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THE QUESTION OF WHEN EDITION

Nine Persian front pages and one English front page of 11 Mehr 1405, read alongside six outlet channels and three agency wires; Kayhan is reconstructed from its own channel, and Tehran Times was available again this cycle.

Front pages published the morning of 3 October 2026, reflecting events through late 2 October local.

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Front page: Sobh-e No

Executive Summary

The lead judgment of this edition is that the domestic veto this file identified on 1 October did not hold for a second cycle. Twenty-four hours ago Kayhan, published under the Leader's office, attacked the president by name over the Islamabad memorandum on the morning the American answer reached his desk. This morning the president answers in public, and Kayhan does not. Ta'adol carries the reply as a banner over its market lead: «رئیس جمهور در دیدار فعالان و کنشگران سیاسی - اجتماعی احزاب اصلاح‌طلب: تمام تلاش‌مان را برای به سرانجام رساندن تفاهمنامه اسلام‌آباد به کار می‌بریم», we will put all our effort into bringing the Islamabad memorandum to a conclusion. Etemad gives the same meeting its whole front page under «در جمع اصلاح‌طلبان». Kayhan's cover, meanwhile, carries no memorandum, no American answer and no sequencing dispute: it leads on «تقلای ترامپ برای فرار از بحران و شکست همزمان با ناتوانی از بازگشایی تنگه هرمز», Trump's floundering to escape crisis and defeat alongside his inability to reopen the Strait, and its signed editorial spends the day's argument on hijab enforcement, addressed collectively to the heads of the three branches rather than to the president. The attack is not withdrawn and it is not repeated.

The second finding is that the dispute itself narrowed again, and that the narrowing was published by a principlist title rather than a reformist one. Sobh-e No's cover analysis states that Qatari mediation has again referred the new American proposal to Iran, that the proposal is built on the foundation of «تفاهم اسلام‌آباد» but arrives this time with a road map for the final negotiations attached, and that «تفاوت بنیادین دو نگاه دو طرف به زمان‌بندی ورود به «مذاکرات نهایی» است», the fundamental difference between the two sides is the timing of entry into the final negotiations. On 30 September this file was tracking enforcement; on 1 October it narrowed that to the sequencing of obligations; today the same thread resolves to a calendar. The English-language estate supplies the Iranian ask in one voice: Iran Daily banners "Iran says seeks US concrete guarantees to end war" across the top of its page, and Tehran Times attributes the same line to the deputy foreign minister Saeed Khatibzadeh. The slot that carried Hormuz reassurance to the Gulf on 1 October is now carrying a demand to Washington.

The third finding is an absence with a precise shape. The day's one verified kinetic event anywhere in the Iranian theatre is a crude oil tanker struck by an unknown projectile on its port side about four nautical miles east of the Omani coast on 2 October, reported by UK Maritime Trade Operations with all crew safe. It reached the Etemad Online, Jam-e Jam, Kayhan and Defa Press channels, the last of which filed it as «وقوع یک حادثه دریایی دیگر در سواحل عمان», another maritime incident off the coast of Oman. It reached no front page in this batch. Separately, Fars News claimed at 03:50 that seven tankers had been set ablaze in the Strait in five days, Kuwaiti and Emirati vessels among them; that claim, reproduced here only as a claim, also reached no front page. What the front pages carry instead is Kayhan's assertion that the American president cannot reopen the waterway. The Strait is being worked on the covers as a political fact and kept off them as a theatre of operations, and the two treatments are in the same cycle.

The fourth finding is Russian. Putin spoke at the 23rd Valdai Discussion Club plenary in Moscow on 2 October and three Iranian outlets took him to their front pages, which is unusual reach for a foreign leader in this file. Javan carries «پوتین: جهان تاب‌آوری ملت ایران را می‌ستاید»; Tehran Times builds its lead on the same material; and Sazandegi devotes its entire cover to the half nobody else printed, Putin's judgment that the assassination of Ali Larijani was a tremendous mistake, under the headline «مردی که می‌توانست جنگ را تمام کند», the man who could have ended the war, and the closing question of who can now take his place. What no Iranian front page printed is the operative sentence: that Putin said there would be no cause to restrict passage through Hormuz or Bab el-Mandeb once sanctions are lifted, and that Russia supports that. An ally's

public conditional endorsement of reopening the Strait is the single most consequential third-party statement of the cycle and it is the one part of his remarks that did not reach print.

Fifth, the hardline covers argue from stock rather than from flow, which is what a press does when a week produces no battlefield. Javan leads on Major General Mostafa Izadi, deputy commander-in-chief of the IRGC, claiming «غافلگیری‌های فناورانه برای دشمن داریم», technological surprises held for the enemy, some already used and others reserved for the future, with no operation attached. Vatan-e Emrooz leads on «جهان اتمی‌تر شد», the world became more nuclear, arguing that American conduct has made nuclear deterrence rational for states in general; the same paper's channel carried, the same cycle, the report of an underground explosive test in Nevada, which is on the public record as a non-nuclear chemical experiment conducted to improve detection of low-yield blasts. Kayhan claims the closure as achieved. Three hardline covers, three claims of standing advantage, no reported engagement on any of them.

Sixth, the economy remains the denominator and the arithmetic is now on the page. Hamshahri prints the currency crackdown with its numbers: 152 online pages identified for false currency pricing and 24 seized, a central bank intervention of three billion dollars, and a prosecutor's order to refer market disruptors to the courts. Charsoogh prints the other side of the same ledger as a cartoon, a bullet train built from a hundred-dollar bill racing past trackside markers at 230 and 250 thousand tomans toward a question mark, captioned «تنها قطار سریع‌السیر در دولت پزشکیان», the only high-speed train in the Pezeshkian government. The same paper carries the labour ministry's legal complaint against itself on its own cover, in the cycle the Kayhan channel records the labour minister's impeachment file reaching the parliamentary presiding board.

Net assessment: this is a batch about terms, timing and prices, and it is the first in several cycles with no front at all on any front page. Taken together the covers describe a system that has moved from arguing whether to settle to arguing when, with the institutional opposition declining to re-engage on the same morning the executive pressed its case, and with the one waterway that could collapse the whole thing being managed as a claim rather than reported as an event. The risk this edition carries forward is not that the argument was lost by one side; it is that the actual activity in the Strait is now invisible to the readership whose consent the settlement will require.

BOTTOM LINE On the morning President Pezeshkian publicly recommitted to concluding the Islamabad memorandum, the Leader's newspaper dropped the subject and the principlist Sobh-e No narrowed the remaining dispute from the order of obligations to the calendar for entering final talks, while the day's only verified kinetic event in the Strait of Hormuz, a tanker struck off Oman, reached four outlet channels and not one front page.

CRITICAL SOURCING NOTE Nine Persian front pages of 11 Mehr 1405 were read directly from the NewspaperTasnim kiosk album posted at 21:35 on 2 October, and one English front page from the Newspapers_Iran album posted at 04:31 on 3 October; the album's printed Jalali date matched the target date and the stale-batch guard did not trip. Kayhan is reconstructed from its own channel and is itemised without a page image. Tehran Times was reachable this cycle, after being unavailable at compile time on 1 October. The kiosk images support reading headlines, decks and most sub-heads but not continuous body text; where a deck or by-line could not be read with confidence it has been omitted rather than guessed, which applies to the deck under Hamshahri's «ترامپ آتش زد، اروپا سوخت», the by-line on the Charsoogh economic note, and the kicker over the Vatan-e Emrooz Qatar banner. Iranian claims of operations against shipping are carried as claims and are not adopted; the Fars News claim of seven tankers set ablaze in five days is one such and is uncorroborated in this batch, while the UK Maritime Trade Operations report of a tanker struck off Oman on 2 October is independently established and is carried on that footing. Verified this cycle: Putin's Valdai remarks of 2 October including his judgment on the Larijani assassination and his conditional support for reopening Hormuz and Bab el-

Mandeb; the date of Ali Larijani's assassination, 17 March 2026; Mostafa Izadi's printed post as deputy commander-in-chief of the IRGC; Zohran Mamdani's description of Netanyahu as the architect of a genocide, made in an American podcast interview on 1 October in reply to Netanyahu's United Nations remarks rather than as a counter-speech; and the Nevada event as a subsurface non-nuclear chemical high-explosive experiment to improve detection of low-yield nuclear blasts. The cleric pictured across the Javan cover is Mohsen Qara'ati, named on the page, and is not the Leader. One retrieval of the Kayhan channel returned the Leader's signature on the prayer message as «سیّدعلی خامنه‌ای»; that reading is rejected as a retrieval artefact and the signature is confirmed from a second channel as «سیدمجتبی حسینی خامنه‌ای», dated 9 Mehr 1405.

Macro Trend Analysis

1 The attack on the president was not renewed, and the executive pressed its case in public

On 1 October Kayhan attacked Pezeshkian by name over the Islamabad memorandum and Seda-ye Iran supplied the argument that Iran need not negotiate. This morning the president answers reformist party figures that «تمام تلاش‌مان را برای به سرانجام رساندن تفاهمنامه اسلام‌آباد به کار می‌بریم», carried as a banner by the economic daily Ta'adol, and the meeting itself leads Etemad under «در جمع اصلاح‌طلبان». Kayhan's cover does not mention the memorandum, the American answer or the negotiation at all; its editorial is on hijab enforcement and is addressed to the heads of the three branches collectively. This file does not read that as a concession: the attack stands unretracted. It reads it as a refusal to fight the same battle twice in public, which is a different and more durable posture, and it means the constraint on Iranian acceptance is quieter today than it was a cycle ago without being weaker.

2 The dispute narrowed from sequencing to a calendar, and a principlist title published the narrowing

Sobh-e No's front-page analysis states that Qatari mediation has again referred the new American proposal to Iran, that the proposal rests on «تفاهم اسلام‌آباد» but now carries a road map for the final negotiations, and that the fundamental gap between the two sides is «زمان‌بندی ورود به «مذاکرات نهایی»», the timing of entry into the final talks. Three cycles ago this file was tracking enforcement; two cycles ago, the sequencing of obligations; today, a date. Each narrowing has been published by a different part of the press, and today's comes from the principlist side, which is the part of the spectrum with the least incentive to make the gap look small.

3 The English-language estate is running a single message, and it is a demand

Iran Daily banners "Iran says seeks US concrete guarantees to end war" across the full width of its front page, and Tehran Times attributes the same formula to deputy foreign minister Saeed Khatibzadeh. On 1 October the equivalent slot carried the president promising that Iranian policy preserves the security and interests of regional states; two cycles before that it carried the parliament speaker's threat that no regional infrastructure would be safe. The register has moved from threat to reassurance to demand in three editions, and the demand is addressed to Washington rather than to the Gulf capitals. Tehran Times pairs it with "Era of cost-free threats against Iran is over: IRGC", so the English reader gets the ask and the deterrent in the same edition.

4 The Strait is a claim on the front pages and an event only on the wires

UK Maritime Trade Operations reported a crude oil tanker struck by an unknown projectile on its port side roughly four nautical miles east of Oman on 2 October, crew safe, no pollution reported. Four outlet and agency channels carried it, Defa Press as «وقوع یک حادثه دریایی دیگر در سواحل عمان», another maritime incident off Oman, which is itself an admission of a series. Fars News claimed seven tankers set ablaze in the Strait in five days, Kuwaiti and Emirati vessels among them, reproduced here only as a claim. Not one of the

eleven front pages in this batch carries either. What they carry is Kayhan's lead that the American president cannot reopen the waterway. A front page that prints the closure as settled and omits the strikes that enforce it is not reporting a chokepoint; it is maintaining one.

5 Putin reached three Iranian front pages, and the half of his remarks that mattered most reached none

At the 23rd Valdai plenary in Moscow on 2 October the Russian president said the world is amazed at the courage and resilience of the Iranian nation, called the assassination of Ali Larijani a tremendous mistake and described him as ready to seek mutually acceptable compromises, and said there would be no cause to restrict passage through Hormuz or Bab el-Mandeb once sanctions are lifted, adding that Russia supports that. Javan printed the praise. Sazandegi printed the Larijani verdict and built its whole cover on it. Tehran Times built its lead on the resilience theme. The Hormuz sentence, in which Iran's most important remaining partner publicly ties the reopening of the Strait to sanctions relief and endorses it, is on no Iranian front page in this batch.

6 Sazandegi turned a foreign leader's words into a domestic succession argument

«مردی که می‌توانست جنگ را تمام کند», the man who could have ended the war, fills the reformist party daily's cover over a photograph of Ali Larijani, with the deck putting Putin's verdict on the record and then asking three questions: what role Larijani played, why he was assassinated, and who can now take his place. Larijani, secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, was killed on 17 March 2026. The headline is a counterfactual about a dead official and its target is the living security establishment that holds the file today. Making the case for compromise in a Russian president's voice rather than an Iranian one is a way of putting it beyond the reach of the usual rebuttal, and no principlist title answered it in this batch.

7 The hardline covers argue from stock, not from flow

Javan leads on Mostafa Izadi, deputy commander-in-chief of the IRGC, claiming «غافلگیری‌های فناورانه برای دشمن داریم», technological surprises for the enemy, with a long leap across the ground, air, air-defence and naval domains and technologies some of which «در آینده مورد بهره‌برداری قرار خواهد گرفت», will be exploited in future. Vatan-e Emrooz leads on «جهان اتمی‌تر شد», arguing that Trump's policies and the war have strengthened the case for nuclear deterrence among states generally, a proliferation argument made in the inverse so the paper keeps the moral position while normalising the capability. Kayhan claims the closure as achieved. Three titles, three claims of standing advantage, no engagement reported on any of them.

8 A verified aviation incident completed its conversion, and the holdout title flipped

On 1 October Jomhouri Eslami was the one cover in the batch that carried the cockpit assault on a Dubai to Tel Aviv flight straight, as new details, while Qods called it «پرچم دروغین», a false flag, and Kayhan welcomed it. Today Jomhouri Eslami prints «دلیل برای جعلی بودن روایت تل‌آویو درباره حادثه هواپیمای اماراتی ۱۱», an Arab analyst's eleven reasons the Tel Aviv account of the Emirati aircraft incident is fabricated, and relabels the aircraft. The open question this file left on whether the conservative press had an unsettled line is answered: it had a one-cycle lag, not a disagreement. The same lag now has two independent confirmations, the Iraq withdrawal and this, and should be applied to future negative-evidence findings.

9 The accountability campaign against Israel is the batch's one multilateral item

Jomhouri Eslami leads on «بیش از ۲۰۰ سازمان در ۶۰ کشور جهان خواستار محاکمه رژیم صهیونیستی شدند», more than 200 organizations in 60 countries demanding the Zionist regime be tried for crimes against humanity, pressing to halt its armament and hold it accountable under international law. Vatan-e Emrooz runs the same material in its rail as «جهان علیه نتانیاهو». Sobh-e No banners Zohran Mamdani calling Netanyahu «معمار یک نسل‌کشی», the architect of a genocide, remarks he made in an American podcast interview on 1 October

answering Netanyahu's United Nations criticism of him. This is the one subject on which the Iranian covers and the international record overlap rather than diverge, and it is the one place the Iranian press is content to let foreign voices carry the argument.

10 The currency crackdown now has arithmetic, and the street has a different number
Hamshahri prints the enforcement with its figures: 152 online pages identified for false currency pricing and 24 actually seized, a three billion dollar central bank intervention, and a prosecutor's order referring market disruptors to the courts. Charsoogh answers with a price table setting municipal declared prices against market prices, and with a cartoon of a dollar-bill bullet train racing past markers at 230 and 250 thousand tomans toward a question mark. Ta'adol asks why housing supply has fallen behind demand and reports a car market where asking prices rise without transactions. Four covers, one conclusion: the instruments are being announced at a scale the market is not pricing.

11 American war-weariness is being printed by the reformist and the clerical press alike
Etemad banners «۷۱ درصد امریکاییان ناراضی‌اند» from an interview with Gholamreza Karimi on Trump's handling of the Iran file, under the line that American opinion on the eve of the midterm elections is severely weary of the war. Jomhouri Eslami carries the same 71 percent as a new poll finding on Trump's conduct of the war. Vatan-e Emrooz's rail converts the same material into «به التماس افتاد», he has been reduced to pleading, tying Trump's exertions to fear of defeat in the midterms. The figure is doing different work in each venue: for the reformists it is evidence that the other side also wants out; for the hardliners it is evidence that the other side can be outlasted. These two readings are not independent of one another and are not treated as such here.

Key Judgments

KJ-1 [HIGH] The domestic veto on the Islamabad memorandum was not re-asserted in this cycle, and the executive used the opening to press its case in public. This is the edition's highest-significance finding. The evidence is a pairing. On the executive side, Ta'adol banners the president telling reformist party activists «تمام تلاش‌مان را برای به سرانجام رساندن تفاهمنامه اسلام‌آباد به کار می‌بریم», and Etemad gives the meeting its whole cover with three named supporters arguing the case, Mohammad-Ali Abtahi calling the memorandum the best route to a dignified and realistic end to the war, Gholamreza Zarifian calling it one of the most remarkable documents in post-revolutionary Iranian diplomacy, and Ahmad Zeidabadi naming the asymmetry directly, that the figures who support it are many but silent while the opponents are few and loud. On the other side, Kayhan's cover carries no memorandum, no American answer and no negotiation, and its signed editorial, verified as Hossein Shariatmadari's, spends the argument on hijab enforcement addressed collectively to the heads of the three branches. The significance is that the obstacle this file rated as the principal constraint on 1 October is quieter today than it was, with no retraction and no repetition. Calibration runs both ways: reading a single quiet cycle as a retreat would overstate it, and reading a sustained front-page attack into a cover that does not mention the subject would be simply wrong.

KJ-2 [HIGH] The gap between the two sides has narrowed from the sequencing of obligations to the timing of entry into final negotiations, and the narrowing was published by a principlist outlet. The evidence is Sobh-e No's own front-page analysis, which states that Qatari mediation has again referred the new American proposal to Iran, that the proposal is built on the foundation of «تفاهم اسلام‌آباد» but arrives this time with a road map for the final talks attached, and that «تفاوت بنیادین دو نگاه دو طرف به زمان‌بندی ورود به مذاکرات نهایی» است»». This is corroborated in direction by the English-language estate, where Iran Daily's banner and Tehran Times both carry the Iranian ask as concrete American guarantees to end the war,

attributed to deputy foreign minister Saeed Khatibzadeh. The significance is twofold. The thread this file has tracked since 29 September has now resolved to its narrowest form, a date rather than a principle, which is the most tractable version of the dispute it has recorded. And the narrowing comes from the faction with the least incentive to make the gap look small, which raises confidence that it is a real convergence rather than an advocacy frame.

KJ-3 **[HIGH]** Kinetic activity in the Strait of Hormuz is being kept off the Iranian front pages while the closure is maintained on them as a political fact, and the divergence is deliberate rather than accidental. The evidence is a clean split. Independently established: UK Maritime Trade Operations reported a crude oil tanker struck by an unknown projectile on its port side approximately four nautical miles east of the Omani coast on 2 October, with all crew safe and no pollution reported. Carried on four Iranian channels, including Defa Press at 01:37 as «وقوع یک حادثه دریایی دیگر در سواحل عمان», another maritime incident, which concedes a series. Separately, Fars News claimed at 03:50 that seven tankers had been set ablaze in the Strait in five days including Kuwaiti and Emirati vessels, a claim reproduced here as a claim and uncorroborated in this batch. On the front pages: none of it, in eleven covers. What the covers carry is Kayhan's lead that Trump cannot reopen the waterway. The significance is that the Iranian reading public is being given the chokepoint as a settled achievement and not as an ongoing campaign with Gulf Arab shipping among its targets, which matters because a sequenced reopening will have to be sold to that same readership. Confidence is high on the divergence itself, which is documentary, and is not extended to any inference about who struck the tanker.

KJ-4 **[MODERATE-HIGH]** Negative evidence, filed as the edition's second most consequential finding: Russia publicly tied the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz to sanctions relief and endorsed it, and that sentence reached no Iranian front page while the rest of the same speech reached three. The evidence is the speech and the selection. At the 23rd Valdai Discussion Club plenary in Moscow on 2 October, Putin said the world is amazed at the courage and resilience of the Iranian nation, called the assassination of Ali Larijani a tremendous mistake and described him as a man ready to seek mutually acceptable compromises who would be needed now to bring peace to the Persian Gulf, and said there would be no cause for restricting passage through Hormuz or Bab el-Mandeb once sanctions are lifted, adding that Russia supports that. Javan printed the praise; Sazandegi built its entire cover on the Larijani verdict; Tehran Times built its lead on the resilience theme. The Hormuz sentence is absent from every cover in the batch. The significance is that the one third party with standing in Tehran has now stated a reopening formula in public, and the Iranian press is printing the parts of his remarks that flatter and withholding the part that commits. Confidence is held below high because a single cycle of absence can be a print-deadline artefact, and this file has now twice confirmed a one-cycle lag in this batch; the discriminating test is whether the Hormuz clause appears on a cover in the next edition.

KJ-5 **[MODERATE-HIGH]** The three-lock total-tanker-denial doctrine this file rated SEVERE on 30 September should now be moved from active tracking toward retirement, because its sponsoring title has spent the intervening cycles arguing the opposite case. The evidence is specific to one outlet. Sobh-e No published «قفل نظامی», «قفل مقرراتی» and «قفل انرژی» on its 8 Mehr cover with a signed editorial whose stated objective was that in practice no tanker should pass. It published no front-page material on 1 October. Today its cover analyses a benefit-centred understanding for the country, names the remaining dispute as a calendar, and does not restate the formula. No other title in the batch has adopted the three locks in three cycles. The significance is that a published terminal objective for the waterway that does not propagate beyond one cover, and that the sponsoring cover then declines to repeat while arguing terms, is

better explained as one outlet's maximal bargaining position than as a coordinated doctrine. Calibration: a doctrine that is not restated is not thereby withdrawn, and the item stays on the tracker at reduced weight rather than being struck; the discriminating test is whether the formula returns if the timing dispute hardens.

KJ-6 [MODERATE-HIGH] Hardline front-page content in this cycle consists entirely of claims of standing advantage, with no reported engagement on any Iranian cover, and this is the first batch in several in which no front page carries a front. The evidence is the set. Javan leads on the IRGC deputy commander-in-chief Mostafa Izadi claiming technological surprises held in reserve, with the deck conceding that some have been used and others are for the future, which is a capability claim unattached to an operation. Vatan-e Emrooz leads on a general proliferation argument rather than on an Iranian capability. Kayhan leads on what the American president cannot do. Across eleven covers there is no strike, no casualty figure, no front and no communiqué. The significance is that a wartime press with nothing kinetic to print falls back on inventory, and that this condition is itself an indicator: it is consistent with a quiet period in which the parties are negotiating, and it is also the condition in which a single incident would have outsized narrative effect. Confidence is moderate-high on the characterisation, which is a direct reading of eleven covers, and the inference about what the quiet means is held open.

KJ-7 [MODERATE-HIGH] The Iranian conservative press has completed its conversion of a verified civil-aviation incident into a denial product, and the one-cycle lag this file identified on 1 October is now confirmed by a second case. The evidence is a movement in a single title. On 1 October Jomhouri Eslami was the only cover in the batch carrying the cockpit assault aboard the Dubai to Tel Aviv service straight, as new details, while Qods printed it as «پرچم دروغین» and Kayhan welcomed it as proof that hatred of Israel had made the sky unsafe for Zionists. Today the same paper prints «۱۱ دلیل برای جعلی بودن روایت تل‌آویو درباره حادثه هواپیمای اماراتی», eleven reasons the Israeli account is fabricated, attributed to an Arab analyst, and relabels the aircraft Emirati. The significance is that the conservative press did not have an unsettled line, as this file considered possible, but a propagation delay; and that the lag is now established twice, here and on the Iraq withdrawal, which gives this file a calibrated allowance of roughly one cycle before an absence can be read as a decision rather than a deadline. Confidence is moderate-high: the two cases are documentary, and generalising a two-case lag to all future absences would overreach.

KJ-8 [MODERATE] Sazandegi has opened a succession argument at the Supreme National Security Council, framed as a retrospective and sourced to a foreign head of state, and no principlist title answered it. The evidence is the cover. «مردی که می‌توانست جنگ را تمام کند» runs over a full-page photograph of Ali Larijani, with the deck placing Putin's verdict on the record and then asking what role Larijani played, why he was assassinated, and who can now take his place. Larijani, SNSC secretary, was killed on 17 March 2026, which is independently confirmed. The paper's own editorial the same morning asks «توافق ملی یا غنیمت جناحی؟», national accord or factional spoils. The significance is the construction rather than the content: a reformist party daily is arguing that the removal of a compromiser prolonged the war, which is simultaneously a case for the memorandum and a question about the competence of whoever now holds the file, and it is argued in a Russian president's voice so that rebutting it means rebutting Moscow. Confidence is moderate because this is one cover's framing and this file cannot establish from it that a succession contest is actually under way at the council.

KJ-9 [MODERATE] Vatan-e Emrooz's proliferation lead is constructed in part from a technical event that does not support it, and the conversion mechanism is the usable finding rather than the claim. The evidence is the pairing. The front page reads «جهان اتمی‌تر شد», the world became more nuclear, with the

deck holding that Trump's policies and the war against Iran, waged under the pretext of countering proliferation, strengthened the motive for nuclear deterrence among states. On the same cycle the paper's own channel carried, at 18:05, the report that the United States conducted an underground explosive test in Nevada. The public record establishes that event as a subsurface non-nuclear chemical high-explosive experiment at the Nevada National Security Site, conducted to improve detection of low-yield nuclear explosions, with no nuclear device involved. A separate channel item the same window reports Japan stating that North Korea fired a ballistic missile. The significance is that a literally accurate wire item and an unrelated missile launch are being assembled into a thesis that the world is rearming because of American conduct, which is a documented instance of how this outlet builds a front page, and is applicable to future Iranian claims of Western nuclear activity. Confidence is moderate: the front page does not itself cite the Nevada item, and the assembly is this file's inference from the pairing in one cycle.

KJ-10 [MODERATE] The currency enforcement announced across four covers is being published at a scale the market is not pricing, and the gap is visible in the same batch. The evidence sits on two pages. Hamshahri supplies the state's arithmetic: 152 online pages identified for false currency pricing with 24 seized, a three billion dollar central bank supply, and a prosecutor's order referring disruptors to the courts, under «علیه به‌هم‌ریختگی ارزی». Charsoogh supplies the market's: a cartoon of a dollar bullet train passing markers at 230 and 250 thousand tomans toward a question mark, captioned «تنها قطار سریع‌السیر در دولت پزشکیان», and a price table setting municipal declared prices against market prices. Ta'adol reports a car market where asking prices rise without transactions and asks why housing supply has fallen behind demand. The significance is that the enforcement measures are real, announced and modest relative to the move they are meant to arrest, which is the same reading this file filed on 1 October and which is now supported by published figures rather than inferred. Confidence is moderate: the cartoon's numbers are an editorial depiction and are not a quoted market rate.

KJ-11 [MODERATE] Negative evidence: Lebanon is effectively absent from the Persian front pages for a second consecutive cycle, and what reporting exists has moved into the English-language estate. The evidence is the distribution. Across nine Persian covers the northern front appears once, as Kayhan's sub-item «شیخ نعیم قاسم: ما فرزندان خمینی و خامنه‌ای هستیم», an allegiance formula the Hezbollah secretary-general has used before and which carries no operational content. The substantive item is in English: Tehran Times reports southern Lebanese residents saying Israel is razing their lives before their eyes during the ceasefire period. The Fars News channel carries casualty and humanitarian commentary and rings given by the Leader to the families of Lebanese martyrs, which is commemorative rather than operational. The significance is that a front this file rated a live flashpoint is being handled domestically as loyalty content and externally as humanitarian reporting, with no claims of engagement in either register, which is consistent with the quiet batch described above and inconsistent with an active northern campaign. Confidence is moderate and this is filed as a tracker: two cycles of thin coverage is not an establishable trend, and Khorasan, which led on the Israel front on 1 October, is not in today's batch.

Named-Figure Tracker

Figure	Role / relevance	Today's framing	Flag
Masoud Pezeshkian	President of Iran	Recommits publicly to concluding the Islamabad memorandum before reformist party activists; leads Etemad's cover and banners Ta'adol; attacked by name a cycle ago and not attacked today	WATCH

Figure	Role / relevance	Today's framing	Flag
Mojtaba Khamenei	Leader of the Revolution	Present in the batch only through the prayer assembly message, signed «سیدمجتبی حسینی خامنه‌ای» and dated 9 Mehr, carried as a banner by five titles a full cycle after issue; no photographic presence on any cover	absence noted
Donald Trump	President of the United States	Kayhan's «تقلای ترامپ», floundering and unable to reopen the Strait; Vatan-e Emrooz's «به التماس افتاد», reduced to pleading, tied to the midterm elections; Jomhouri Eslami and Etemad both print 71 percent American disapproval of his conduct of the war	TARGET FRAMING
Vladimir Putin	President of Russia	Reaches three Iranian front pages from the 23rd Valdai plenary of 2 October; printed for praising Iranian resilience and for calling the Larijani assassination a tremendous mistake; his conditional endorsement of reopening Hormuz once sanctions are lifted reaches no cover	NEW NAMED FIGURE
Ali Larijani	Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, killed 17 March 2026	Fills the Sazandegi cover as «مردی که می‌توانست جنگ را تمام کند», the man who could have ended the war, with the paper asking openly who can take his place	NEW NAMED FIGURE
Saeed Khatibzadeh	Deputy foreign minister	Named by Tehran Times as the source of the demand for concrete American guarantees, the same formula Iran Daily banners without attribution	WATCH
Mostafa Izadi	Major General, deputy commander-in-chief of the IRGC	Javan's lead voice claiming technological surprises held in reserve across four domains, with no operation attached	COERCION SPOKESMAN
Hossein Shariatmadari	Managing editor of Kayhan, appointed by the office of the Leader	Signs the two-part «یادداشت روز» addressed to the heads of the three branches; spends it on hijab enforcement and does not return to the memorandum he attacked a cycle ago	WATCH
Ahmad Zeidabadi	Reformist commentator	Printed on the Etemad cover diagnosing the memorandum's supporters as many but silent and its opponents as few but loud, which is a public statement of the asymmetry this file recorded on 1 October	NEW NAMED FIGURE
Benjamin Netanyahu	Prime Minister of Israel	Banner target on Sobh-e No through Zohran Mamdani's «معمار یک نسل‌کشی»; the accountability campaign leads Jomhouri Eslami and runs in the Vatan-e Emrooz rail as «جهان علیه نتانیاهو»	TARGET FRAMING
Zohran Mamdani	Mayor of New York City	Carried on an Iranian principlist banner as the voice attacking Netanyahu's United Nations speech; the remarks are verified but were made in an American podcast interview on 1 October rather than as a speech	NEW NAMED FIGURE
Naim Qassem	Secretary-General of Hezbollah	The batch's only Lebanon voice, on a Kayhan sub-item restating that «ما فرزندان خمینی و خامنه‌ای هستیم», a formula he has used before; no operational content attached	WATCH

Figure	Role / relevance	Today's framing	Flag
Esmail Qaani	Commander of the IRGC Quds Force	Keeps the Iraq withdrawal alive in the English estate as a new phase for the resistance front, three cycles after the Persian covers opened the claim	WATCH
Mohsen Qara'ati	Head of the prayer establishment headquarters	Pictured across the Javan cover beside «حس پرسشگری را در آینده‌سازان تقویت کنید»; identified here explicitly because the portrait is the batch's most likely misidentification	WATCH
Alireza Zakani	Mayor of Tehran	Printed by the IRGC-affiliated Javan as «مملکت خروس جنگی نمی‌خواهد», the country does not want a fighting cock, an argument against belligerent domestic politics carried without rebuttal	NEW NAMED FIGURE
Rafael Grossi	Director General of the IAEA	Absent from every front page and every channel read in this cycle, a third consecutive edition with no engagement on the safeguards file despite the nuclear framing of two covers	absence noted

Headline Summary Table

Outlet	Lead Headline (English)	Orientation	Theme	Threat signal
Sobh-e No	Negotiation slowed, under the shadow of tension	Principlist	The dispute narrowed again, from the order of obligations to the timing of entry into final talks	MODERATE
Ta'adol	The bourse turned the page	Economic daily	The president's banner recommitment to concluding the Islamabad memorandum, carried over a market lead	LOW-MODERATE
Etemad	Among the reformists	Reformist	The reformist case for the memorandum, with the silent-majority problem named in print	LOW-MODERATE
Iran Daily	Iran says seeks US concrete guarantees to end war	State English-language daily	The guarantees demand given the full width of the English front page	MODERATE
Tehran Times	How Iran surprised the world?	English-language state daily	Resilience claimed and guarantees demanded in one edition, with the Iraq withdrawal kept in the repertoire	MODERATE-HIGH
Kayhan	Trump's floundering to escape crisis and defeat, coinciding with his inability to reopen the Strait of Hormuz	Hardline, published under the Leader's office	The closure held as achieved and the memorandum left off the page entirely	HIGH
Javan	We have technological surprises in store for the enemy	Hardline, IRGC-affiliated	Withheld capability claimed by the IRGC deputy commander, with no operation attached	MODERATE-HIGH
Vatan-e Emrooz	The world became more nuclear	Hardline principlist	The war argued as the cause of global nuclear rearmament, built	HIGH

Outlet	Lead Headline (English)	Orientation	Theme	Threat signal
			partly from a non-nuclear test report	
Sazandegi	The man who could have ended the war	Reformist, Kargozaran party daily	Putin's verdict on the Larijani assassination turned into a succession question at the security council	LOW-MODERATE
Jomhouri Eslami	More than 200 organizations in 60 countries have demanded the Zionist regime be put on trial	Traditional clerical establishment	International-law pressure on Israel, and the airliner incident recoded as fabrication	MODERATE
Hamshahri	Against the currency disarray	Tehran municipality, centrist	The currency crackdown given its arithmetic: 152 pages identified, 24 seized, three billion dollars offered	LOW
Charsoogh	The government at the negotiating table, the municipality at the people's table	Economic daily	The exchange rate charted past 250 thousand tomans, with the labour ministry's complaint against the paper on its own cover	LOW

Per-Paper Front-Page Analysis

Iran Daily

State English-language daily (IRNA group), Vol. 8270

“Iran says seeks US concrete guarantees to end war”

MODERATE: the guarantees demand made the English-language headline, replacing the reassurance register



- Banner: "Iran says seeks US concrete guarantees to end war", given the width of the page above everything else. Tehran Times carries the same line attributed to the deputy foreign minister Saeed Khatibzadeh, that Iran requires tangible commitments from Washington for a lasting end to the fighting.
- Main photo: "Iran takes cultural program to Kazan as part of Russian tour", an Iranian orchestra on a Kazan stage, given the whole visual weight of the cover on the morning after Putin's Valdai remarks on Iran and on the Strait.
- Op-ed: "How Iran can build economic resilience under mounting pressure", an Opinion Exclusive by Ebrahim Jafarzadeh, arguing for self-sufficiency and import substitution rather than for relief.
- Sub-item: "China kiwifruit laboratory seeks deeper cooperation with Iran", a feature report, and "Canada, Europe test a new kind of alliance", an opinion piece on 'coupling without anchors'.
- Sub-item: "Iran cruises past Pakistan to reach men's volleyball final" at the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Games, and a page-7 item on Iran and UNESCO stepping up cooperation on the protection of damaged heritage sites.

> **ANALYST NOTE** The English slot that carried Hormuz reassurance on 1 October and the parliament speaker's infrastructure threat two cycles before that now carries a demand, not an offer: concrete guarantees as the price of ending the war. That is the sequencing dispute translated for the audience that has to underwrite it, and it is the first time in three cycles the English front page has asked Washington for something rather than reassured the Gulf. The Kazan photograph beneath it is doing separate work, pairing the demand on America with a visible Russian relationship on the morning after Putin spoke.

Hamshahri

Tehran municipality daily, centrist, volume 34, issue 9777

“Against the currency disarray” «علیه به‌هم‌ریختگی ارزی»

LOW: domestic economic enforcement with no external threat content



- Main: «علیه به‌هم‌ریختگی ارزی», Against the currency disarray, over a photograph of hands turning a Rubik's cube made of hundred-dollar bills, with the standfirst «بانک مرکزی و دستگاه قضا برای مهار بازار ارز وارد عمل شدند», the central bank and the judiciary have moved to rein in the currency market, and the sub-deck «از توقیف کانال‌های قیمت‌ساز تا عرضه قانونی دلار در بازار», from the seizure of price-making channels to the legal supply of dollars into the market.
- Main: three boxed measures give the enforcement its numbers. «توقیف 152 قیمت‌سازها»: online pages engaged in false currency pricing identified and 24 seized. «عرضه دلار در بازار»: the central bank has entered the market and intends to meet demand with a three billion dollar supply. «اخلالگران زیر تیغ»: the prosecutor's office has ordered the identification of those disrupting the market and their referral to the courts.
- Banner: «پیام رهبر انقلاب به اجلاس سراسری نماز» over «نماز پشتوانه فتح», prayer, the backing of victory, with the deck «نماز، پشتوانه جهاد و فتح و ظفر در میدان مبارزه امروز ملت ایران است» and the instruction that Friday and congregational prayer leaders must be a refuge for the people and a receptive ear for their pains.
- Sub-item: «نکته الگوساز از طرح شهرداری برای تورم صفر ۵», five model points from the municipality's zero-inflation scheme, a signed note by the paper's managing director on the Tehran city government's price intervention.
- Sub-item: «هت‌تریک طلایی», Golden hat-trick: three golds yesterday taking Iran to fifteen at the Asian Games, with the hope expressed of finishing better than sixth on the final day.
- Sub-item: «ترامپ آتش زد، اروپا سوخت», Trump lit the fire, Europe burned, a European fuel-market item run at the foot of the page; the deck is not legible at the resolution available and is not reproduced here.

ANALYST NOTE The municipal daily prints the currency enforcement with the numbers the official papers left implicit, and the numbers are the finding: 152 pages identified against 24 actually seized, and a three billion dollar supply offered against a market the same page calls disarranged. The measures are real and their scale is modest, which supports the reading this file filed on 1 October that criminalising the exchange market is what a state reaches for when its monetary instruments are spent. Note also that Hamshahri runs the Leader's prayer message as its lead banner a cycle after the hardline titles did, which is the municipal paper staying inside the message discipline without leading on it.

Vatan-e Emrooz

Hardline principlist morning daily

HIGH: a proliferation rationale argued on the front page, with the deterrent case made for states in general rather than for Iran by name

“The world became more nuclear” «جهان اتمی‌تر شد»



- Main: «جهان اتمی‌تر شد», The world became more nuclear, filling the page over an illustrated mushroom cloud rising from the globe, under the deck «چگونه سیاست‌های جنون‌آمیز ترامپ و جنگ علیه ایران به بهانه مقابله با اشاعه هسته‌ای انگیزه بازدارندگی هسته‌ای را در میان کشورها تقویت کرد», how Trump's deranged policies and the war against Iran under the pretext of countering nuclear proliferation strengthened the motive for nuclear deterrence among states.
- Banner: «24 میلیارد دلاری به گاز قطر خسارت ۲۴ billion dollars of damage to Qatar's gas, with a kicker tying the disruption of Doha's gas exports to an opening for Iran. The figure is the paper's and is not corroborated elsewhere in the batch.
- Right rail: «به التماس افتاد», He has been reduced to pleading, over a photograph of Trump walking away from a podium, with a kicker tying his exertions to fear of defeat in the midterm congressional elections.
- Right rail: «جهان علیه نتانیاهو», The world against Netanyahu, on an international legal-accountability campaign; the same material leads Jomhouri Eslami's cover with a specific count attached.
- Right rail: «انصارالله در دروازه عدن», Ansarallah at the gates of Aden, and «آمریکا B حمله به پلن», Attack on America's Plan B, two items placing the Yemen front on a Tehran cover that otherwise prints no battlefield.
- Right rail: «پایان عصر پایگاه‌های امن», The end of the era of safe bases, arguing that the war with Iran has broken Washington's decades-old assumption that it can operate from sanctuaries without cost.

ANALYST NOTE The lead is a proliferation argument made in the inverse: the cover does not threaten an Iranian weapon, it argues that American conduct has made weapons rational for everyone, which lets the paper hold the moral position while normalising the capability. Read against the paper's own channel the construction is visible: on the same cycle it carried the report of an underground explosive test in Nevada, which is on the public record as a non-nuclear chemical experiment to improve detection of low-yield blasts, and the front page converted that and the war into a world that has become 'more nuclear'. That conversion mechanism, a verifiable technical event re-framed as evidence of a thesis, is the item to carry forward.

Javan Hardline, IRGC-affiliated

MODERATE-HIGH: an undisclosed-capability claim from the IRGC deputy commander, unattached to any operation

“We have technological surprises in store for the enemy” «غافلگیری‌های فناورانه برای دشمن داریم»



- Main: «غافلگیری‌های فناورانه برای دشمن داریم», attributed on the page to «سرلشکر مصطفی ایزدی، جانشین فرمانده کل سپاه», Major General Mostafa Izadi, deputy commander-in-chief of the IRGC, whose post is independently confirmed. The deck has the armed forces making a «خیزش بلند», a long leap, in the ground, air, air-defence and naval domains, using technologies «که برخی از آنها مورد استفاده قرار گرفته و برخی دیگر نیز در آینده مورد بهره‌برداری قرار خواهد گرفت», some already employed and others to be exploited in future.
- Banner: «پیام رهبر معظم انقلاب به سی و سومین اجلاس سراسری نماز», the Leader's message to the 33rd National Prayer Assembly, carried under the same clause as the rest of the batch: «نماز پشتوانه جهاد و فتح و ظفر در مبارزه امروز ملت است».
- Main photo: a full-page portrait of Mohsen Qara'ati, head of the prayer establishment headquarters, over an illustration of soldiers walking into a valley, beside «قرائتی: حس پرسشگری را در آینده‌سازان تقویت کنید», Qara'ati: strengthen the questioning instinct in those who will build the future. The cleric on this cover is Qara'ati and not the Leader; the devotional page and the war page are being fused by design.
- Sub-item: «پوتین: جهان تاب‌آوری ملت ایران را می‌ستاید», Putin: the world admires the Iranian nation's resilience, from the Russian president's remarks at the 23rd Valdai Discussion Club plenary in Moscow on 2 October.
- Sub-item: «زاکانی: مملکت خروس جنگی نمی‌خواهد», Zakani: the country does not want a fighting cock, the Tehran mayor arguing against belligerent domestic politics on an IRGC-affiliated cover.
- Sub-item: «طلاهای سرنوشت‌ساز», the Asian Games medals, and a human-interest feature set at the shrine of Mohsen Hojaji.

ANALYST NOTE The IRGC paper's lead is a capability claim with no event attached: no strike, no front, no adversary action, only undisclosed technologies held in reserve. Set against Kayhan's closure-as-achieved and Vatan-e Emrooz's proliferation argument, the hardline covers in this batch are all arguing from stock rather than from flow, which is what a press does when the week has produced no battlefield to report. The Zakani line is the anomaly worth tracking: a hardline-aligned mayor arguing against belligerence, printed by Javan without rebuttal.

Sobh-e No

Principlist daily, issue 2440

MODERATE: a principlist title arguing the agreement's terms rather than the chokepoint, with its own denial doctrine unmentioned for a third cycle

“Negotiation slowed, under the shadow of tension” «مذاکره کُند، زیر سایه تنش»



- Main: «مذاکره کُند، زیر سایه تنش», over the deck «پیشنهاد جدید میانجی‌ها در تهران در حال بررسی است. «صبح نو» نگاه ایران به یک تفاهم انتفاع‌محور برای کشور را بررسی کرده است», the mediators' new proposal is under review in Tehran, and Sobh-e No has examined Iran's view of a benefit-centred understanding for the country.
- Main: the front-page analysis names the gap with more precision than any other title in the batch: Qatari mediation has again played the key role and has referred the new American proposal to Iran; the proposal is built on the foundation of «تفاهم اسلام‌آباد», the Islamabad understanding, but this time arrives with a road map for the final negotiations attached, and «تفاوت بنیادین دو نگاه دو طرف به زمان‌بندی ورود به «مذاکرات نهایی» است», the fundamental difference between the two sides is the timing of entry into the final negotiations.
- Banner: «حمله زهران ممدانی به سخنرانی نخست‌وزیر رژیم صهیونیستی در سازمان ملل: نتانیاهو، معمار یک نسل‌کشی است», Zohran Mamdani's attack on the Zionist regime prime minister's United Nations speech: Netanyahu is the architect of a genocide. The remarks are independently established, made on an American podcast on 1 October in answer to Netanyahu's UN criticism of him, not delivered as a counter-speech.
- Main photo: «اینجا پاریس است», This is Paris, over images of burning barricades, with the deck that following the spread of protests in French schools two thousand people have been arrested and the Macron government has convened an emergency session; a sidebar holds that the French police response has inflamed the protests, and Seyyed Jalal Sadatian asks «آیا فرانسه به سمت راست افراطی می‌رود؟», is France heading toward the far right.
- Sub-item: «طغیان علیه قانون», Rebellion against the law, with Naser Imani in conversation with the paper asking why, in wartime conditions, the execution of the court ruling against the hardline figure Rasaei should require a mobilization; a companion item asks which current is seeking to prosecute artists who have returned to Iran, under «بازگشت به وطن جرم نیست», returning to the homeland is not a crime.

ANALYST NOTE Sobh-e No is the most analytically useful cover in the batch: it takes the sequencing dispute this file narrowed on 1 October and narrows it one step further, from the order of obligations to the calendar for entering final negotiations, and it does so from the principlist side of the line rather than the reformist one. Note what is absent: the three-lock total-tanker-denial doctrine this title published on 8 Mehr and rated SEVERE has not been restated in three cycles, and the same cover now argues for a benefit-centred understanding. That is the clearest movement in the batch and it is in one outlet's own position.

Sazandegi

Reformist, the Kargozaran-e Sazandegi party daily, year 9, issue 1322

LOW-MODERATE: a de-escalation argument built on Russian testimony, pressing the succession question at the security council

"The man who could have ended the war" «مردی که می‌توانست جنگ را تمام کند»



- Main: «مردی که می‌توانست جنگ را تمام کند», over a full-page photograph of Ali Larijani reading from papers, with the deck «ولادیمیر پوتین، رئیس‌جمهور روسیه می‌گوید: ترور علی لاریجانی یک اشتباه بزرگ بود / سازندگی به بررسی این موضوع پرداخته که لاریجانی چه نقشی داشت، چرا ترور شد و اکنون چه کسی می‌تواند جای او را بگیرد؟», Putin says the assassination of Ali Larijani was a great mistake, and Sazandegi examines what role Larijani played, why he was assassinated, and who can now take his place.
- Main: the underlying statement is on the record. At the 23rd Valdai Discussion Club plenary in Moscow on 2 October, Putin called the killing a tremendous mistake and said Larijani «was a very positively minded person, ready to seek mutually acceptable compromises», adding that such a person would be needed now to find solutions that could bring peace to the Persian Gulf. Larijani, secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, was killed in a strike on 17 March 2026.
- Op-ed: the signed editorial «توافق ملی یا غنیمت جناحی؟», National accord or factional spoils, under the standfirst that runs from the American embassy to the new agreement, an experience that must not be repeated.
- Kicker: «حمایت از اژه‌ای و قالیباف», support for Ejei and Qalibaf, with the sub-line «انتقاد رئیس‌جمهور از تندروها», the president's criticism of the hardliners.
- Kicker: «ادعاهای ترامپ», Trump's claims, on the increase of American military presence in the region, filed on the paper's index as claims rather than as reporting.
- Kicker: «فردای نامعلوم», an uncertain tomorrow, on the anxieties of Iranian industrialists.

ANALYST NOTE This is the sharpest political cover in the batch and it is built on a foreign leader's words rather than an Iranian official's. By printing Putin's judgment that killing Larijani removed the man who could have compromised, Sazandegi makes the case for negotiation without having to make it in its own voice, and the closing question, who can take his place, is a vacancy argument aimed at the current security establishment. The headline is a counterfactual about a dead official; its target is the living one who now holds the file. Track whether any principlist title answers it.

Charsoogh

Economic daily, year 3, issue 570

LOW: domestic economic pressure, with a press-freedom complaint attached

“The government at the negotiating table, the municipality at the people's table” «دولت پای میز مذاکره شهرداری پای سفره مردم»



- Main: «دولت پای میز مذاکره شهرداری پای سفره مردم», the government at the negotiating table, the municipality at the people's dinner table, over a photograph of a family shopping, with a full price table setting the municipality's declared prices against market prices for Iranian rice, chicken, lamb, beef, oil, tea and sugar.
- Banner: «حضرت آیت‌الله خامنه‌ای در پیامی به سی‌وسومین اجلاس سراسری نماز تأکید کردند: نهادینه و فراگیر شدن نماز لازمه رسیدن به جامعه اسلامی», the Leader's message in the formulation most of the batch carries, printed here with the family name only and no given name.
- Op-ed: «تک‌نرخی کردن ارز عامل افزایش مداوم قیمت ارز دولتی», unifying the exchange rate is the cause of the continuing rise in the official rate, a signed economic note arguing against the single-rate policy; the byline is not legible at the resolution available.
- Cartoon: «الفبای وفاق» series, captioned «تنها قطار سریع‌السیر در دولت پزشکیان», the only high-speed train in the Pezeshkian government: a bullet train built from a hundred-dollar bill and lettered «دلار» races past trackside markers reading 230 thousand, 230 thousand, 250 thousand and a question mark, toward a station sign «ایستگاه ۲۵۰ هزار تومان», while bystanders watch from the embankment and two government economic officials lean from the cab making train noises.
- Sub-item: «شکایت وزارت کار از روزنامه چارسوق», the Ministry of Labour's complaint against the Charsoogh newspaper, run by the paper on its own front page; the Kayhan channel separately records that the labour minister's impeachment file reached the parliamentary presiding board in the same window.

ANALYST NOTE An economic daily printing the ministry's legal complaint against itself on its own cover, in the cycle the same minister faces an impeachment motion, is a press-pressure data point worth keeping: the currency story and the enforcement story are converging on the newspapers that report them. The cartoon is the sharper signal, because it prices the dispute: a run from 230 to 250 thousand tomans with a question mark after it, published the same morning the central bank announces a three billion dollar intervention. The street number and the official remedy are on the same batch of front pages and they are not describing the same market.

A dollar-bill bullet train labelled دلار races toward a station sign reading 250 thousand tomans, past markers at 230 and 250 thousand ending in a question mark, captioned 'the only high-speed train in the Pezeshkian government'

Jomhouri Eslami

Traditional clerical establishment daily

MODERATE: international-law pressure on Israel made the lead, with a verified aviation incident converted into a denial piece

“More than 200 organizations in 60 countries have demanded the Zionist regime be put on trial” «بیش از ۲۰۰ سازمان در ۶۰ کشور جهان خواستار محاکمه رژیم صهیونیستی شدند»


جمهوری اسلامی

بیش از ۲۰۰ سازمان در ۶۰ کشور جهان خواستار محاکمه رژیم صهیونیستی شدند

۱۱ دلیل برای جعلی بودن روایت تل‌آویو درباره حادثه هواپیمای اماراتی

- Main: «بیش از ۲۰۰ سازمان در ۶۰ کشور جهان خواستار محاکمه رژیم صهیونیستی شدند» over «به دلیل ارتکاب جنایت علیه بشریت», for the commission of crimes against humanity, more than 200 organizations in 60 countries have called for the Zionist regime to be tried; the deck has them pressing, within a global movement, to halt the regime's armament and hold it accountable under international law.
- Sub-item: «یک تحلیل‌گر عرب مطرح کرد: ۱۱ دلیل برای جعلی بودن روایت تل‌آویو درباره حادثه هواپیمای اماراتی», an Arab analyst sets out eleven reasons why Tel Aviv's account of the Emirati aircraft incident is fabricated. This is the same civil-aviation incident this file recorded on 1 October, and this title is the one that then carried it neutrally as new details.
- Sub-item: «وزیر دفاع پاکستان: جهانیان دیگر تبلیغات اسرائیلی‌ها را باور نمی‌کنند», Pakistan's defence minister: the world no longer believes Israeli propaganda.
- Sub-item: «نتایج یک نظرسنجی جدید: ۷۱ درصد آمریکایی‌ها عملکرد ترامپ در جنگ با ایران را تأیید نمی‌کنند», a new poll in which 71 percent of Americans do not approve of Trump's conduct of the war with Iran; the same figure leads the Etemad cover from a different interview.
- Main photo: the 33rd National Prayer Assembly in Mashhad, captioned «سی و سومین اجلاس سراسری نماز با پیام رهبر انقلاب در مشهد برگزار شد», held with the Leader's message.
- Sub-item: «رئیس جمهور در نشست با کارآفرینان و صاحبان فرایندهای اقتصادی: عبور از مشکلات اقتصادی نیازمند همراهی و نقش‌آفرینی کارآفرینان است», the president telling entrepreneurs that getting past the economic problems requires their participation, beside a Tehran prosecutor's announcement of arrests in a network smuggling scarce medicines to a neighbouring country.

ANALYST NOTE The movement to record is this title's own. On 1 October Jomhouri Eslami was the single cover in the batch that reported the airliner incident straight while Qods called it a false flag and Kayhan welcomed it; today it prints an eleven-point denial of the Israeli account and relabels the aircraft Emirati. A neutral treatment held for one cycle and then gave way, which closes the question this file left open about whether the conservative press had an unsettled line: it had a lag, not a disagreement. The lead itself is the batch's one genuinely multilateral item and the one place where Iranian coverage and the international legal record overlap.

Ta'adol

Economic daily, 'the vanguard of Iran's economy', year 13

LOW-MODERATE: the president's restated commitment to the memorandum, carried in an economic venue

"The bourse turned the page" «ورق بورس برگشت»



- Banner: «رئیس جمهور در دیدار فعالان و کنشگران سیاسی - اجتماعی احزاب اصلاح‌طلب: تمام تلاش‌مان را برای به سرانجام رساندن تفاهمنامه اسلام‌آباد به کار می‌بریم», the president, meeting reformist party activists: we will put all our effort into bringing the Islamabad memorandum to a conclusion. This is the president's answer to the Kayhan attack of 1 October and it is carried at the top of an economic daily rather than a political one.
- Main: «ورق بورس برگشت», the bourse turned the page, the paper's review of the week's trading on the Tehran exchange.
- Sub-item: «گرانی بدون خریدار», price rises without a buyer, over a photograph of a full car park, on a car market where asking prices climb while transactions do not.
- Sub-item: «از مدیریت بازار ارز تا بازگشت سرمایه‌گذاری», from managing the currency market to the return of investment, the paper's several readings of the Iranian economy in the autumn of 1405.
- Sub-item: «نفت در اتاق انتظار!», oil in the waiting room, a report on the energy market ahead of the OPEC Plus decision.
- Sub-item: «چرا عرضه مسکن از تقاضا جا مانده است؟», why housing supply has fallen behind demand, under a kicker on negative construction growth and falling purchasing power.

ANALYST NOTE The significance of this cover is the placement, not the content: the president's clearest public commitment to the Islamabad memorandum since the American answer arrived is printed as a banner over a stock-market lead, in a business paper, before any political daily gives it a headline. Pezeshkian is restating the commitment to the constituency that will defend it, in a venue the hardline press does not contest, which is consistent with a president who intends to proceed and does not intend to re-open the argument on Kayhan's ground.

Etemad

Reformist daily, year 24, issue 6233

LOW-MODERATE: a de-escalation cover arguing the agreement's domestic case and locating the obstacle in a loud minority

"Among the reformists" «در جمع اصلاح‌طلبان»



- Main: «در جمع اصلاح‌طلبان», Among the reformists, over a photograph of President Pezeshkian receiving a delegation of reformist party figures, with the deck «رئیس جمهور: برای حل مشکلات جامعه و حفظ منافع ملی، از هیچ تلاشی فروگذار نخواهیم کرد», the president: to solve society's problems and preserve the national interest we will spare no effort.
- Sub-item: Mohammad-Ali Abtahi, as printed: «تفاهمنامه ایران و امریکا را بهترین مسیر برای پایان عزتمندانه و واقع‌بینانه جنگ می‌دانیم», we regard the Iran-America memorandum as the best route to a dignified (عزتمندانه, using the regime's own word for honour) and realistic end to the war. The reformist camp has taken the hardliners' vocabulary of عزت and applied it to agreement rather than to resistance.
- Sub-item: Gholamreza Zarifian, as printed, that the government succeeded in getting one of the most remarkable documents in the history of Iranian diplomacy, at least since the revolution, carried to the signature of two presidents.
- Sub-item: Ahmad Zeidabadi, as printed: «چهره‌های سیاسی که از این تفاهمنامه حمایت می‌کنند، زیاد هستند، اما معمولاً سکوت کرده‌اند. در عوض صدای مخالفان که بسیار کم و در اقلیت هستند، بسیار بلند است», the political figures who support this memorandum are many but have generally kept silent, while the voice of the opponents, who are very few and a minority, is very loud.
- Banner: «۷۱ درصد امریکاییان ناراضی‌اند», 71 percent of Americans are dissatisfied, from an interview with Gholamreza Karimi examining Trump's handling of the Iran file, under the deck that American public opinion on the eve of the midterm elections is severely weary of the war.
- Sub-item: «شرایط سخت پرستاری کودکان و سالمندان», a reported feature on uninsured and unsupported care workers, the domestic social item the paper runs beneath the politics.

ANALYST NOTE This is the reformist counter-move to the Kayhan attack of 1 October and it is argued, not asserted: Zeidabadi's line is a public diagnosis of exactly the asymmetry this file recorded a cycle ago, a supportive majority that will not speak and an opposing minority that is loud. Etemad pairs it with the claim that the war's domestic constraint also binds the other side, 71 percent American dissatisfaction before the midterms. Read together the cover argues that both governments are negotiating against noisy domestic minorities, which is the first time this file has seen the Iranian press make the symmetry explicit.

Kayhan

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

HIGH: closure held as an achieved fact and the adversary's inability to reverse it made the lead

“Trump's floundering to escape crisis and defeat, coinciding with his inability to reopen the Strait of Hormuz” «تقلای ترامپ برای فرار از بحران و شکست همزمان با ناتوانی از بازگشایی تنگه هرمز»

- Main: «تقلای ترامپ برای فرار از بحران و شکست همزمان با ناتوانی از بازگشایی تنگه هرمز», Trump's floundering (تقلا, a word for frantic, undignified exertion) to escape crisis and defeat, alongside his inability to reopen the Strait. The title keeps the closure as an accomplished Iranian fact and makes the American president the party who cannot undo it, one cycle after the same paper priced the closure in Western fuel shortages.
- Banner: «نماز، پشتوانه جهاد و فتح و ظفر در میدان مبارزه امروز ملت ایران است», the Leader's message to the 33rd National Prayer Assembly, carried in the same clause every title in the batch chose.
- Sub-item: «شیخ نعیم قاسم: ما فرزندان خمینی و خامنه‌ای هستیم», Sheikh Naim Qassem: we are the sons of Khomeini and Khamenei. The Hezbollah secretary-general's allegiance formula is placed on a Tehran front page in the week Lebanon is otherwise absent from the batch; the phrase is one he has used before and is reproduced here as printed, not as new.
- Sub-item: «برگزاری رزمایش بزرگ جان‌فدایان در اصفهان و زنجان با حضور پرشور مردم ولایتمدار», a large 'Jan-fadayan' (life-devotees) exercise staged in Isfahan and Zanjan with civilian turnout, filed as domestic mobilization rather than operations.
- Sub-item: Asian Games, three golds from freestyle wrestling and taekwondo with the Iranian delegation sixth on the table, the only item the paper shares with the reformist and municipal covers.
- Op-ed: «یادداشت روز», signed Hossein Shariatmadari, «سران محترم سه قوه، لطفاً خودتان بخوانید!», Respected heads of the three branches, please read it yourselves. Run in two parts, it attacks the three branch heads for inaction against what it casts as a Western cultural campaign against Islamic dress, which is a domestic-front subject and not the memorandum.

> **ANALYST NOTE** Kayhan is the one title in the batch that does not print the negotiation at all, and the omission is the finding. Twenty-four hours after it attacked President Pezeshkian by name over the Islamabad memorandum, the cover carries no memorandum, no American answer and no sequencing dispute: it carries an American president who cannot reopen a waterway Iran has closed. The editorial then spends the day's argument on hijab enforcement rather than on the diplomacy, which is the shape of a title declining to re-litigate a fight it opened and lost the cycle before while refusing to concede it. Track whether the memorandum returns to this cover at all.

Tehran Times

English-language state daily (Islamic Propagation Organization)

“How Iran surprised the world?”

MODERATE-HIGH: a deterrent warning and the guarantees demand carried in the same English edition

- Main: "How Iran surprised the world?", signed Seyed Mohammad Torabi, built on Putin and foreign analysts asserting that Iran showed unexpected resilience against the United States and Israel. The paper is available again after being unavailable to this file on 1 October.
- Sub-item: "Khatibzadeh: Iran seeks concrete US guarantees to end war", the deputy foreign minister naming tangible American commitments as the requirement; the same line is the Iran Daily banner, which makes it the day's coordinated English-language message.
- Sub-item: "Era of cost-free threats against Iran is over: IRGC", warning that renewed hostility would draw a response potentially exceeding Operation True Promise 2.
- Sub-item: "US withdrawal from Iraq marks new Phase for Resistance Front: Qaani", the Quds Force commander Esmail Qaani converting the scheduled 30 September end of the anti-ISIS coalition mission into an opening for the resistance front, three cycles after the withdrawal itself.
- Sub-item: "Southern Lebanese: Israel is 'razing our lives before our eyes'", a report on destruction in southern Lebanese villages during the ceasefire period, the only substantial Lebanon reporting reaching an English Iranian outlet in this batch.

> **ANALYST NOTE** Read with Iran Daily, the English-language estate is running one message and one only: Iran wants guarantees, and Iran has already proved it can absorb what was done to it. The Qaani item keeps the Iraq-withdrawal-as-victory thread alive one week after the Persian covers opened it, which tells this file that the claim has moved from front-page news into the standing repertoire rather than fading. The Lebanon report is the batch's one piece of ground-level reporting from the northern front, and it is in English rather than in Persian.

Appendix A: The Leader's message to the 33rd National Prayer Assembly

Message of the Leader of the Revolution to the 33rd National Prayer Assembly, read at the assembly in Mashhad; signed «سیدمجتبی حسینی خامنه‌ای» and dated ۹/۱۴۰۵/مهر. Distributed by the state, hardline and reformist outlet channels; carried on the 11 Mehr front pages of Hamshahri, Javan, Kayhan, Jomhouri Eslami and Charsoogh.

Translator's note: the message was issued on 9 Mehr and first recorded in this file's 1 October edition. It is appended here because it is the banner item on five of the eleven front pages in this batch, a full cycle after issue. The Persian is given as distributed by the outlet channels; the full official text circulates as a PDF that this file could not retrieve, so the translation below covers the passages the channels published and is flagged as partial.

«نماز از جمله زیباترین نعمت‌های بزرگ حضرت حق جلّ‌وعلا، برترین نهاد و نماد و ستون دین.» Prayer is among the most beautiful of the great bounties of the Truth, exalted and sublime, the highest institution, the highest symbol, and the pillar of the religion.

«این اکسیر فلاح و رستگاری و رکن حیات طیّبه، هم پشتوانهٔ مستحکم و مستمر و ذخیرهٔ تمام‌نشدنی انسان در مبارزه با شیطان نفس و شیطان‌های دنیوی است.» This elixir of felicity and salvation, this pillar of the good life, is at once the firm and continuous backing and the inexhaustible reserve of the human being in the struggle against the devil of the self and the devils of this world. The rendering of «پشتوانه» as backing is deliberate: it is the same word the headline writers lifted for «نماز پشتوانه فتح», prayer, the backing of victory.

«اقامهٔ نماز در همهٔ مراحل تکمیلی و سطوح تکاملی‌اش برای فراهم شدن زمینهٔ طیّ طریق از مرحلهٔ نهضت و انقلاب اسلامی تا مرحلهٔ جامعهٔ اسلامی، امری ضروری است.» The establishment of prayer, in all its completing stages and its ascending levels, is a necessity if the ground is to be prepared for traversing the path from the stage of the movement and the Islamic revolution to the stage of the Islamic society. This is the sentence Charsoogh and Vatan-e Emrooz compressed into their banners as «نهادینه و فراگیر شدن نماز لازمه رسیدن به جامعه اسلامی».

The message cites the Quranic verse «اَلَّذینَ اِنْ مَکَّنّاهُم فی الأرضِ اَقامُوا الصَّلاة», those who, if We establish them in the land, establish prayer, and holds that «یکایک» the people are addressed by the repeated divine command «اَقیمُوا الصَّلاة». Hamshahri renders the inference on its own page: establishing prayer is the first fruit and the sign of the government of the righteous.

«ائمه جماعات و جمعه باید مأمن مردم و گوش شنوا و پذیرای درد دل‌های ایشان باشند.» The leaders of congregational and Friday prayer must be a refuge for the people and a listening ear, receptive to the troubles they confide. Hamshahri gave this sentence its own sub-head; no other title in the batch led with it.

The clause every outlet in the batch chose for its headline is the war clause: that prayer is «پشتوانه جهاد و فتح و ظفر در میدان مبارزه امروز ملت ایران», the backing of jihad, of conquest and of victory in the field of struggle that lies before the Iranian nation today.

Analyst flag: the predecessor is referred to in the text as «رهبر شهید», the martyred Leader, and never by name. The signature «سیدمجتبی حسینی خامنه‌ای», dated 9 Mehr 1405, is documentary and is confirmed here against a second outlet channel. One retrieval of the Kayhan channel during compilation returned the signature as «سیّدعلی خامنه‌ای»; that reading is rejected as a retrieval artefact, since it is contradicted by the direct reading of the channel text and by the fact that the named predecessor was killed on 28 February 2026. Verification note: this file continues to treat the succession as established in print by signature and by the full style, and continues to record that it is not being asserted photographically.

Appendix B: The day's flagged editorial, Kayhan's «یادداشت روز»

«سران محترم سه قوه، لطفاً خودتان بخوانید!», Respected heads of the three branches, please read this yourselves, signed حسین شریعتمداری (Hossein Shariatmadari), published in two parts on the Kayhan channel at 04:15 and 04:17 on 11 Mehr 1405.

Translator's note: the author is verified. The by-line on both parts reads حسین شریعتمداری, Kayhan's managing editor, who is appointed by the office of the Leader. The piece is summarised and selectively quoted below rather than reproduced in full.

The piece opens in the second person to the heads of the executive, the legislature and the judiciary: «۱- روی سخن با سران محترم سه قوه است و این درخواست جدی در میان است که یادداشت پیش‌روی را حتماً خودشان بخوانند», the address is to the respected heads of the three branches, and the serious request is made that they read the note before them themselves. The construction is the argument: an instruction not to delegate the reading, which asserts that the officials have been insulated from the subject by their staffs.

The body holds that foreign officials have stated the aim of transforming Iranian culture, and that the contest over women's Islamic dress is the operational form that aim takes. The remedy proposed is not legislation but the enforcement of directives already issued.

The second part opens «۳- حالا فقط به دو نمونه از ده‌ها توصیه آقای شهید نگاه کنید», now look at just two examples of the dozens of recommendations of the martyred gentleman, and proceeds by quoting the martyred Leader against the serving officials.

Analyst flag: the significance is in what the editorial does not do. Twenty-four hours after this column attacked President Pezeshkian by name over the Islamabad memorandum, and on the morning the president publicly recommitted to concluding that memorandum, the Leader's newspaper spends its daily argument on hijab enforcement and addresses the three branch heads collectively rather than the president individually. The attack is not withdrawn and it is not repeated. Verification note: two retrievals of the channel during compilation differed on whether the quoted recommendations are attributed to the martyred Leader or to Imam Khomeini; the piece's own term is «آقای شهید», the martyred gentleman, which in Kayhan's usage denotes the martyred Leader, and the attribution is carried here at that level and not reproduced as direct quotation.

Source line: Kayhan, «یادداشت روز», two parts, Hossein Shariatmadari, 11 Mehr 1405, as published on the paper's own channel.

Appendix C: Methodology and sourcing notes

Compiled 3 October 2026 from the sources listed below.

Scan coverage. Nine Persian front pages of 11 Mehr 1405 were read directly from the NewspaperTasnim kiosk album published at 21:35 on 2 October, and one English front page from the Newspapers_Iran album published at 04:31 on 3 October. The kiosk album's own printed Jalali date matched the target date, so the stale-batch guard did not trip and no fallback sourcing was required. The nine Persian pages are Hamshahri, Vatan-e Emrooz, Javan, Sobh-e No, Sazandegi, Charsoogh, Jomhouri Eslami, Ta'adol and Etemad; the English page is Iran Daily.

Text-channel coverage. Kayhan is reconstructed from its own channel rather than from a scan, which is why its front-page items are itemised without a page image; the same channel supplied the day's editorial. Sobh-e No's pinned front-page post was read alongside its scan and the two agree. Etemad Online, Jam-e Jam, the Iran newspaper channel, Fars News, Defa Press and Nour News were read as corroboration. Tehran Times was reachable this cycle, after being unavailable at compile time on 1 October.

Resolution limits, stated plainly. The kiosk images are distributed at a size that supports reading headlines, decks and most sub-heads but not continuous body text. Where a deck or by-line could not be read with confidence it has been left out rather than guessed: the deck beneath Hamshahri's «ترامپ آتش زد، اروپا سوخت», the by-line on the Charsoogh economic note and the kicker over the Vatan-e Emrooz Qatar banner are the three places in this edition where that rule was applied.

Attribution firewall. Iranian claims of operations against shipping are reproduced as claims and are not adopted. The Fars News item of 03:50 claiming seven tankers set ablaze in the Strait in five days, including Kuwaiti and Emirati vessels, is carried as an agency claim and is not corroborated by any front page in this batch. What is independently established, and is carried here on that footing, is narrower: UK Maritime Trade Operations reported a crude oil tanker struck by an unknown projectile on its port side approximately four nautical miles east of the Omani coast on 2 October, with all crew safe and no reported pollution. That report reached the Etemad Online, Jam-e Jam, Kayhan and Defa Press channels and reached no front page in this batch.

Verifications performed this cycle. Putin's remarks were traced to the 23rd Valdai Discussion Club plenary in Moscow on 2 October, including the judgment that the killing of Ali Larijani was a tremendous mistake and the statement that there would be no cause to restrict passage through Hormuz or Bab el-Mandeb once sanctions are lifted. Ali Larijani's assassination is confirmed as 17 March 2026. Mostafa Izadi's printed post, deputy commander-in-chief of the IRGC, is confirmed. Zohran Mamdani's description of Netanyahu as the architect of a genocide is confirmed, with the correction that it was made in an American podcast interview on 1 October in response to Netanyahu's United Nations remarks, not as a counter-speech, which is how the Sobh-e No banner can be read. The Nevada event reported on the Vatan-e Emrooz channel is confirmed as a subsurface non-nuclear chemical high-explosive experiment conducted to improve detection of low-yield nuclear blasts, which is a material difference from the proliferation frame of that paper's front page. The cleric pictured across the Javan cover is Mohsen Qara'ati, named on the page, and is not the Leader.

Single-source flags. The Vatan-e Emrooz figure of 24 billion dollars of damage to Qatari gas appears on one cover only. The Jomhouri Eslami count of more than 200 organizations in 60 countries is carried as printed. The 71 percent American disapproval figure appears twice, in an Etemad interview and a Jomhouri Eslami poll item, which are not established here as independent of one another.

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

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