strap is the most analytically careful sentence on any cover in the batch: a reformist daily defines negotiation and refusal of negotiation as interchangeable instruments rather than opposed positions, which pre-emptively protects the government whichever way the seven-day plan goes. That is the drafting of a paper that knows an answer is coming and does not know what it is. Its own channel had both halves of the answer overnight, the rejection and the renaming of the Strait, and neither reached the page; on the evidence of 23 to 24 September this is a deadline artefact rather than concealment, and Sunday's cover is the test.

Jomhouri Eslami

Traditional establishment daily

MODERATE - mobilisation reported with visible editorial scepticism

“The United Nations General Assembly, a scene of revulsion at Israel” «مجمع عمومی سازمان ملل صحنه انزجار از اسرائیل»


جمهوری اسلامی

مجمع عمومی سازمان ملل صحنه انزجار از اسرائیل

انتقال شروط ایران برای ازسرگیری مذاکرات در تبادل پیام با آمریکا

- Main: «مجمع عمومی سازمان ملل صحنه انزجار از اسرائیل» over «کشور ۷۷ سخنرانی نتانیاهو را ترک کردند», 77 countries left Netanyahu's speech, and «پلیس نیویورک ۱۰۰ نفر را در اعتراضات علیه نتانیاهو و جنایتکاران جنگی بازداشت کرد», New York police arrested 100 people in protests. Both figures match the external record.
- Main (right column): «انتقال شروط ایران برای ازسرگیری مذاکرات در تبادل پیام با آمریکا», the transfer of Iran's conditions for resuming negotiations in an exchange of messages with America, kickered «در حاشیه نشست مجمع عمومی سازمان ملل صورت گرفت».
- Top strap: «رزمایش ۴۰ هزار نفری موتورسواران جانفدا! در تهران», a 40,000-strong exercise of Janfada motorcyclists! in Tehran. The exclamation mark inside the headline is the paper's own punctuation.
- Sub-item: «واکنش وزارت خارجه به اظهارات ... در مورد استفاده از پایگاه‌های اروپایی علیه ایران», the Foreign Ministry's reaction to remarks about the use of European bases against Iran.
- Sub-item: «سیزده خانواده در میناب ... فرزند از دست دادند», thirteen families in Minab who lost children, printed as a grid of school portraits, keeping the Minab material as documentary evidence rather than as a placard.
- Sub-item: «طرح کالابرگ در کام افزایش مداوم قیمت‌ها و شکاف تأمین اعتبار», the food-coupon scheme swallowed by continuous price rises and a funding gap, and the reopening of war-damaged bridges in Hormozgan province.
- Clerical slot: a quotation from «شهید مظلوم آیت‌الله بهشتی», the oppressed martyr Ayatollah Beheshti, on distributive justice, with no message from the serving Leader anywhere on the page.

ANALYST NOTE Jomhouri Eslami is the only title in the batch to punctuate a state mobilisation event with an exclamation mark, and on a paper this old and this careful that is an editorial verdict rather than a typographic accident: the 40,000-motorcyclist rally is being reported and doubted in the same line. The page is otherwise the batch's most disciplined, giving verifiable figures for the walkout and the arrests and keeping the Minab dead as named families rather than as an English-language placard. For the second consecutive cycle it fills the clerical slot with Beheshti and has no message from the serving Leader to print.

Kayhan

Hardline; supervised by the Supreme Leader's office, managing editor Hossein Shariatmadari

SEVERE - explicit threat to break the naval and air blockade by force, plus American installations named as targets

“Negotiation is a deception operation; the naval and air blockade will be broken by force” «مذاکره عملیات فریب است؛ محاصره دریایی و هوایی با قدرت شکسته می‌شود»

- Main (post 85017): «مذاکره عملیات فریب است؛ محاصره دریایی و هوایی با قدرت شکسته می‌شود», negotiation is a deception operation; the naval and air blockade will be broken by force. The analysis argues Washington negotiates while preparing military encirclement, and states that Iran would answer a blockade by targeting American installations, citing more than 430 mostly American multinational technology firms in the region.
- Op-ed (posts 85014 to 85015): the «یادداشت روز» is «برادران یمنی! آنها از ما نیستند!», Yemeni brothers! They are not of us!, by Hossein Shariatmadari, Kayhan's managing editor. It attacks Mohammad Jafar Ghaempanah, the president's executive deputy, and Ali Akbar Salehi, a former foreign minister, for attending the 96th Saudi National Day reception at the Saudi embassy in Tehran and cutting the commemorative cake. Shariatmadari calls the episode «زشت و پلشت», ugly and foul, argues that the Yemeni brothers are in a full-scale war with Saudi Arabia, and writes that the participants in the celebration «از ما نیستند», are not of us.
- Sub-item (post 85001): «آتلانتیک: نه آمریکا، نه اسرائیل؛ ایران قدرت مسلط خاورمیانه خواهد بود», citing The Atlantic that Iran's control of the Strait of Hormuz matters more strategically than nuclear weapons.
- Sub-item (post 84999): «فارن پالیسی: قمار عربستان روی ترامپیسم شکست خورده است», Foreign Policy: Saudi Arabia's gamble on Trumpism has failed.
- Sub-item (post 85000): «کتائب سیدالشهدا: عراق نباید بخشی از محاصره علیه ایران باشد», Kata'ib Sayyid al-Shuhada: Iraq must not be part of the siege against Iran, warning of strikes on airports if Iranian flights are not resumed.
- Sub-item: the cover also carries the 40,000-motorcyclist rally and a claim of Yemeni attacks on Saudi operations centres and Aramco facilities, described as calculated and precise. No independent confirmation of a 25 September strike was available at compile time; Houthi attacks on Aramco sites in August and early September are separately documented.

> **ANALYST NOTE** Kayhan is the only title in the batch that rejects the premise of the day. While nine other covers report, gloss or price the negotiation, Kayhan prints that it is a deception operation and that both blockades will be broken by force, which is the first Iranian front-page threat to break the air embargo militarily. The editorial matters more than the lead: Shariatmadari is attacking his own government's officials for attending a Saudi state occasion on the same days Iran's foreign minister met the Saudi foreign minister in New York, and he explicitly disputes that the outreach was cleared with the leadership. A flagship supervised by the Leader's office publicly denying that a diplomatic step carries the Leader's sanction is a factional rupture, not a rhetorical flourish.

Appendix A: The Leader's message, recorded as absent

All nine Persian front pages and the English front page of 4 Mehr 1405, plus the Kayhan, Vatan-e Emrooz, Jam-e Jam, Etemad, Iran, Sobh-e No, Defa Press, Fars News and Nour News channels; khamenei.ir was not reachable at the time of compilation

No message, speech, condolence or quoted remark from the serving Leader, Ayatollah Sayyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei, appears on any front page in this batch or on any of the nine channels read for this edition. There is accordingly no lead message to translate, and this appendix records the absence rather than substituting for it.

One item required resolution before the absence could be recorded. The Kayhan channel carries a short devotional video, post 85002, titled «فکر مرگ», contemplation of death, presented as ethical and spiritual teaching from «رهبر». The clip is a homiletic sermon on a religious subject rather than a message on the day's events, and the printed name could not be resolved from the channel's web preview. Under this file's standing rule, that the printed name is read rather than inferred, the item is logged as unresolved and is not counted as a presence. The convention on these surfaces is that «شهید سیدعلی», the martyred Sayyed Ali, denotes the assassinated predecessor, and archival homiletic material from him continues to circulate.

The pattern on the Iranian press surface is now: eight consecutive cycles absent to 22 September; present on 23 September, when a message for the opening of schools and universities ran on every cover together with a condolence for Grand Ayatollah Shobeiri Zanjani; absent on 24 September; and absent again on 26 September. Three cycles have passed since the single reappearance.

Analyst flag: the absence is more significant in this cycle than in the last two. This is the cycle in which the foreign ministry tabled a seven-day plan whose final clause surrenders Iran's principal instrument of coercion, and in which the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council publicly stated that the same instrument would not be surrendered. That dispute is precisely the class of question the office of the Leader exists to settle, and no arbitration from it reached any Iranian front page. Verification note: this is an absence on the Iranian press surface examined here, not a global one, because khamenei.ir could not be reached.

Appendix B: Kayhan, «یادداشت روز», "Yemeni brothers! They are not of us!"

Kayhan, front page of 4 Mehr 1405, «یادداشت روز»; read on t.me/s/kayhan_online posts 85014 and 85015, author hashtag #حسین_شریعتمداری; corroborated in Iranian secondary coverage

Author verification: Hossein Shariatmadari, managing editor of Kayhan, appointed to that post by the office of the Supreme Leader. The authorship is confirmed by the channel's own author hashtag and by independent Iranian coverage of the editorial, which attributes it to him by name. This is the author of record and not a house-written column.

Substance, in the editorial's own terms. Shariatmadari reports that Mohammad Jafar Ghaempanah, the president's executive deputy, and Ali Akbar Salehi, a former foreign minister, attended the ninety-sixth Saudi National Day reception at the Saudi embassy in Tehran and cut the commemorative cake. He calls the episode «زشت و پلشت», ugly and foul.

His argument is a doctrinal one rather than a protocol complaint. The Yemeni forces, he writes, are in a full-scale war with Saudi Arabia; the Islamic Republic's stated principle of «وحدت جبهه‌ها», the unity of the fronts, makes Yemen, Hezbollah and the other resistance formations inseparable from Iran; and an Iranian official raising a glass at a Saudi state occasion therefore tells the Yemenis, in the title's formulation, that the participants «از ما نیستند», are not of us. He disputes the official justification that the attendance was coordinated with the leadership of the system, and closes with a sarcastic gloss on the claim that once Iranian missiles reached America there would be no further attacks on Saudi bases.

Analyst flag: the significance is institutional, not rhetorical. A daily supervised by the Leader's office is publicly denying that a diplomatic step carries the Leader's sanction, while the foreign minister meets his Saudi counterpart in New York and Defa Press reports maritime safety corridors on the agenda. The IRGC-affiliated Fars News opened this line of attack on 25 September; Kayhan escalated it to the editorial slot on 26 September. Ghaempanah's own reported defence, given to state television, was that he had not been eager to attend and had gone on the instructions of those responsible for foreign policy, which concedes the factual premise and relocates the dispute inside the executive. Handling note: this content is documented for defensive assessment and is not endorsed or amplified.

Source line: Kayhan, «یادداشت روز», 4 Mehr 1405, posts 85014 and 85015 on t.me/s/kayhan_online. The full printed text was not retrievable at compile time; the quotations above are the verified fragments, and the summary of the argument is marked as such rather than presented as a continuous translation.

Appendix C: Methodology and sourcing notes

iran-press-digest v2 pipeline

Scan coverage. Nine Persian front pages of 4 Mehr 1405 were gathered from the NewspaperTasnim kiosk album, post 44769, whose caption prints the target date, and one English front page from the Newspapers_Iran album, post 3569. The stale-batch guard compared the album's own printed Jalali date with the target and passed on the first attempt; no fallback sources were required. Every masthead was identified visually from the page rather than from any label supplied with the image.

Text coverage. Six newspaper channels and three agency wires were read: Kayhan, Vatan-e Emrooz, Jam-e Jam, Etemad, Iran and Sobh-e No as dailies, and Defa Press, Fars News and Nour News as agencies. Agency material is treated as claims and folded into trends and judgments rather than into the front-page sections. Kayhan has no scan in the kiosk album and is reconstructed from its own channel, which is stated in its entry. Tehran Times was not available at the time of compilation.

Translation and register. Persian headlines are retained in the original script beside the English, and loaded vocabulary is glossed inline where the framing depends on it: «محاصره» siege or blockade, «اقتدار» authority or standing, «میدان» the field in its military sense, «جانفدا» those who give their lives, «یادداشت روز» the daily editorial. Two display headlines are looser than the body text beneath them, and both are flagged where they occur rather than smoothed over.

Verification performed this cycle. The seven-day proposal, its sequence and the seventh-day reopening of the Strait were confirmed against external reporting of the foreign minister's 25 September remarks in New York. The reported American rejection was confirmed against external reporting of the Wall Street Journal account. The Iraqi airport closures at Baghdad, Najaf, Erbil and Sulaimaniyah, and the American secondary-sanctions threat that preceded them, were confirmed externally. The Janfada motorcyclist rally was confirmed as having taken place in Tehran on Friday 25 September. The arrest of Susan Sarandon and roughly a hundred others near the United Nations was confirmed, including the detail, absent from the Iranian framing, that the protest was organised by Jewish Voice for Peace. The Saudi National Day episode, the officials named and the executive deputy's reported defence were confirmed. Mohsen Rezaei's statement was confirmed in the original, including the clause the front-page headline omits.

Single-source and unresolved items. The claim of Yemeni strikes on Saudi operations centres and Aramco facilities on the day appears on Kayhan's cover and the Fars News channel and could not be independently confirmed at compile time; earlier Houthi attacks on Aramco sites in August and September are separately documented, so the pattern is real and this instance is not verified. The identity of the speaker in the Kayhan devotional video is unresolved and is handled in Appendix A. Named interviewees on the Sobh-e No and Etemad covers are reported as printed where legible and omitted where the scan resolution did not allow a confident reading; no name has been reconstructed by inference.

Correction carried forward. On 24 September this file recorded the Lincoln item as a channel-level distortion of a public letter from the acting Secretary of the Navy to Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, which reported eight attempted suicides in the strike group and no deaths by suicide. That characterisation is unchanged and is now load-bearing, because the altered version has reached a front page. The refinement this cycle is that the hardline title reproduced the source correctly in its body text while the centrist municipal title printed the altered version and misattributed it to CNN.

Handling. This product documents and analyses hostile foreign-press rhetoric for defensive assessment only. Nothing in it endorses, amplifies or operationalises that rhetoric. Attributed quotations that have not been confirmed against a primary source are not to be reproduced as authentic without that 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.