OPEN-SOURCE PRESS INTELLIGENCE

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THE LEADER RETURNS TO PAGE ONE, THE WAR RETURNS TO THE WIRES EDITION

Thirteen Iranian newspapers of 25 Mehr 1405: ten front-page scans, nine Persian and one English, read together with three further papers from their own channels and three agency wires. Kayhan, Iran and Etemad are read from their channels because no scan of them reached the day's kiosk batch. Tehran Times and the Leader's official site were unavailable at the time of compilation.

Front pages published the morning of 17 October 2026, reflecting events through late 16 October local.

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Front page: Vatan-e Emrooz

Executive Summary

The lead judgment of this edition is that the incumbent Leader has returned to the Iranian front-page record, and that he returned through a nursing message rather than through the war. For ten consecutive cycles this monitor filed his front-page absence as a negative-evidence finding. This morning his message for the birth of Hazrat Zeynab and Nurse Day is the banner or masthead-ear item on seven of the ten scanned pages; Sobh-e No and Chaharsoo print his portrait beside it; Vatan-e Emrooz's lead photograph is a night rally in which a poster bearing his image and the printed name «مجتبی الخامنئی» is held beside the national flag; and the government daily publishes the text over the signature «سید مجتبی حسینی خامنه‌ای», Seyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei. The documentary evidence for the succession is therefore stronger this morning than at any point in this run. What has not changed is the audiovisual position: there is no dated public appearance, no confirmed footage, and no photograph of the Leader taken this week on any surface in the batch. The absence finding is superseded; the caveat underneath it is not.

The second finding is that the morning's front pages and the morning's events belong to different days. The Persian kiosk batch was posted at 21:28 UTC on 16 October. At about 02:10 Tehran time the IRGC Navy said on the Fars and Kayhan channels that a supertanker carrying more than two million barrels of crude had struck a mine while attempting to pass the Strait of Hormuz by an unauthorised route, with its tracking and radar switched off, and stated flatly «تنگهٔ هرمز بسته است», the Strait of Hormuz is closed. In the same window four channels carried renewed fires at Aramco's eastern Saudi facilities and explosions at Dammam, Khamis Mushait and Abha; Brent was reported at $110 intraday and $109.66 at the close; Nour News logged ninety-eight military flights in the region in twenty-four hours, American aerial refuelling activity, mobile shelters in Tel Aviv, and Trump again raising the possibility of striking Kharg. Not one of these reached a front page. Readers of this edition should treat the ceremonial tone of the printed pages as a deadline artefact and nothing else.

The third finding is that the chokepoint argument has changed category. Through recent cycles Tehran's maritime claim was an enforcement claim: ships in violation, punishment, an invoice rendered. This morning Vatan-e Emrooz prints it as a precedent claim. Its special box, «هرمز؛ الگوی نظم جدید دریاها», Hormuz: the template for the new order of the seas, says that after Iran, Indonesia at Malacca, China in the South China Sea and Russia at the Bering Strait have set out to overturn a seventy-year-old maritime order. Javan supplies the operational half on the same kiosk, «فرماندهان نیروهای مسلح: تنگه هرمز همچنان بسته است», over «روایت ترامپ» «میدان» «تنگه هرمز را ایران کنترل می‌کند نه». Iran Daily supplies the doctrinal vocabulary in English: a "distributed maritime strategy", a "no-go zone", a "southern arc" of pressure running from the Gulf of Oman to the Red Sea. An enforcement claim can be traded away in a negotiation. A claim to have authored a new order of the seas cannot be withdrawn without conceding that the order was never established, and that is the significance of the shift.

The fourth finding is that the campaign against the negotiating camp has crossed from print into an alleged armed plot, and that the man who answered it in print is one of the men the hardline press named two cycles ago. Sazandegi gives its entire front page to «سوءقصد در باران», reporting the arrest of an armed man who it says intended to assassinate the former roads minister Abbas Akhoundi after a meeting of the Baran Foundation, and who it says confessed to membership of a group and claimed that other prominent national figures are on a target list. The paper's editorial, «زنگ خطر تندروی», the alarm bell of extremism, is signed by Seyed Hossein Marashi, the Kargozaran spokesman whom Kayhan's «یادداشت روز» named on 15 October alongside Mohammad Javad Zarif and Hassan Rouhani. On the same morning Chaharsoo runs «تلاش اصلاح‌طلبان برای سفیدشویی آمریکا» over a four-portrait panel

in which Zarif is identifiable. The story reaches no other front page in the batch and does not appear on Etemad's channel, and Kayhan published no signed editorial at all in this cycle.

The fifth finding is a reversal of attribution rather than of fact. Two cycles ago this monitor recorded Gholamhossein Karbaschi, on the wire closest to the Supreme National Security Council, saying that striking three ships in the Strait had violated the Islamabad memorandum. This morning the deputy foreign minister Saeed Khatibzadeh says on Vatan-e Emrooz's channel that the United States and Israel violated it, naming the attack on Lebanon as the violation, and that any negotiated outcome must match the result of the war. Sobh-e No's editorial by Mahboubeh Niavarani goes further and reframes the memorandum as the conversion of battlefield gains into a political mechanism, crediting its first step with lifting the oil blockade and sanctions. Ta'adol's front page, alone in the batch, treats it as something that still needs underwriting: «آیا مسکو ضامن احیای تفاهم اسلام‌آباد می‌شود؟», will Moscow become the guarantor of reviving the Islamabad understanding, published the weekend the Russian foreign minister is reported to be arriving in Tehran on Monday.

Net assessment. This is a low-signal kiosk sitting on top of a high-tempo night, and the gap between them is the edition's main intelligence content. The printed pages are ceremonial, soft-power heavy and factionally busy: a Leader's message on seven of ten, a Greco-Roman wrestling title won in Las Vegas on five, Majid Majidi's Busan prize on seven, a parliament audited and found half shut, a currency market described as trapped in a vicious circle. Underneath them the Guard's navy declared a strait closed, Saudi oil infrastructure burned for a second time, oil crossed $110, and the body that would ordinarily count maritime attacks said it cannot count them because the ships being hit are not reporting. The direction of travel is not softening. What this morning supplies is three durable markers to carry forward: a Leader who is now documentarily present and audiovisually still absent, a chokepoint claim promoted from enforcement to precedent, and a loyalty campaign that has acquired, at least in one reformist paper's account, a gun.

BOTTOM LINE The incumbent Leader reappeared on the Iranian front pages for the first time in ten cycles, on a Nurse Day message signed in his own name, and those pages went to press hours before the IRGC Navy claimed a loaded supertanker had been mined and declared the Strait of Hormuz closed, so this morning's calm kiosk measures a print deadline and not a change in the war.

CRITICAL SOURCING NOTE Ten front pages were read as images and three further papers and three agency wires from their own channels. Every claim here is attributed to the outlet or speaker that made it. Four items carry particular weight and particular caution: Javan's «رویترز: شیوخ خسارت حملات ایران را پنهان کرده‌اند» and Kayhan's Reuters item on precise Iranian strikes on American bases are Iranian renderings of foreign reporting, and quoting a rendering does not verify the original; Iran Daily's "CIA report warns Israel could head toward civil war, total collapse" is an attributed intelligence leak carried by a state daily and is not to be reproduced as authentic without primary-source confirmation; and the IRGC Navy's supertanker and closure claims are Iranian military claims published on a morning when UKMTO stated it cannot obtain accurate attack figures for the Strait. Two front-page items were checked externally and are reported with the check attached: the condemnation of Colombia's embassy opening in Jerusalem is corroborated, while the CICA walkout is corroborated as an event but not as a count, international reporting naming five delegations against Jomhouri Eslami's thirteen. Three items rest on a single surface and are flagged in place: the Akhoundi plot, the Mojtahedzadeh obituary, and Sobh-e No's description of the Speaker of the Majlis as head of Iran's negotiating team. Tehran Times and the Leader's own site were unavailable during compilation, so Appendix A is a reconstruction from printed renderings rather than a verbatim transcript.

Macro Trend Analysis

❶ The Leader is back on page one, and the file he returned through is health, not war

Seven of ten scanned front pages carry his Nurse Day message as banner or ear; two print his portrait in the masthead; a third makes a rally poster of him its lead photograph; the government daily publishes the text over his printed name. The war enters the message only obliquely, through «جنگ سخت», hard war, and a charge that the arrogance network restricts Iranians' access to medicine. For a succession whose evidentiary base this monitor has repeatedly described as documentary rather than audiovisual, the morning strengthens the documentary half and leaves the other exactly where it was.

❷ Print now lags the wires by a night, and the lag is where the war is

The kiosk batch was posted at 21:28 UTC; the supertanker claim, the Hormuz closure declaration, the renewed Aramco fires, the Dammam and Khamis Mushait explosions and the move in Brent all broke after it. Three agency wires and two newspaper channels carried them before dawn and no front page carried any of them. The operational tempo of this conflict has moved to surfaces that publish hourly, and the printed page is now a lagging ceremonial indicator rather than the day's record.

❸ The chokepoint claim graduated from enforcement to precedent

Vatan-e Emrooz's special box presents Hormuz as the template other states are now following at Malacca, in the South China Sea and at the Bering Strait; Javan prints commanders saying the Strait remains closed and opposes Iran's «میدان», field, to Trump's «روایت», narrative; Iran Daily's English opinion page gives the whole posture a doctrinal name. The argument has shifted from what Iran is entitled to do to what Iran has already established, which is a far harder position to concede in talks.

❹ The loyalty campaign moved from naming to an alleged attempt, and the rest of the press did not follow

Sazandegi's whole front page reports an armed plot against Abbas Akhoundi with a claimed target list of further figures, and its editorial by Seyed Hossein Marashi, himself named in Kayhan's editorial two cycles ago, demands decisive action against freelance violence. Chaharsoo runs a reformist-whitewashing panel featuring Zarif the same morning. Jomhouri Eslami answers in the establishment's own idiom, printing Khomeini on where revolutionism ends and extremism begins and Beheshti on rule by standards rather than favour. The story itself reaches no other front page and no reformist channel, and Kayhan ran no signed editorial at all.

❺ Yemen still corroborates where Hormuz contradicts, and Tehran has now added a formal disclaimer

Yahya Saree claims 101 Saudi air and missile strikes in twenty-four hours; Sanaa writes to OIC foreign ministers citing attacks since March 2015; Aramco burns again at Dammam with explosions at Khamis Mushait and Abha; Australia tells its citizens to stay clear of Saudi oil facilities, New Zealand advises against travel, and the American suspension at Riyadh's King Khalid airport runs to 17 October. Against all of that the foreign ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei rejects claims of Iranian involvement in Yemeni operations and offers mediation, and Khatibzadeh says Riyadh has not answered the offer, while Sobh-e No's front page carries «یمن می‌تواند معادلات جنگ ایران - آمریکا را تغییر دهد». Disclaimer and leverage claim are being printed on the same morning.

❻ The economic press kept the inward ledger and extended it to the legislature

Ta'adol leads on a currency market in a vicious circle of volatility, runs a page on the bourse against war risk, and asks whether Moscow can be made guarantor of the Islamabad understanding. Chaharsoo audits parliament against the Leader's own economic instructions of Khordad 1405 and

finds it «نیمه‌تعطیل», half shut, and its cartoon has officials sawing the corners off a conference table in honour of the government's consensus slogan while the people's tablecloth is forgotten. In earlier cycles this counterweight ran against the executive; this cycle it has reached the Majlis.

7 The war is acquiring a canonical name, and it is the third in a series

Hamshahri counts thirteen nurses killed «در جریان جنگ تحمیلی سوم», in the Third Imposed War. Defa Press publishes «بعثت بی‌بدیل ملت ایران»، روایتی از مقاومت در دفاع مقدس سوم», the Third Holy Defense, taking the phrase from the Leader's message. Naming a war in the same grammar as the 1980-88 conflict assigns it a canonical duration, a canonical cast and a canonical ending, which is a mobilisation asset with a long tail rather than a headline.

Key Judgments

KJ-1 **[HIGH]** The incumbent Leader has returned to the Iranian front-page record after ten consecutive cycles of absence, and the vehicle is a ceremonial health message rather than the war. The evidence is a sweep of the batch: his Nurse Day message is the banner or masthead-ear item on Jam-e Jam, Hamshahri, Vatan-e Emrooz, Javan, Sobh-e No, Chaharsoo and Jomhouri Eslami; Sobh-e No and Chaharsoo print his portrait beside it; Vatan-e Emrooz's lead photograph shows a rally poster carrying his image and the printed name «مجتبی الخامنئی»; and the government daily publishes the text over the signature «سید مجتبی حسینی خامنه‌ای». The significance is that this monitor's standing negative-evidence finding on his front-page absence is now superseded, and the documentary basis of the succession is stronger than at any earlier point in this run. The caveat is unchanged and is stated as part of the judgment: no dated public appearance, confirmed video or confirmed audio accompanies the text on any surface in the batch, so what improved is the paper record, not the physical one. Tracking cue: whether the next Leader item carries a dated appearance or remains a signed text.

KJ-2 **[HIGH]** The chokepoint claim has been promoted from an enforcement practice to a published precedent for other states' straits, which materially raises the cost of trading it away. The evidence is three surfaces on one morning. Vatan-e Emrooz's special box «هرمز؛ الگوی نظم جدید دریاها» carries the kicker «پس از ایران، اندونزی در مالاکا، چین در دریای چین جنوبی و روسیه در تنگه برینگ، به دنبال تغییر نظم ۷۰ ساله افتادند». Javan prints «فرماندهان نیروهای مسلح: تنگه هرمز همچنان بسته است» over «تنگه هرمز را «میدان»» ایران کنترل می‌کند نه «روایت» ترامپ». Iran Daily's opinion page supplies the doctrine in English: a distributed maritime strategy, a no-go zone, and a southern arc of pressure from the Gulf of Oman to the Red Sea. The significance is structural: an enforcement claim is a bargaining chip, while a claim to have authored a new maritime order is an identity position, and identity positions are surrendered late and expensively. Calibrating in both directions: overstating this would read a single special feature as doctrine, while understating it would miss that three separate outlets printed the same upgrade on the same morning.

KJ-3 **[HIGH]** The campaign against Iran's negotiating camp has escalated from naming figures in print to an alleged armed plot against one of them, and the reformist press answered it almost alone. The evidence is a chain across three cycles. Kayhan's «یادداشت روز» of 15 October named Mohammad Javad Zarif, Hossein Marashi and Hassan Rouhani and closed on the assassinated Leader's warning that judicial and security bodies should act against those who cooperate with the enemy. This morning Sazandegi gives its entire front page to «سوءقصد در باران», reporting an armed man arrested after a Baran Foundation meeting who it says intended to kill the former roads minister

Abbas Akhoundi, confessed to membership of a group, and claimed that other prominent national figures are on its target list; the paper's editorial «زنگ خطر تندروی» is signed by that same Marashi; and Chaharsoo runs «تلاش اصلاح‌طلبان برای سفیدشویی آمریکا» over a panel including Zarif. The negative half is part of the finding: the plot reached no other front page in the batch, did not appear on Etemad's channel, and Kayhan published no signed editorial in this cycle. Single-source flag: the plot rests on Sazandegi's account alone. Tracking cue: whether a judicial or interior-ministry statement confirms an arrest.

KJ-4 [HIGH] Authorship of the Islamabad memorandum's breach has been reversed within two cycles, and the memorandum is being preserved as an Iranian asset while the violation is externalised. The evidence is a direct inversion. Two cycles ago Nour News, the wire closest to the Supreme National Security Council, carried Gholamhossein Karbaschi saying that striking three ships in the Strait had violated the memorandum. This morning the deputy foreign minister Saeed Khatibzadeh says the United States and Israel violated it, naming the attack on Lebanon as the breach, and that any negotiated outcome must match the result of the war; Sobh-e No's editorial recasts the memorandum as the political conversion of battlefield gains and credits its first step with lifting the oil blockade and sanctions. The significance is that a framework both sides are accused of breaking is nonetheless being kept alive by both the hardline and the diplomatic register, which is the behaviour of parties who intend to return to it. Tracking cue is immediate: Ta'adol's rail asks «آیا مسکو ضامن احیای تفاهم اسلام‌آباد می‌شود؟» and the Russian foreign minister is reported to be arriving in Tehran on Monday.

KJ-5 [HIGH] A doctrine of simultaneous war and negotiation has been printed as an explicit two-step sequence on a principlist front page, supplying a watchable trigger in place of a slogan. The evidence is one editorial. Sobh-e No leads «مذاکره و جنگ برای بازدارندگی» and its سرمقاله by Mahboubeh Niavarani reduces the doctrine to «گام اول: جنگ برای استیصال و عقب‌نشینی دشمن / گام دوم: مذاکره از موضع برتر», war to exhaust the enemy and force his retreat, then negotiation from the superior position, with «بازدارندگی پایدار», durable deterrence, as the single objective. The significance is that this converts «هم می‌جنگیم و هم مذاکره می‌کنیم» from rhetoric into a stated condition: Tehran opens talks when it assesses the adversary as exhausted, which is an indicator that can be watched. Verification flag inside the judgment: the editorial describes Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, the Speaker of the Majlis, as «رئیس تیم مذاکره‌کننده ایران», head of Iran's negotiating team, a title no other paper, channel or wire in this batch gives him; it is recorded as the paper's own characterisation.

KJ-6 [MODERATE-HIGH] The cycle's two hardest military events reached no front page at all and exist in this edition only on the wires, which makes the morning's ceremonial tone a print-deadline artefact rather than a de-escalation signal. The evidence is a timeline. The Persian kiosk batch was posted at 21:28 UTC on 16 October. At about 02:10 Tehran time the IRGC Navy's supertanker claim and the declaration «تنگهٔ هرمز بسته است» appeared on the Fars and Kayhan channels; renewed Aramco fires and Dammam explosions appeared across four channels in the same window; Brent was reported at $110 intraday and $109.66 at the close; and Nour News logged ninety-eight regional military flights in twenty-four hours, American aerial refuelling, mobile shelters in Tel Aviv and Trump again raising a strike on Kharg. None of the ten scanned pages carries any of it. The significance for readers of this product is methodological as much as substantive: on a conflict running at this tempo the printed page is now a lagging indicator, and any judgment drawn from front-page tone alone will be a day behind. Tracking cue: whether tomorrow's pages carry the tanker, and in which of the four registers this monitor has recorded for maritime incidents.

KJ-7 **[MODERATE-HIGH]** The mine-on-an-unauthorised-route template has now been applied to a third hull in four cycles, and the external check on it has formally degraded in the same cycle. The evidence has an Iranian and an external half. The template was used against a supertanker in an earlier cycle and against the container ship GFS Pride on 14 October; this morning it is applied again to a supertanker said to be carrying more than two million barrels, with the added detail that the vessel had switched off its tracking and radar. Externally, Etemad's channel carries UK Maritime Trade Operations saying it cannot obtain accurate figures on attacks in the Strait because most targeted ships do not report them. The significance is that a stable narrative template and a weakening verification environment are moving in opposite directions at the same time, which is the condition under which maritime claims become effectively unfalsifiable and therefore cheaper to make. Calibrating in both directions: the degraded reporting environment does not make the Iranian claim false, and it equally removes the basis on which it could be shown true.

KJ-8 **[MODERATE-HIGH]** Yemen remains the better-corroborated theatre of the two, and Tehran this cycle printed an operational disclaimer and a leverage claim on the same morning. The evidence runs outward from the Iranian pages. Yahya Saree claims 101 Saudi air and missile attacks in twenty-four hours on Sanaa and several provinces; Sanaa's foreign ministry writes to OIC foreign ministers citing attacks since 26 March 2015; five channels carry Aramco's eastern facilities burning again with explosions at Dammam, Khamis Mushait and Abha; Jam-e Jam's channel adds Australia's advisory to avoid Saudi oil facilities, New Zealand's travel advice and the extension of the American suspension at Riyadh's King Khalid airport to 17 October. Against this, the foreign ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei rejects claims of Iranian involvement in Yemeni operations and offers help in ending the conflict if both sides ask, and Saeed Khatibzadeh says Riyadh has not answered Iran's mediation proposal, while Sobh-e No's front page carries «یمن می‌تواند معادلات جنگ ایران - آمریکا را تغییر دهد». The significance is that Tehran is simultaneously claiming the Yemeni front as a strategic variable in its own war and disclaiming authorship of its operations, which is the posture of a party keeping a mediator's seat open.

KJ-9 **[MODERATE-HIGH]** The morning's two heaviest damage assertions are both borrowed from Western sources and neither is reproducible from the retrieved record. The evidence is three items. Javan's banner reads «رویترز: شیوخ خسارت حملات ایران را پنهان کرده‌اند», Reuters: the sheikhs have concealed the damage of Iran's attacks; Kayhan's own front-page list carries a Reuters investigative report on Iran's precise strikes on American bases in the Persian Gulf; and Iran Daily prints "CIA report warns Israel could head toward civil war, total collapse" under a LEAK tag. The significance is in the pattern rather than in any one claim: the two propositions the Iranian press most needs external authority for, that Gulf states are concealing Iranian battle damage and that Israel is internally disintegrating, both arrive wearing a foreign masthead. Attribution firewall: these are Iranian renderings of foreign reporting; quoting a rendering does not verify the original, and none of the three is reproduced here as authentic without primary-source confirmation.

KJ-10 **[MODERATE]** The Azerbaijan file has been re-centred from the school hijab dispute onto Israel's diplomatic presence in the Caucasus, and the Iranian count of the resulting walkout exceeds the externally corroborated one. The evidence is two front pages and the external record. Jomhouri Eslami prints «در اعتراض به سخنرانی رئیس رژیم صهیونیستی: ایران و ۱۲ کشور سالانه اجلاس «سیکا» را ترک کردند» and names thirteen delegations including Qatar and Saudi Arabia, with Kazem Gharibabadi representing Iran; Jam-e Jam runs an op-ed «تحقیر اسرائیل در باکو», Israel's humiliation in Baku, by Mohsen Pakaein, a former Iranian ambassador to Azerbaijan. Externally the seventh CICA summit was

held in Baku on 15 October and international reporting names five delegations leaving during Isaac Herzog's address, Iran, Turkey, Kuwait, Pakistan and the Palestinian Authority, with the Emir of Qatar recorded as staying. The hijab thread survives only as Jomhouri Eslami's «توصیه‌ای خیرخواهانه به الهام علی‌اف». The significance is that the exaggeration is in the magnitude rather than in the event, which is the same failure mode this monitor recorded when the Israeli-authorship claim about the Azerbaijani dress rules collapsed without retraction.

KJ-11 **[MODERATE]** The war is being given a fixed ordinal name across factional lines, and the naming is being sourced to the Leader's own text. The evidence is three surfaces. Hamshahri's front-page banner counts thirteen nurses martyred «در جریان جنگ تحمیلی سوم», in the Third Imposed War. Defa Press publishes «بعثت بی‌بدیل ملت ایران»، روایتی از مقاومت در دفاع مقدس سوم, the Third Holy Defense, and states that it takes the phrase from the Leader's message of 24 Mehr. Vatan-e Emrooz and Sobh-e No both render the message's headline as «پیشگامان بعثت». The significance is that naming this conflict in the grammar of the 1980-88 war assigns it in advance a canonical duration, a canonical sacrifice and a canonical outcome, which is a durable mobilisation asset and also a commitment: a war with an ordinal cannot be ended quietly. Tracking cue: whether «دفاع مقدس سوم» migrates from the agency wires onto the front pages.

KJ-12 **[MODERATE]** Negative evidence, filed as a finding: a scheduled national vote remains suspended by the Supreme National Security Council, and the fact is reported once, in one paper, without comment. The evidence is a single paragraph. Jomhouri Eslami carries the chair of the Majlis internal affairs committee saying «شورای عالی امنیت ملی هنوز مجوزی برای برگزاری انتخابات شوراها صادر نکرده است», the Supreme National Security Council has still not issued authorisation to hold the council elections. No other paper or channel in the batch carries it. The significance is as a measure of agenda control rather than of the elections themselves: the suspension of a national vote under wartime security authority is the kind of item that would ordinarily draw reformist comment, and on a morning when one reformist daily led on an assassination plot and the other carried a European war-cost estimate, neither carried this. Tracking cue: whether any authorisation or formal postponement is announced before the statutory window closes.

Named-Figure Tracker

Figure	Role / relevance	Today's framing	Flag
Seyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei	Supreme Leader	Author of the Nurse Day message carried across the batch; portrait in two masthead ears and in Vatan-e Emrooz's lead photograph; text signed in his own name on the government daily's channel	WATCH: front-page absence ends after ten cycles; still no dated public appearance
Donald Trump	President of the United States	Hamshahri's «نسخه ایرانی برای درمان ترامپ», an Iranian prescription for treating him; Vatan-e Emrooz's «دلقک علیه دلقک»; Javan's «روایت» set against Iran's «میدان»; reported on the wires as again raising a strike on Kharg and as calling the war a military exercise	TARGET FRAMING

Figure	Role / relevance	Today's framing	Flag
Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf	Speaker of the Majlis	Sobh-e No's lead and editorial source for the two-step war-then-negotiate doctrine, and described by that paper as head of Iran's negotiating team	NEW NAMED FIGURE: negotiating-team title uncorroborated elsewhere in this batch
Hossein Ta'eb	Senior IRGC figure, former head of the Guard's intelligence organisation	Javan front page: «در جنگ آینده دقیق‌تر هدف‌گیری می‌کنیم», in the coming war we will target more precisely	COERCION SPOKESMAN
Abbas Akhoundi	Former minister of roads and urban development	Sazandegi's entire front page reports an armed man arrested for an alleged plot to assassinate him after a Baran Foundation meeting	TARGET FRAMING: single-source
Seyed Hossein Marashi	Spokesman of the Kargozaran-e Sazandegi party	Author of Sazandegi's editorial «زنگ خطر تندروی» demanding decisive action against freelance violence; named by Kayhan's editorial two cycles ago	WATCH
Mohammad Javad Zarif	Former foreign minister	Identifiable in Chaharsoo's four-portrait panel under «تلاش اصلاح‌طلبان برای سفیدشویی آمریکا»; named in Kayhan's editorial two cycles ago	TARGET FRAMING
Masoud Pezeshkian	President of Iran	At the seventeenth Biodiversity Convention summit in Yerevan; Javan renders him as saying America and the Zionist regime destroyed the region's ecosystem; Ta'adol overprints «طبیعت‌کشی جنگی باید محکوم شود»; his channel carries «ایران به دنبال سلاح هسته‌ای نیست»	WATCH
Abbas Araghchi	Foreign Minister of Iran	Arrived in Baghdad for the 52nd OIC Council of Foreign Ministers and paid tribute at the site where Soleimani and al-Muhandis were killed; Iran Daily's banner, "Iran trusts Armenia to protect its interests over TRIPP"; says Iran is concerned about any American presence near its borders	WATCH
Saeed Khatibzadeh	Deputy Foreign Minister	Says the United States and Israel violated the Islamabad understanding through the attack on Lebanon, that any negotiated outcome must match the result of the war, and that Riyadh has not answered Iran's Yemen mediation offer	COERCION SPOKESMAN

Figure	Role / relevance	Today's framing	Flag
Kazem Gharibabadi	Deputy Foreign Minister for legal and international affairs	Iran's representative at the Baku CICA summit, reported as calling for Israel's expulsion from the mechanism	WATCH
Yahya Saree	Ansar Allah military spokesman	Claims 101 Saudi air and missile attacks in twenty-four hours on Sanaa and other provinces, with civilian deaths	COERCION SPOKESMAN
Majid Majidi	Film director	His Busan best-film award for 'Bread and Books' and his anti-sanctions remarks appear on seven of the ten scanned pages; Vatan-e Emrooz renders him as «دست از مقاومت نمی‌کشیم»	WATCH: soft-power vehicle carrying war framing onto non-political pages
Isaac Herzog	President of Israel	Referred to across the batch only as «رئیس رژیم صهیونیستی», the Zionist regime's president, and never by name, including in the CICA walkout item built entirely around his speech	absence noted: named in the external record, unnamed in the Iranian one
Benjamin Netanyahu	Prime Minister of Israel	Absent from every front page and every channel item retrieved in this cycle	absence noted

Headline Summary Table

Outlet	Lead Headline (English)	Orientation	Theme	Threat signal
Javan	The decline of liberalism with the "Socialist Republic of America"!	Hardline, IRGC-affiliated	Hormuz closure restated by commanders; Reuters-sourced Gulf damage claim; a promise of more precise targeting in the next war	SEVERE: next-war targeting promise plus a front-page restatement that the Strait is closed
Kayhan (channel-read)	The tyrants of the age have no capacity to confront the army of Iran's Zeynab-like women	Hardline, Leader's office appointee as editor	Supertanker mine claim and a flat declaration that the Strait is closed; Aramco burning; no signed editorial this cycle	SEVERE: claimed mine strike on a loaded supertanker and a declared closure
Vatan-e Emrooz	Vanguards of the Be'that	Hardline principlist	The Leader's message as lead, with Hormuz generalised into a template for Malacca, the South China Sea and the Bering Strait	HIGH: chokepoint coercion promoted into a published doctrine
Sobh-e No	Negotiation and war, for deterrence	Principlist, close to the parliamentary leadership	A two-step war-then-negotiate doctrine printed as policy, with the Islamabad memorandum	HIGH: exhaustion of the adversary printed as the trigger for talks

Outlet	Lead Headline (English)	Orientation	Theme	Threat signal
			reframed as an Iranian gain	
Iran Daily	Pezeshkian calls for global action on war-related environmental damage	English-language state daily (IRNA)	Yerevan diplomacy and the Armenia corridor, over an English-language doctrine of distributed maritime denial and an unverified Israeli-collapse leak	HIGH: published maritime-denial doctrine across two chokepoints
Sazandegi	An assassination attempt at Baran	Reformist, Kargozaran party	Reported armed plot against former minister Abbas Akhoundi, with a claimed target list of further national figures	HIGH: domestic political violence reaching a former office-holder
Jomhouri Eslami	The President stresses the necessity of justice in the health system	Traditional clerical establishment	CICA walkout over the Israeli president's speech, Colombia's Jerusalem embassy, and the only report that council elections remain unauthorised	MODERATE-HIGH: diplomatic isolation campaign and a wartime election suspension recorded once
Jam-e Jam	Conquest of the world on American soil	State broadcaster (IRIB) daily	Wrestling title won in the United States, a medal dedicated to school-strike martyrs, and a claim that American air defence is exhausted	MODERATE: claimed Patriot interceptor shortage and a school-strike memorial carried through sport
Ta'adol	The currency market in a vicious circle of volatility	Economic daily	War and sanctions priced inward, with Moscow floated as guarantor of the Islamabad understanding before Lavrov's Tehran visit	MODERATE: war risk priced into currency and equities
Iran (channel-read)	Nurses: angels of mercy and hope	Official government daily	The Leader's message published over his printed name; a nuclear-weapons disclaimer and Armenia corridor diplomacy, with Hormuz entirely absent	MODERATE: diplomatic consolidation track with the maritime file absent
Etemad (channel-read)	(no front-page headline retrievable this cycle)	Reformist	UKMTO reporting that Hormuz attack figures cannot be obtained; OIC diplomacy; European war costs; silence on the Akhoundi plot	MODERATE: external verification of maritime claims reported as failing

Outlet	Lead Headline (English)	Orientation	Theme	Threat signal
Hamshahri	Hands that give hope	Centrist, Tehran municipality	Nurse Day lead carrying the batch's one casualty count: thirteen nurses killed in what it calls the Third Imposed War	LOW-MODERATE: ceremonial lead with a named war and a counted toll
Chaharsoo	The consequences of a half-shut parliament	Economic daily, principlist register	Parliament audited against the Leader's own economic instructions and found wanting; reformists accused of whitewashing America	LOW-MODERATE: institutional performance critique, no external threat content

Per-Paper Front-Page Analysis

Iran Daily

English-language state daily published by the Islamic Republic News Agency; the government's foreign-reader surface

HIGH: an explicit published doctrine of distributed maritime denial across two chokepoints, plus an unverified Israeli-collapse claim

“Pezeshkian calls for global action on war-related environmental damage”


Iran Daily

FM: Iran trusts Armenia to protect its interests over TRIPP

Calculus of risk

Pezeshkian calls for global action on war-related environmental damage

- Banner: "FM: Iran trusts Armenia to protect its interests over TRIPP" (p.2). The foreign minister's formulation is trust rather than agreement, and his channel remarks the same morning add that Iran is "concerned" about any American presence near its borders and is in direct contact with Armenian officials.
- Main: the president at the seventeenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, with a photograph captioned as a family photo with world leaders in Yerevan, Armenia on 16 October 2026, credited to president.ir.
- Opinion exclusive: "Calculus of risk" by Sajjad Abedi, political affairs expert. It describes the Persian Gulf and Bab al-Mandab corridors as "a complex theater of hybrid deterrence"; states that Iran has moved from coastal defence to a "distributed maritime strategy" of fast-attack swarms, anti-ship cruise missiles and drones creating a "no-go zone"; argues that Ansar Allah has made Bab al-Mandab a chokepoint, extending Iran's reach "from the Gulf of Oman to the Red Sea" in a "southern arc" of maritime pressure; and reads the American decision to engage as "preemptive escalation" resting on restored maximum pressure, disruption of Axis of Resistance maritime synergy, and credibility signalling to allies.
- Sub-item: "CIA report warns Israel could head toward civil war, total collapse" (p.4), carried under a "LEAK" tag. Attribution firewall: this is an Iranian state daily's rendering of an attributed foreign intelligence document; it is recorded as a claim and is not to be reproduced as authentic without primary-source confirmation.
- Sub-item: "CBI urges IMF to take realistic approach to Iran's economy" (p.3).
- Top ear: "Prominent filmmaker hails Iranian people after 'Bread and Books' wins at Busan" (p.8), giving the English title of Majid Majidi's award-winning film.
- Sub-item: "Final-day heroics as Iran clinches Greco-Roman three-peat" (p.6).

ANALYST NOTE The English edition is again the surface on which Iranian maritime coercion is given doctrinal vocabulary rather than operational claims: "distributed maritime strategy", "no-go zone", a "southern arc" linking the Gulf of Oman to the Red Sea. Two cycles ago this monitor recorded that the account carrying no Iranian agency was the one printed in English; this morning the English page carries the agency explicitly, but as strategy rather than as incident, and the night's tanker claim is absent from it.

> The TRIPP banner is the day's quiet diplomatic signal: Tehran is publicly entrusting its corridor interest to Yerevan while its president is physically in Yerevan, which is a hedge rather than a veto.

Jam-e Jam

State daily of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB); the broadcaster's print voice

MODERATE: claimed American air-defence exhaustion and a school-strike memorial carried through soft-power pages

"Conquest of the world on American soil" «فتح جهان در خاک آمریکا»



- Banner: «بانوان ایران؛ پیشگامان مقاومت», Iran's women: vanguards of the resistance (p.2), under «در پیام رهبر معظم انقلاب به مناسبت ولادت حضرت زینب(س) و روز پرستار تاکید شد».
- Main: the under-23 Greco-Roman wrestling world title in the United States, «تیم کشتی فرنگی امیدهای ایران با کسب ۳ طلا و ۲ برنز قهرمان جهان شد», with the second deck reporting that the wrestler Erfan Charkhi dedicated his gold medal «به شهدای مظلوم مدرسه شجره طیبه», to the oppressed martyrs of the Shajareh Tayyebeh school. A school strike is being memorialised through a sports page rather than reported as news.
- Op-ed: «ابرقدرت بدون پدافند!», a superpower without air defence!, arguing that the Patriot interceptor supply chain and the Pentagon's management of the Iranian and Russian fronts have reached a dead end.
- Op-ed rail: «تحقیر اسرائیل در باکو», Israel's humiliation in Baku (p.2), by Mohsen Pakaein, a former Iranian ambassador to Azerbaijan, written off the CICA summit walkout of 15 October.
- Op-ed rail: «سیمرغ، اسطوره وحدت ایرانیان» (p.5); «ذخیره‌سازی سوخت؛ پشتوانه عبور از زمستان»; «نقش رسانه ملی در روایت پیشرفت»; «پرستاران قهرمانند».
- Sub-item: «خروش مجیدی علیه تحریم و جنگ», Majidi's roar against sanctions and war, on his Busan appearance.
- Sub-item: «فرمانده‌ای که تا آخرین لحظه کنار سربازانش ماند», a commander who stayed beside his soldiers to the last moment, a profile of Brigadier Reza Jafarzadeh, said to have been killed in Farvardin of this year.
- On the broadcaster's own channel the same morning: an IRGC spokesman saying «حمله به کشتی‌های متخلف پاسخی به سومین نقض عهد آمریکا بود», the attack on violating ships was a response to America's third breach; American restrictions on its employees' use of Saudi airports with the Riyadh suspension extended to 17 October; Australian and New Zealand advisories on Saudi oil facilities; and about eight thousand detained over French school protests, 85 percent of them minors.

ANALYST NOTE The state broadcaster's paper leads on a sporting victory won on American soil and carries the war obliquely, through a medal dedicated to children killed in a school strike and an op-ed arguing that American air defence is exhausted. The Pakaein column is the more useful item: a former ambassador to Baku writing on Israel's humiliation at a summit held in Baku shows the Azerbaijan file being re-centred from the hijab dispute this monitor tracked over recent cycles onto Israel's diplomatic presence in the Caucasus. The dedication to the Shajareh Tayyebeh school martyrs should be read

alongside the Bloomberg item on Kayhan's channel reporting that Pentagon officials want the internal report on the Minab school strike held until after the American midterms.

Hamshahri

Centrist, owned by the Tehran municipality; the batch's largest-circulation general daily

LOW-MODERATE: ceremonial lead, but the first front-page casualty count framed under a named "Third Imposed War"

“Hands that give hope” «دستان امیدبخش»



- Main: a full-page photograph of hospital staff saluting, several holding framed portraits of named martyred nurses, under the kicker «رهبر انقلاب: پرستار چون فرشته رحمت، موجبات آرامش و امید را فراهم می‌سازد», the Leader of the Revolution: the nurse, like an angel of mercy, provides calm and hope.
- Banner: «پرستار در جریان جنگ تحمیلی سوم به شهادت رسیدند؛ فرشتگانی که ۱۳ ناپای جان بر بالین بیماران ماندند», thirteen nurses were martyred during the Third Imposed War. «جنگ تحمیلی سوم», the Third Imposed War, places the current fighting in the same series as the 1980-88 war with Iraq.
- Sub-item: «با افتخار تقدیم به مردم شجاع و دلیر ایران», proudly dedicated to the brave and valiant people of Iran, over Majid Majidi's best-film award at Busan.
- Sub-item: «توفان ایران در خاک آمریکا», Iran's storm on American soil, under «از کابوس کارشکنی در صدور ویزا تا قهرمانی فرنگی‌کاران در لاس‌وگاس», from the nightmare of visa obstruction to the Greco-Roman wrestlers' championship in Las Vegas.
- Sub-item: «نسخه ایرانی برای درمان ترامپ», an Iranian prescription for treating Trump, under the line that many of his own supporters say the war with Iran has become the bitterest course of treatment for his narcissism.
- Note (یادداشت): «تبیین عملی» در پیام رهبر انقلاب, "practical exposition" in the Leader's message, by Mohsen Mehdian; and an editorial, «قدردانی از پرستاران، فراتر از روزهای بحران», appreciation of nurses, beyond the days of crisis.

ANALYST NOTE Hamshahri supplies the batch's one piece of hard war accounting, and it arrives inside a ceremonial page: thirteen nurses killed, counted and named as a casualty figure for a conflict it calls the Third Imposed War. That naming matters more than the number. A war given an ordinal in the same grammar as the Iran-Iraq war is being assigned a canonical place in the national story, which is a mobilisation asset with a long tail rather than a day's headline. The Trump item is the municipal paper's permitted register for the adversary: psychological rather than military, and therefore printable without committing the municipality to a war claim.

Vatan-e Emrooz

Hardline principlist morning daily (روزنامه صبح ایران), consistently the kiosk's most aggressive headline writer

“Vanguards of the Be'that” «پیشگامان بعثت»

HIGH: chokepoint coercion generalised into a published doctrine for other straits



- Main: the Leader's Nurse Day message, with the kicker «رهبر انقلاب در پیامی به مناسبت ولادت حضرت زینب(س) و روز پرستار بانوان زینبی ایران اسلامی حاضر در تجمعات میادین شهرها و روستاها را پیشرو در عرصه تبیین عملی و مقاومت در پشت خطوط جبهه جنگ سخت دانستند», describing the Zeynab-like women of Islamic Iran present in city and village square gatherings as the vanguard of practical exposition (تبیین عملی) and of resistance behind the lines of the hard-war front. «بعثت», the Prophetic mission, is used metaphorically for the nation's awakening, a usage the Leader's own text supplies.
- Lead photograph: a night rally in which a poster of the incumbent Leader, a sayyid in a black turban with the printed name «مجتبی الخامنئی», is held beside the national flag. This is the first lead-photograph appearance of his image in this monitor's run.
- Special box (ویژه): «هرمز؛ الگوی نظم جدید دریاها», Hormuz: the template for the new order of the seas (p.1), under «پس از ایران، اندونزی در مالاکا، چین در دریای چین جنوبی و روسیه در تنگه برینگ، به دنبال تغییر نظم ۷۰ ساله افتادند», after Iran, Indonesia at Malacca, China in the South China Sea and Russia at the Bering Strait have set out to change a seventy-year-old order.
- Right rail: «دلقک علیه دلقک», clown against clown (p.2), under a kicker running from the Trump-Zelensky verbal clash to American arms pressure on Ukraine and Europe's unavoidable alliance with Washington.
- Right rail: «دم خروس حقوق بشر», the rooster's tail of human rights (p.2), over the claim that minors make up 85 percent of those detained in France's recent protests.
- Right rail: «تاج‌گذاری در آمریکا», coronation in America (p.2), on the under-23 Greco-Roman wrestling title in Las Vegas.
- Ears: the Mowasat/Besat solidarity drill distributing 400,000 livelihood packages and 700 dowries in Tehran; and «دست از مقاومت نمی‌کشیم», we will not let go of resistance, on Majid Majidi's anti-colonial speech at the Busan festival closing.

ANALYST NOTE The ویژه box is the single most consequential item on any front page this morning: it converts Iran's chokepoint practice from an enforcement claim into a precedent claim, naming three other states said to be following it at three other straits. An enforcement claim can be withdrawn in a negotiation; a precedent claim that Tehran has authored a new maritime order cannot be withdrawn without conceding that the order was never established. Carried against the standing Hormuz-as-coercion thread and the «صفر نفتی هرمز» objective printed on Javan two cycles ago, this is escalation of the argument rather than of the activity.

Javan

Hardline principlist; published by the IRGC-affiliated Javan Foundation, the Guard's closest daily surrogate in the kiosk

SEVERE: next-war targeting promise plus a front-page restatement that the Strait is closed

"The decline of liberalism with the "Socialist Republic of America"!" «افول لیبرالیسم با «جمهوری سوسیالیستی امریکا»!»



- Banner: «رویترز: شیوخ خسارت حملات ایران را پنهان کرده‌اند», Reuters: the sheikhs have concealed the damage from Iran's attacks (p.8). The claim is that Gulf Arab governments are suppressing battle-damage assessment from Iranian strikes. It is a rendering of foreign reporting by an Iranian outlet and is recorded here as a claim, not as verified damage. Kayhan's own front-page list the same morning carries a Reuters investigation into Iran's precise strikes on US bases in the Persian Gulf, so the same borrowed authority is running on two hardline surfaces at once.
- Kicker: «طائب: در جنگ آینده دقیق‌تر هدف‌گیری می‌کنیم», Ta'eb: in the coming war we will target more precisely (p.2). The grammar is the point: «جنگ آینده», the future war, treats the present fighting as an interval and promises improved targeting in the next round rather than an end to this one.
- Main: «تنگه هرمز را «میدان» ایران کنترل می‌کند نه «روایت» ترامپ», Iran's "field" controls the Strait of Hormuz, not Trump's "narrative", set under «فرماندهان نیروهای مسلح: تنگه هرمز همچنان بسته است», armed forces commanders: the Strait of Hormuz remains closed (p.2). «میدان» (maydan, the field) against «روایت» (ravayat, narrative) is the standing Iranian opposition between physical control and information control.
- Sub-item: «امریکا و رژیم صهیونیستی اکوسیستم منطقه را تخریب کرده‌اند», America and the Zionist regime have destroyed the region's ecosystem, over «پزشکیان در هفدهمین کنفرانس اعضای کنوانسیون تنوع زیستی», Pezeshkian at the seventeenth Conference of the Parties to the Biodiversity Convention (p.8). The president's environmental appearance in Yerevan is converted into a war-attribution item.
- Op-ed: «جاده صاف‌کن دشمن», the enemy's road-leveller, by Mohammad Javad Akhavan, a standing Javan columnist, running down the right-hand column.
- Banner (top): «تجلیل از حضور زینبی بانوان و دختران ایران», tribute to the Zeynab-like presence of Iran's women and girls, over the Leader's message for the birth of Hazrat Zeynab and Nurse Day.
- Left box: «سینماگر وطن‌پرست با وجدان», a patriotic filmmaker with a conscience, on Majid Majidi's Busan award (p.12).

ANALYST NOTE Javan is the only paper in the batch to print the chokepoint claim in its hardest available form on the front page, and it prints it twice over: commanders saying the Strait is still closed, and a borrowed Reuters authority saying Gulf states are hiding what Iranian strikes did to them. Read against the standing Hormuz-as-coercion thread, the significant move is Ta'eb's «جنگ آینده»: the Guard's own paper is normalising a next round while the negotiating track is still being argued elsewhere on the same kiosk.

> Tracking cue is whether "the Strait remains closed" survives into a cycle in which an external maritime body publishes a transit count.

Sobh-e No

Principlist daily (روزنامه زمانه دانایی), close to the parliamentary leadership

HIGH: a two-step war-then-negotiate doctrine printed as policy, with exhaustion of the adversary as the trigger

"Negotiation and war, for deterrence" «مذاکره و جنگ برای بازدارندگی»



- Main: «محمد باقر قالیباف در گفت و گوی ویدئویی با مردم تبیین کرد», Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf set it out in a video conversation with the public, over the lead headline. The paper's own masthead ear carries a portrait of the incumbent Leader beside «پیام رهبر انقلاب به مناسبت سالروز میلاد حضرت زینب(س): بانوان زینبی، پیشگامان بعثت و مقاومت».
- Editorial (سرمقاله): «منطق «می‌جنگیم و مذاکره می‌کنیم»», the logic of "we fight and we negotiate", by Mahboubeh Niavarani. It argues that war and negotiation are not opposites but complementary instruments toward a single end, «بازدارندگی پایدار», durable deterrence, and reduces the doctrine to two printed steps: «گام اول: جنگ برای استیصال و عقب‌نشینی دشمن / گام دوم: مذاکره از موضع برتر», step one, war to exhaust the enemy and force his retreat; step two, negotiation from the superior position.
- Verification flag: the editorial describes Ghalibaf as «رئیس تیم مذاکره‌کننده ایران», head of Iran's negotiating team. Ghalibaf's established office is Speaker of the Majlis. No other paper or channel in this batch gives him the negotiating-team title, and it is recorded here as Sobh-e No's own description pending corroboration.
- Sub-item: «یمن می‌تواند معادلات جنگ ایران - آمریکا را تغییر دهد», Yemen can change the equations of the Iran-America war, from a guest on the paper's «جنگ و صلح» (War and Peace) programme, printed as Qais Qoreyshi. The transliteration is from a low-resolution scan and is not relied on.
- Sub-item: «ایستاده‌ایم و مقاومت می‌کنیم», we are standing and we are resisting, over «وقتی مجید مجیدی، تریبون بوسان را به روایت ایستادگی ایرانیان تبدیل کرد».
- Sub-item: the head of the Nursing Organisation telling Sobh-e No that «پیام رهبری؛ فرصتی برای حل ریشه‌ای مشکلات پرستاران», the leadership's message is an opportunity to solve nurses' problems at the root.
- On the paper's channel the same morning: Ebrahim Azizi, chairing the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, warning Trump against any action against Iran; and the editorial's further claim that the Islamabad memorandum converted battlefield gains into a political mechanism and that the oil blockade and sanctions were lifted at its first step.

ANALYST NOTE This is the only front page in the batch that prints a decision rule rather than a posture. By stating that war continues until the adversary is exhausted and that negotiation then opens from a superior position, Sobh-e No supplies an observable criterion for when Tehran would accept talks, which converts an unfalsifiable slogan into an indicator this monitor can track. The significance is doubled by the venue: a principlist paper associated with the parliamentary leadership is the surface on which a negotiating doctrine is being normalised, while the Guard's paper on the same kiosk is normalising a next

war. Tracking cue is whether the «رئیس تیم مذاکره‌کننده» description for Ghalibaf is repeated anywhere else.

Sazandegi

Reformist; the daily of the Kargozaran-e Sazandegi party (روزنامه کارگزاران سازندگی ایران)

HIGH: reported armed plot against a former minister, with a claimed target list of further national figures

"An assassination attempt at Baran" «سوءقصد در باران»



- Main: «منابع خبری از بازداشت فرد مسلحی خبر دادند که پس از نشست «بنیاد باران» قصد داشت عباس آخوندی را ترور کند», news sources reported the arrest of an armed man who, after a Bonyad Baran meeting, intended to assassinate Abbas Akhoundi, the former minister of roads and urban development. The paper adds: «گفته می‌شود فرد بازداشت‌شده، ضمن اعتراف به عضویت در یک گروه، مدعی شده که نام برخی از چهره‌های مطرح کشور در لیست اهداف احتمالی ترور آنان قرار دارد», the detainee is said to have confessed to membership of a group and claimed that the names of several prominent national figures are on its list of probable targets.
- Editorial (سرمقاله): «زنگ خطر تندروی», the alarm bell of extremism, by Seyed Hossein Marashi, spokesman of the Kargozaran party, calling for decisive government action against «اقدامات خودسرانه», freelance or vigilante acts.
- Note: «عاطفه شمس / گروه سیاسی» carries the political desk's reconstruction of the incident and the warnings of political activists about rising violence inside the country.
- Obituary: «مدافع همیشگی ایران», Iran's perpetual defender, on Pirouz Mojtahedzadeh, described as a professor of political geography and geopolitics who has died (p.4). Single-source flag: no corroboration of the death was found outside this front page at the time of compilation.
- Index rail: «ریاض زیر تیغ: عربستان در حال تلخ‌شدن است» (p.3); «باروت میانبر به آکادمی: فیلم» (p.3); «اعتراضات: اعتراض دانش‌آموزان در بلژیک و ایتالیا» (p.5); «مجیدی به اسکار رفت مریم، تنها قربانی مهر نبود: درباره افزایش قتل زنان توسط مردان» (p.7).

ANALYST NOTE Two cycles ago this monitor filed the loyalty campaign against the negotiating camp as having moved from policy criticism to naming former office-holders and inviting judicial action against them; Kayhan's «یادداشت روز» of 15 October named Mohammad Javad Zarif, Hossein Marashi and Hassan Rouhani. This morning the man who wrote Sazandegi's editorial warning about extremism is that same Marashi, and the front page reports an armed plot against another figure from the same political family. Whether or not the plot is corroborated, the sequence (named in print, then a reported attempt, then a demand that the government act against freelance violence) is the escalation path this monitor has been tracking. The negative half of the finding is as significant: the story reaches no other front page in the batch and does not appear on the reformist Etemad's own channel.

Chaharsoo

Economic daily (نبض اقتصاد را در دست بگیرید), principlist in its political register

LOW-MODERATE: institutional-performance critique and satire of the consensus programme, no external threat content

"The consequences of a half-shut parliament" «تبعات نیمه‌تعطیلی مجلس»



- Top banner, beside a portrait of the incumbent Leader: «رهبر انقلاب:
مسئولان حوزه سلامت نسبت به جامعه پرستاری توجه ویژه داشته باشند», health-sector officials must give the nursing community special attention.
- Main: «چارسوق بررسی کرد: سنجه اقدامات مجلس با الزامات اقتصادی پیام رهبری», Chaharsoo measures parliament's actions against the economic requirements of the leadership's message, over a photograph of an empty Majlis chamber. The paper writes that the Leader set economic tasks and priorities for the Majlis in his message marking the anniversary of its opening in Khordad 1405, and that more than four and a half months on it has assessed parliament's record, finding it «نیمه‌تعطیل», half shut.
- Sub-item: «تلاش اصلاح‌طلبان برای سفیدشویی آمریکا», reformists' effort to whitewash America (p.2), over a four-portrait panel; Mohammad Javad Zarif is the figure identifiable with confidence from the scan and the body text also names Gholamhossein Karbaschi.
- Sub-item: «احتمال افزایش حقوق کارمندان در نیمه دوم سال», a possible civil-service pay rise in the second half of the year, sourced to the chair of the Majlis social committee.
- Cartoon (series «الفبای وفاق», the alphabet of consensus): «میز جلسات، گرد شد، سفره مردم فراموش», the meeting table was made round, the people's tablecloth forgotten. An aide saws the corners off a conference table under a blackboard reading «جلسه بررسی مشکلات اقتصادی کشور» and says «قربان بالاخره این میز را هم گرد کردیم، حالا دستور جلسه چیه؟»; the chairman answers that another of Mr Pezeshkian's slogans has been realised, there is no time left to address people's problems, and they should go and round off the other tables too.

ANALYST NOTE Chaharsoo is the only paper in the batch that audits an institution against the Leader's own published instructions and publishes a failing grade, and it does so on the morning the Leader returns to the front pages. The cartoon makes the same argument in the register the front page cannot use: the government's «وفاق», consensus, is treated as procedural theatre displacing economic delivery. Taken with Ta'adol's currency page, the economic press is again keeping the inward ledger that the security titles do not print, and this cycle it has extended the complaint from the executive to the legislature.



An aide saws the corners off a round conference table while ministers look on, beneath a blackboard reading "meeting to examine the country's economic problems". The chairman welcomes the realisation of another of Pezeshkian's slogans and proposes rounding off further tables instead of addressing people's problems. Series title: the alphabet of consensus.

Jomhouri Eslami

Traditional clerical-establishment daily, founded at the revolution; institutionally cautious and the batch's steadiest carrier of diplomatic items

MODERATE-HIGH: diplomatic isolation campaign against Israel, Azerbaijan friction, and a wartime suspension of national elections recorded once

"The President stresses the necessity of justice in the health system" «تأکید رئیس جمهور بر ضرورت عدالت در نظام سلامت»


جمهوری اسلامی

تأکید رئیس جمهور بر ضرورت عدالت در نظام سلامت

- Sub-item: «۱۹ کشور عربی و اسلامی افتتاح سفارت کلمبیا در قدس اشغالی را محکوم کردند», nineteen Arab and Islamic states condemned the opening of Colombia's embassy in occupied Quds (p.5). The external record corroborates the event: the OIC, the Arab League, Kuwait and the Muslim World League issued condemnations in mid-October 2026, the OIC citing UN Security Council Resolution 478.
- Sub-item: «در اعتراض به سخنرانی رئیس رژیم صهیونیستی: ایران و ۱۲ کشور سالانه اجلاس «سیکا» را ترک کردند», in protest at the speech of the Zionist regime's president, Iran and twelve countries left the CICA summit. The paper names representatives of Iran, Palestine, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Iraq, Egypt, Kuwait, Qatar, Jordan, Malaysia, Indonesia and Bangladesh, and identifies Iran's participant as Kazem Gharibabadi, the foreign ministry's deputy for legal and international affairs. Verification note: international reporting of the seventh CICA summit in Baku on 15 October names five delegations leaving during Isaac Herzog's address, Iran, Turkey, Kuwait, Pakistan and the Palestinian Authority, and records the Emir of Qatar as remaining in the hall. The event is real; the Iranian count is larger than the corroborated one.
- Sub-item: «رئیس کمیسیون امور داخلی مجلس: شورای عالی امنیت ملی هنوز مجوزی برای برگزاری انتخابات شوراها صادر نکرده است», the chair of the Majlis internal affairs committee says the Supreme National Security Council has still not issued authorisation to hold the council elections.
- Sub-item: «ادامه واکنش‌های اعتراضی به ممنوعیت حجاب در جمهوری آذربایجان», continuing protest reactions to the hijab ban in the Republic of Azerbaijan, with a boxed comment «توصیه‌ای خیرخواهانه به الهام علی‌اف», a well-meaning recommendation to Ilham Aliyev.
- Left ear: «نقطه افتراق انقلابی‌گری و افراطی‌گری در کلام امام خمینی», the point at which revolutionism and extremism part company, in Imam Khomeini's words, printed beside a portrait of the revolution's founder.
- Sub-items: the health minister announcing a 2.5-fold increase in nurses' overtime; «توزیع ۴۰۰ هزار بسته معیشتی و ۷۰۰ سری جهیزیه در رزمایش بعثت»; the under-23 Greco-Roman world title with three golds and two bronzes; and Majidi's Busan remarks, «مردم ایران شجاعانه ایستادگی کردند و زیر بار ظلم نرفتند و همچنان مقاومت می‌کنند».
- Foot banner: a quotation from «شهید مظلوم آیت‌الله بهشتی» holding that social, economic, political and spiritual justice arise only from the rule of standards and honesty, «و نه براساس رفاقتها و رودربایستی‌ها», not from friendships and deference.

ANALYST NOTE Jomhouri Eslami is doing two jobs this morning that no other paper in the batch does. It is the only front page to record that a scheduled national vote remains suspended by the Supreme National Security Council, and it places that single paragraph next to a Khomeini text separating revolutionism from extremism and a Beheshti text on rule by standards rather than by favour, on the same morning that a reformist paper reports an armed plot against a former minister. Read together the page is a restrained establishment argument against the hardline drift, conducted entirely through canonical quotation. The CICA item is the cleanest externally checkable claim in the batch and it fails on magnitude rather than on substance.

Ta'adol

Economic daily (ابزار اقتصاد ایران); the batch's most consistent inward-facing ledger

MODERATE: war risk priced into currency and equities; a guarantor sought for the ceasefire framework

"The currency market in a vicious circle of volatility" «بازار ارز در دور باطل نوسان»


تعادل

بازار ارز در دور باطل نوسان

- Kicker: «مدیریت منابع محدود در آزمون تحریم و جنگ باید چگونه باشد؟», how should limited resources be managed under the test of sanctions and war?
- Lead photograph: the president addressing the biodiversity conference, overprinted «طبیعت‌کشی جنگی باید محکوم شود», wartime nature-killing must be condemned.
- Sub-item: «بورس در برابر ریسک جنگ», the bourse against war risk, a multi-contributor page on equity exposure to the conflict.
- Right rail: «آیا مسکو ضامن احیای تفاهم اسلام‌آباد می‌شود؟», will Moscow become the guarantor of reviving the Islamabad understanding?, by Ali Bigdeli, ahead of the Russian foreign minister's announced Tehran visit on Monday.
- Left rail: «چراغ سبز نقدینگی به بورس», a green light for liquidity into the stock exchange; and «تسلسل ناکارآمدی در خودروسازی», the chain of inefficiency in carmaking.
- Ears: «هزینه درمان بازنشستگان بالا رفت», retirees' treatment costs have risen, on the transfer of pensioners' insurance to the private sector; and «هزار درخت در انتظار قطع ۳۲», thirty-two thousand trees awaiting felling at Chitgar park.
- Foot: «شایسته‌گزینی در مهم‌ترین گلوگاه اقتصادی کشور» and «تقویت پول ملی از مسیر تولید».

ANALYST NOTE Ta'adol prints the price of the campaign the security titles print the glory of: a currency market it describes as trapped in a self-feeding cycle, an equity market being valued against war risk, and a rail asking whether Moscow can be made the guarantor of the Islamabad understanding. That last item is the most forward-looking line on any front page this morning, because it is published the same weekend the Russian foreign minister is reported to be arriving in Tehran. Where the hardline press treats the memorandum as an Iranian victory already banked, the economic press treats it as something that needs a guarantor, which is the clearest internal admission in the batch that its terms are not holding.

Etemad

Reformist daily; read from its own channel, no scan reached the kiosk batch

“(no front-page headline retrievable from the channel this cycle)”

MODERATE: external verification of Hormuz attack claims reported as failing

- Channel item: the UK Maritime Trade Operations centre saying it struggles to obtain accurate figures on attacks in the Strait of Hormuz because most targeted ships do not report them.
- Channel item: «عراقچی عازم بغداد شد», the foreign minister travelling to Baghdad for the 52nd session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, with bilateral meetings planned and a tribute paid at the site where Qassem Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis were killed.
- Channel item: Spain's prime minister saying the war against Iran has cost Europe more than one hundred billion euros, with ordinary citizens bearing most of the burden.
- Channel item: the state broadcaster rejecting as entirely false a report, based on a forged foreign ministry letter, that an Iran-Pakistan crossing had been closed.
- Channel item: Aramco's eastern Saudi facilities on fire again with explosions near Dammam; and Sanaa's foreign ministry asking Islamic states to help end Saudi attacks and the blockade.
- Channel item: the first vice-president praising Majid Majidi for the Busan award; and Trump saying he has been listening to what Iran says and has declassified it, calling the war «یک رزمایش», a military exercise.
- Negative evidence: the reported armed plot against Abbas Akhoundi, which occupies the entire front page of the other reformist daily in this batch, appears nowhere on Etemad's channel for this cycle.

> **ANALYST NOTE** Etemad's channel supplies the single most important verification datum of the morning and it is a negative one: the maritime body best placed to count attacks in the Strait says it cannot count them, because the ships being hit are not reporting. Published on the same morning that the Guard's navy declares the Strait closed and claims a loaded supertanker was mined, this establishes that the independent check on Iranian maritime claims is degrading at exactly the point where those claims are escalating. The paper's silence on the Akhoundi plot, on a day when it carried a Spanish cost estimate and a forged-letter debunk, is the second finding here.

Iran

Official daily of the government's information organisation; read from its own channel, no scan reached the kiosk batch

MODERATE: diplomatic consolidation track, with the maritime file entirely absent

“Nurses: angels of mercy and hope” «پرستاران؛ فرشته‌های رحمت و امید»

- Main: the Leader's message for the birth of Hazrat Zeynab and Nurse Day, praising nurses as a pillar of health and hope and condemning the «استکبار» network for imposing medicine and treatment restrictions on Iranians. The text is published over the signature «سید مجتبی حسینی خامنه‌ای», Seyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei. This is the clearest printed-name verification of the incumbent Leader's authorship in this monitor's recent run.
- Sub-item: «پزشکیان: ایران به دنبال سلاح هسته‌ای نیست», Pezeshkian: Iran is not seeking nuclear weapons, from his meeting with Georgia's prime minister, with the added line «آنها فکر می‌کنند می‌توانند ما را تسلیم کنند», they think they can force our submission, and a statement that Iran is always ready for dialogue.
- Sub-item: the president at the Yerevan biodiversity summit, reporting useful talks with the Armenian and Georgian prime ministers.
- Sub-item: the foreign minister saying Iran is «نگران», concerned, about any American presence near its borders, that Tehran is in direct contact with Armenian officials who he says will not act against Iran's security, and that consultations will continue.
- Front-page list: «روایت فایننشال تایمز از عقب‌نشینی دونالد ترامپ», the Financial Times' account of Donald Trump's retreat; and «رایزنی برای تداوم تجارت در شرایط محدودیت», consultations to sustain trade under restriction.
- Negative evidence: neither the Strait of Hormuz nor Israel appears anywhere in the government daily's posts for this cycle.

> **ANALYST NOTE** The government daily is running the diplomatic register in full while the security titles run the maritime one, and the two do not intersect anywhere on this morning's record. A president publicly disclaiming a weapons programme and declaring readiness for dialogue, a foreign minister describing trust in Armenia over a corridor, and a front page carrying a foreign paper's account of an American retreat together compose an argument that the adversary is the party under pressure and that Tehran's position can be consolidated by talking. That the same government's daily carries nothing at all on the Strait on the morning the Guard's navy declares it closed is the cleanest measure available of how far the two tracks have separated.

Kayhan

Hardline daily whose managing editor is appointed by the Supreme Leader's office; read from its own channel, no scan of it reached the kiosk batch

SEVERE: a claimed mine strike on a loaded supertanker and a flat declaration that the Strait is closed

“The tyrants of the age have no capacity to confront the army of Iran's Zeynab-like women” «طاغوت‌های زمانه یارای مقابله با لشکر بانوان زینبی ایران را ندارند»

- Front-page list (#تیتر_یک): the Leader's message for the birth of Hazrat Zeynab and Nurse Day; Zelensky saying he feels the American president has betrayed him and Ukraine; the Besat drill ceremony in Tehran distributing 313 dowries and livelihood packages; Majid Majidi, «مردم ما تا آخر در مقابل آمریکا و رژیم صهیونیستی خواهند ایستاد»; a Reuters investigative report on Iran's precise strikes on American bases in the Persian Gulf; and a claim that 75 percent of inflation factors have nothing to do with the war.
- Channel item, 02:13 local: the IRGC Navy says a supertanker carrying more than two million barrels of crude struck a mine while attempting to pass the Strait of Hormuz by an unauthorised route, and states «تنگهٔ هرمز بسته است», the Strait of Hormuz is closed.
- Channel item, 05:09 local: media reports that Aramco facilities in eastern Saudi Arabia are burning again, with several explosions heard near Dammam in the early morning.
- Channel item, 03:06 local: Bloomberg, citing sources, reporting that senior Pentagon officials want to delay the internal report on the Minab school strike until after the American midterm elections.
- Channel item, 02:41 local: the Washington Post reporting intensifying power struggles inside the Trump White House as Republicans fear losing the midterms.
- Negative evidence: no «یادداشت روز» was published on the channel in this cycle. Kayhan's signed daily editorial has carried the loyalty campaign against the negotiating camp through recent cycles, and its absence this morning is recorded as a finding rather than as a gap in collection.

> **ANALYST NOTE** Kayhan's channel, not its front page, is where this cycle's two hardest events surface, and both arrive in the small hours after the kiosk batch had already been posted. The mine-on-an-unauthorised-route formulation is the third use of the same template in four cycles and the second applied to a supertanker, and it is paired with the flat declaratory «تنگهٔ هرمز بسته است». The absence of the signed editorial is the counterweight finding: the surface that named Zarif, Marashi and Rouhani two cycles ago is silent on the morning a reformist front page reports an armed plot against a figure from the same camp.

Appendix A - The Leader's message for the birth of Hazrat Zeynab and Nurse Day (24 Mehr 1405 / 16 October 2026)

Reconstructed from the printed renderings on the front pages of Vatan-e Emrooz, Sobh-e No, Jam-e Jam, Hamshahri, Javan, Chaharsoo and Jomhouri Eslami of 25 Mehr 1405, and from the texts carried on the channels of the government daily Iran, Kayhan and Defa Press. The Leader's own site was not reachable at the time of compilation, so no single verbatim original was obtained.

PARTIAL TEXT FLAG. What follows is not a verbatim transcript. It is a composite reconstruction assembled from the fragments each outlet printed, with every Persian fragment attributed to the surface that carried it. Where outlets rendered the same passage differently, both renderings are shown. The message was issued on 24 Mehr 1405 and reached the front pages the following morning.

Signature, as printed by the government daily Iran on its own channel: «سید مجتبی حسینی خامنه‌ای», Seyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei. This is the printed-name verification on which this edition's identification of the incumbent Leader rests. No photograph of a live public appearance accompanies the text on any surface in this batch.

Headline rendering, Kayhan channel: «طاغوت‌های زمانه یارای مقابله با لشکر بانوان زینبی ایران را ندارند» - "The tyrants (طاغوت, taghut, the Quranic term for idolatrous tyranny) of the age have no capacity to confront the army of Iran's Zeynab-like women."

Headline rendering, Vatan-e Emrooz and Sobh-e No: «بانوان زینبی، پیشگامان بعثت و مقاومت» - "Zeynab-like women: vanguards of the be'that and of the resistance." «بعثت» is literally the Prophet's being raised to his mission; here it is used of the nation's awakening. Defa Press takes the phrase «بعثت بی‌بدیل ملت ایران», the unparalleled be'that of the Iranian nation, directly from the message.

Headline rendering, Jam-e Jam: «بانوان ایران؛ پیشگامان مقاومت» - "Iran's women: vanguards of the resistance."

Body passage as summarised on the Vatan-e Emrooz front page: the Leader described «بانوان زینبی ایران اسلامی حاضر در تجمعات میادین شهرها و روستاها» - the Zeynab-like women of Islamic Iran present at the gatherings in the squares of the cities and villages - as «پیشرو در عرصه تبیین عملی و مقاومت در پشت خطوط جبهه جنگ سخت», the vanguard in the arena of practical exposition (تبیین عملی, tabyin-e amali) and of resistance behind the lines of the hard-war front.

Body passage as printed by Hamshahri: «پرستار چون فرشته رحمت، موجبات آرامش و امید را فراهم می‌سازد» - "The nurse, like an angel of mercy, provides the means of calm and of hope."

Body passage as printed by Chaharsoo and Jomhouri Eslami: «مسئولان حوزه سلامت نسبت به جامعه پرستاری توجه ویژه داشته باشند» and «تقویت جامعه پرستاری باید در اولویت مسئولان سلامت باشد» - health-sector officials must give the nursing community special attention; strengthening the nursing community must be a priority for health officials.

Body passage as carried on the government daily's channel: the message condemns the «استکبار» network - arrogance, the regime's standing term for the United States and its allies - for imposing restrictions on medicine and treatment for Iranians, and calls on officials to prioritise nurses' support, their skills and their dignity. Jomhouri Eslami's inside summary adds that the message asks officials to prioritise «حفظ و ارتقاء دانش، مهارت، توان، انگیزه و کرامت پرستاران».

Analyst flag. The message is a ceremonial health-sector text, and it is the vehicle by which the incumbent Leader re-enters the Iranian front-page record after ten consecutive cycles of absence from

it. Three features are worth tracking rather than the content itself: the text is signed but unaccompanied by any dated public appearance; the war enters it only obliquely, through «جنگ سخت» and the medicine-restriction charge; and the word «بعثت» supplied by this message is immediately taken up by the war-naming apparatus, appearing the same morning in Defa Press's framing of the conflict as «دفاع مقدس سوم», the Third Holy Defense. Verification note: this monitor has flagged in earlier cycles that the evidence for the Mojtaba succession rests on printed attributions rather than on independently confirmed audio, video or public appearance. Today's record strengthens the printed-name evidence and does not change the audiovisual position.

Appendix B - The day's flagged editorial: "The logic of 'we fight and we negotiate'" (Sobh-e No, 25 Mehr 1405)

Sobh-e No, Saturday 25 Mehr 1405 / 17 October 2026, سرمقاله, front page and the paper's own Telegram channel. Author verified against the paper's channel: Mahboubeh Niavarani (محبوبه نیاورانی). Raw retrieved text held at raw/sobh-e-no-editorial-25mehr1405.txt.

Selection note. Kayhan published no «یادداشت روز» in this cycle, so the editorial flagged for translation is Sobh-e No's, which is in any case the most consequential opinion text on any front page this morning: it prints a decision rule rather than a posture. The front-page portion was retrievable; the continuation on the inside page was not, and the translation is marked where it breaks off.

«در ادبیات امنیتی و سیاسی معاصر، تقابل سنتی «جنگ» و «صلح» جای خود را به الگوهای ترکیبی و چندلایه داده است.» - "In contemporary security and political literature, the traditional opposition of 'war' and 'peace' has given way to hybrid, multi-layered models."

«یکی از این الگوها، راهبردی است که در آن جنگ و مذاکره نه به عنوان دو راه متضاد، بلکه به عنوان دو ابزار مکمل برای رسیدن به هدفی واحد به کار گرفته می‌شوند: بازدارندگی پایدار.» - "One of these models is a strategy in which war and negotiation are employed not as two contradictory paths but as two complementary instruments for reaching a single objective: durable deterrence."

«بر اساس تحلیلی که اخیراً از سوی محمدباقر قالیباف، رئیس تیم مذاکره‌کننده ایران مطرح شده، منظور از جمله «هم می‌جنگیم و هم مذاکره می‌کنیم» این است که جنگ ادامه می‌یابد تا دشمن را مستأصل کند و او را مجبور به تن دادن به خواسته‌های به حق ملت ما نماید.» - "On the basis of an analysis recently set out by Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, the head of Iran's negotiating team, what is meant by the sentence 'we both fight and negotiate' is that the war continues until it renders the enemy helpless and compels him to submit to the rightful demands of our nation."

«در این چارچوب، مذاکره حرکت «رو به جلو» است و صحنه به دشمن واگذار نمی‌شود.» - "Within this framework, negotiation is a movement 'forward' and the field is not surrendered to the enemy."

The editorial's closing summary, printed as a two-step sequence: «گام اول: جنگ برای استیصال و عقب‌نشینی دشمن» - "Step one: war, to exhaust the enemy and force his retreat." «گام دوم: مذاکره از موضع برتر» - "Step two: negotiation from the superior position." [Text breaks off; the continuation ran on an inside page that was not retrievable.]

The paper's channel carries two further propositions from the same editorial that were not legible on the front-page scan: that the Islamabad memorandum converted battlefield gains into a political mechanism, that the oil blockade and sanctions were lifted at its first step, and that what is now required is time-bound, conditional talks with verification.

Analyst flag. Two things in this text are evidence rather than rhetoric. First, it supplies an observable trigger: Tehran negotiates when the adversary is assessed as exhausted, which is a condition that can be watched rather than a slogan that cannot. Second, it attributes the doctrine to the Speaker of the Majlis and describes him as «رئیس تیم مذاکره‌کننده ایران», head of Iran's negotiating team. That title is not corroborated by any other paper, channel or wire in this batch and is recorded as Sobh-e No's own characterisation. The third-party claim that the oil blockade and sanctions were lifted at the memorandum's first step is an unverified attributed assertion and is not reproduced here as fact.

Appendix C - Methodology and sourcing notes

iran-press-digest pipeline, compilation of 17 October 2026

Collection. Ten front-page scans were retrieved from the morning kiosk batches: nine Persian pages from the Tasnim newspaper album posted at 21:28 UTC on 16 October 2026 under the caption «صفحه نخست روزنامه‌های شنبه ۲۵ مهر ماه ۱۴۰۵», and one English page from the Newspapers_Iran album posted at 04:30 UTC on 17 October. The batch's own printed Jalali date matched the target date, so the stale-batch guard did not trip. Each scan was read directly and its masthead identified from the nameplate rather than inferred from layout.

Scan-versus-text coverage. Ten papers were read from their own front pages: Jam-e Jam, Hamshahri, Vatan-e Emrooz, Javan, Sobh-e No, Sazandegi, Chaharsoo, Jomhouri Eslami, Ta'adol and Iran Daily. Three further papers, Kayhan, Iran and Etemad, were read from their own channels because no scan of them reached the day's kiosk batch; their entries are marked as channel-read and carry no front-page image. Three agency wires, Nour News, Fars News and Defa Press, were read for corroboration and threat context only. Agency material is folded into the trends and judgments and is never presented as a front page.

Sources that could not be retrieved. Tehran Times was unavailable throughout the compilation window, so no English state-daily text beyond Iran Daily's own front page is represented. The Leader's official site was likewise unavailable, which is why Appendix A is a reconstruction from the printed renderings rather than a verbatim transcript. Jam-e Jam's own channel was read but the front-page post it carried was dated to an earlier day, so that paper's entry rests on its scan plus the channel's news items.

Resolution limits. The kiosk images are about eight hundred pixels on the long edge. Headlines, kickers and standfirsts are legible under magnification; body text, bylines in small type and some rail captions are not. Three items are flagged in the per-paper entries where the printed form could not be read with confidence: the transliteration of the Sobh-e No programme guest, two of the four portraits in Chaharsoo's reformist panel, and two of Javan's small signed notes, which are omitted rather than guessed.

Attribution firewall. Every claim in this edition is attributed to the outlet or speaker that made it and none is adopted as fact. This applies with particular force to four items this morning. Javan's «رویترز: شیوخ خسارت حملات ایران را پنهان کرده‌اند» and Kayhan's front-page Reuters item on precise Iranian strikes on American bases are Iranian renderings of foreign reporting; quoting a rendering does not verify the original. Iran Daily's "CIA report warns Israel could head toward civil war, total collapse" is an attributed intelligence leak carried by a state daily and is not to be reproduced as authentic without primary-source confirmation. The IRGC Navy's supertanker claim and its declaration that the Strait of Hormuz is closed are Iranian military claims, and the maritime body best placed to check them, UKMTO, said on the same morning that it cannot obtain accurate attack figures because most targeted ships do not report.

Corroboration obtained. Two front-page items were checked against the external record and are reported with that check attached. The condemnation of Colombia's embassy opening in Jerusalem is corroborated: the OIC, the Arab League, Kuwait and the Muslim World League issued condemnations in mid-October 2026, the OIC citing UN Security Council Resolution 478. The CICA walkout is corroborated as an event but not as a count: the seventh CICA summit was held in Baku on 15 October, and international reporting names five delegations leaving during the Israeli president's address, Iran,

Turkey, Kuwait, Pakistan and the Palestinian Authority, with the Emir of Qatar recorded as remaining, against the thirteen delegations named on Jomhouri Eslami's front page.

Single-source flags. Three items in this edition rest on one surface each and are marked as such: Sazandegi's report of the armed plot against Abbas Akhoundi, which reached no other front page and did not appear on the other reformist daily's channel; Sazandegi's obituary of Pirouz Mojtahedzadeh, for which no outside confirmation of the death was found at the time of compilation; and Sobh-e No's description of the Speaker of the Majlis as head of Iran's negotiating team.

Correction carried forward. This monitor has recorded the incumbent Leader's absence from the front-page record as a standing negative-evidence finding for ten consecutive cycles. That finding ends with this edition and is superseded: his message is the banner or ear item across the batch, his portrait appears in two masthead ears and in the lead photograph of a third paper, and the government daily publishes the text over his printed name. The underlying caveat is unchanged and is restated here: the evidence remains documentary, and no independently confirmed audio, video or dated public appearance accompanies it.

Coverage cycle. The pages in this edition were printed on the evening of 16 October and distributed on the morning of 17 October, and they therefore reflect events through late 16 October local time. The Hormuz supertanker claim, the renewed Aramco fires and the day's oil move all broke after the kiosk batch had been posted and appear in this edition from the channels, not from any front page. Readers should not read the morning's ceremonial front pages as a de-escalation signal; they are a print-deadline artefact.

Handling. This product documents and analyses hostile foreign-press rhetoric for defensive assessment only. Nothing in it endorses, amplifies or operationalises that rhetoric. Translations are editorial and the original script is retained beside them wherever it carries the framing.

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.