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THE CLOSED STRAIT AND THE SEVEN-DAY OFFER EDITION

Thirteen Iranian newspapers of 26 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 was unavailable at the time of compilation.

Front pages published the morning of 18 October 2026, reflecting events through late 17 October local

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



Executive Summary

The lead judgment of this edition is that the Iranian press has stopped reporting the maritime campaign one hull at a time and has begun reporting it as a scale, and that the highest figure in the batch comes from the reformist side of the aisle. Sazandegi gives its whole front page to «انفجار نفتکش‌ها», the explosion of the tankers, over a deck that reads: in the past three weeks nearly thirty ships and tankers that did not heed the warnings were targeted in the Strait of Hormuz. The sentence concedes deliberate targeting and assigns the cause to the victims' non-compliance in a single clause. Sobh-e No's masthead banner puts an Iranian state institution's name on the damage, attributing to the Artesh an announced increase in the number of damaged tankers in the Strait. Jam-e Jam carries the Guard's formula as routine right-rail furniture, «عاقبت سرپیچی سوختن در آتش است», the fate of defiance is to burn in fire, which the government daily Iran prints the same morning in full as «عاقبت متخلفان، سوختن در آتش اعتماد به آمریکاست», the fate of violators is to burn in the fire of trusting America. In the previous cycle this monitor recorded the Guard declaring the Strait closed on a night when no front page carried any of it. This morning the print lag has closed and the campaign is on page one across the factional spectrum.

The second finding is that the same day carries a dated, conditional, routed offer to end it, and that only the English-language page prints it. Iran Daily leads its picture story with Abbas Araghchi at the 52nd Organisation of Islamic Cooperation Council of Foreign Ministers in Baghdad on 17 October, saying Tehran is ready for dialogue on credible guarantees, that Iran negotiated in good faith for two years and was attacked instead, and that a seven-day plan has been passed through Qatar under which the Strait could reopen if conditions are met. Etemad's channel supplies the half no front page prints: the Salalah track, intended to reopen the Strait temporarily pending a permanent arrangement, «این تلاش به نتیجه نرسید», did not succeed, and Doha says mediation continues under serious challenge. Nour News, closest to the Supreme National Security Council, adds that Qatar considers the Iranian proposal obstructed by American insistence on the nuclear file, and refuses to treat Trump's talk of an ending as an ending. Read together, the seven-day plan is the second attempt after a failed one, which is the accurate reading and which the Persian press does not supply.

The third finding is a named reprisal set aimed at a state that would not be the striking party. Kayhan's front-page analysis states that the destruction of Israel's nuclear facilities would be the answer to any attack on «کوه‌کلنگ», the buried complex Trump said on 16 October that US forces may need to take a shot at, and Hossein Shariatmadari's «یادداشت روز» runs the same position over two parts under «مادر بمب‌های شما و پدر موشک‌های ما», your mother of bombs and the father of our missiles, closing on the line: send your mother of bombs and our missiles will give them their father. Vatan-e Emrooz devotes its whole page to the same American statement under «خودسوزی», self-immolation, answering a weapons threat with a prediction of the threatener's self-destruction rather than with a counter-claim of capability. The IRGC spokesman's derision of a civilisation that names its heaviest bomb mother appears on three surfaces the same day. A specific American target has been met with a specific Israeli reprisal set on the surface whose editor the Leader's office appoints, which is the conventional channel for positions the state wants circulated without formally adopting them.

The fourth finding is the coordinated amplification of a real but hedged American statement into a claimed rupture. Javan leads on a rocket warhead standing between Trump and Vance under «ونس: درباره ایران با ترامپ اختلاف دارم», Vance: I have a disagreement with Trump about Iran, kickered to the rift becoming more public on the eve of the elections. Vatan-e Emrooz runs the same claim in its right

rail as «برائت ونس از ترامپ», Vance's disavowal of Trump, with a deck saying the vice president declared himself to have been opposed to the war. The underlying remark is genuine: Vance did signal disagreement in a 16 October interview. What both pages omit is that he also said the two are aligned, urged critics not to abandon the administration over foreign policy, and that Trump's own account was that his deputy had been philosophically a little bit different at the outset. Two IRGC-aligned titles printing the same inflation in near-identical terms on the same morning indicates centrally guided message discipline rather than organic editorial convergence.

The fifth finding is that the war is now being read through the American electoral calendar on principlist as well as reformist pages. Sobh-e No's lead editorial is «آیا جنگ می‌شود؟», will there be war, and answers that the war is no longer a political trump card for Trump but a political and economic liability sixteen days before the midterms, citing a Pew figure it renders as 64 percent of Americans opposed. The government daily's front page states it flatly: «هزینه جنگ ترامپ با ایران در انتخابات آمریکا آشکار خواهد شد», the cost of Trump's war with Iran will become apparent in the American elections. Hamshahri composites Trump's face out of a red stock-market heat map under «هفته وحشت اقتصاد آمریکا», a week of terror for the American economy, and prices it: oil at 110 dollars, diesel at a record 6.32 dollars a gallon, technology shares down more than a trillion. The first two figures are close to the external record. Ta'adol's right rail completes the inversion with «کابوس هرمز در واشنگتن», the Hormuz nightmare in Washington. Tehran is assessing this war through the adversary's domestic clock rather than through the front, and 3 November is the date it has chosen.

The sixth finding is that the better-corroborated theatre is Yemen, and that Tehran is offering mediation there from a position of leverage. Jomhouri Eslami leads on the foreign ministry's declared readiness to help resolve matters between Saudi Arabia and Yemen peacefully, with the pointed framing that twelve years of foreign intervention, military approach and blockade have not solved Yemen's problem. Iran Daily's page-one interview asks whether Riyadh could tap Iran's diplomatic clout. The offer lands in a week when Ansarullah struck Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport four times in five days and the airport stayed shut through 17 October, when Saudi aircraft bombed a school in Taiz and Al-Khokha in Hodeidah, and when the Saudi-led coalition confirmed intercepting two ballistic missiles towards Khamis Mushait. Defa Press adds the first commitment of its kind this monitor has logged: the secretary general of Iraq's Kataib Sayyid al-Shuhada saying his group would enter a war if Iran faced a real threat.

Net assessment. This is a high-signal kiosk and the signal is structural rather than episodic. For the first time in this run the printed pages and the operational record are describing the same thing on the same day: a chokepoint campaign at a scale the papers now quantify, a closure declared by the Guard, a reprisal doctrine naming a third state's nuclear facilities, and a dated offer to reopen the Strait within a week routed through a mediator whose previous track has already failed. The two halves are not in tension; they are the same policy addressed to different readerships, and the fact that the offer appears only in English while the coercion appears in Persian is itself the allocation. Three markers carry forward. The Leader is on page one for a second consecutive cycle and again through a ceremonial vehicle, a sports message over his printed signature, with the audiovisual record still empty. The adversary's election has become the organising date of Iranian war coverage across factional lines. And the reformist press has begun doing two things it had not done before: printing the scale of the maritime campaign, and asking in a party organ why Iran's air defences were neglected for decades.

BOTTOM LINE On the morning after the Guard declared the Strait of Hormuz closed and claimed a second loaded supertanker had been mined, the Iranian front pages printed the scale of the maritime campaign for the first time as a number rather than as an incident, and the foreign minister used the same day to put a dated seven-day reopening offer through Qatar, so the chokepoint is now being worked simultaneously as the instrument of coercion and as the only thing Tehran has to trade.

CRITICAL SOURCING NOTE Ten front-page scans from the 26 Mehr 1405 kiosk batches, nine Persian from NewspaperTasnim and one English from Newspapers_Iran, with the stale-batch guard matching the album's printed Jalali date to the target day. Kayhan, Iran and Etemad are read from their own channels; Fars, Nour News and Defa Press are read as wires for corroboration only and their content is treated as claims. Tehran Times and Kayhan's own site were unavailable at the time of compilation. External corroboration was taken from Al Jazeera's 17 and 18 October reporting on the competing claims to control of the Strait, the UK Maritime Trade Operations count of at least twelve vessels attacked in the week to 16 October, Kpler transit data of 11.6 million barrels a day in the seven days to 13 October against a 17.1 million pre-war baseline, reporting of the 16 October Vance interview and Trump's MOAB remarks, and reporting on the Ansarullah strikes that closed Riyadh's airport through 17 October. Four bylines, names or numerals were not legible at the published scan resolution and are marked as such rather than guessed. Correction carried forward: Hamshahri's lower-page figure is 14.5 kilometres of new ring road, not 145.

Macro Trend Analysis

1 The print lag has closed, and what closed it was a number

On 17 October this monitor recorded a ceremonial kiosk sitting on top of a high-tempo night, with the Guard's closure declaration reaching no front page at all. This morning the campaign is on page one across the spectrum: Sazandegi's thirty vessels in three weeks, Sobh-e No's Army bulletin on rising tanker damage, Jam-e Jam and Iran carrying the burn formula, Hamshahri debunking a salvage rumour about a sunken container ship, Ta'adol framing the Strait as Washington's nightmare. The shift from incident reporting to scale reporting is the editorial event, because a campaign described by its total is one the public is being prepared to carry rather than to be startled by.

2 Coercion and offer are being printed on the same day in different languages

The Guard's burn warning and the closure claim run in Persian on the state broadcaster's daily and the government daily; the seven-day reopening plan, routed through Qatar with a condition attached, runs in English on Iran Daily and nowhere on a Persian front page. Etemad's channel alone reports that the preceding Salalah track failed. This is not incoherence but allocation, and it means the offer should be assessed as an external-facing instrument with a domestic cost Tehran has chosen not to pay in print.

3 The reprisal envelope has been widened to a non-belligerent's nuclear facilities

Kayhan's front-page analysis and Shariatmadari's two-part note both state that an American strike on Kouh-e Kolang would be answered by destroying Israel's nuclear facilities. Trump named that complex himself on 16 October. Naming the target and the reprisal set on the surface whose editor the Leader's office appoints converts a general deterrent claim into a specific, checkable commitment, which is both a stronger signal and a trap: a named commitment not acted on is a visible climbdown.

4 The American midterms have become the organising date of Iranian war coverage

Sobh-e No's editorial prices the war as an electoral liability, the government daily dates the bill to the election, Javan and Vatan-e Emrooz read the Vance remark through the election, Hamshahri reads the

markets through it and Ta'adol reads the Strait through it. Six of thirteen titles in this batch organise their lead argument around 3 November. The risk this creates is symmetrical: a theory of the adversary that depends on an election outcome has a fixed expiry date, and so does the restraint that may be resting on it.

5 Yemen remains the better-evidenced theatre and is now also the mediation offer

Jomhouri Eslami leads on Tehran's readiness to help resolve Saudi-Yemeni matters, Iran Daily asks in English whether Riyadh could use Iranian clout, and the wires supply the pressure that gives the offer its leverage: Riyadh's airport closed through 17 October after four strikes in five days, Saudi aircraft over Taiz and Hodeidah, two ballistic missiles intercepted towards Khamis Mushait on the coalition's own admission. Unlike the Hormuz claims, the Yemen record is corroborated from multiple non-Iranian sources, which is why it remains the more reliable read on regional escalation.

6 The reformist press has started asking defence questions in its own party organ

Sazandegi's note of the day, bylined to a member of the Kargozaran central council, asks why the development of air-defence infrastructure received less attention in past decades. That is wartime self-criticism aimed at the security establishment, printed by the party daily that also carries the batch's highest vessel count. In earlier cycles the reformist counterweight ran against the executive on economics; it has now reached force structure, which is a materially more sensitive file.

7 The inward ledger is now denominated in borders and coupons

Ta'adol counts the Pakistan closure in 2,771 stranded trucks and disrupted exports, Sazandegi captions it «تله تحریم», the sanctions trap, and Chaharsoo's cartoon has citizens paying cash at an internet cafe to register for a ration coupon they were told was free. Islamabad calls the suspension a security and smuggling matter, Tehran's foreign ministry calls it technical, and the economic press simply counts the vehicles. The war's domestic cost is being reported in units the state cannot reframe.

Key Judgments

KJ-1 **[HIGH]** The Iranian press has shifted from reporting the Hormuz campaign incident by incident to reporting it as a quantified total, and the shift is cross-factional. The evidence is four surfaces on one morning: Sazandegi's lead deck, «در سه هفته گذشته نزدیک به ۳۰ کشتی و نفتکش که به اخطارها توجه نکردند، در تنگه هرمز هدف قرار گرفتند»; Sobh-e No's masthead banner attributing to the Artesh an announced increase in damaged tankers; Vatan-e Emrooz's photograph of a vessel burning bow to stern under «صید ترال در هرمز»; and Vatan-e Emrooz's own channel carrying a TASS count of 22 vessels attacked between 1 and 13 October. The significance is that a total implies a policy, and a policy printed as a total is one the readership is being prepared to defend rather than to be shocked by. Calibration runs both ways: the thirty-vessel figure sits above the externally corroborated range, since UKMTO counted at least twelve in the week to 16 October and noted that many struck vessels do not report, so overstating it would inflate the signal while understating it would miss a campaign that Kpler data show cut transit to about 68 percent of the pre-war baseline. Tracking cue: whether a second title publishes an independent total, or whether the thirty figure is simply repeated.

KJ-2 **[HIGH]** Tehran is running coercion and a dated conditional offer simultaneously, and has allocated them to different languages. The evidence is the day's split: the Guard's burn formula on

Jam-e Jam and in full on the government daily, against Iran Daily's English lead carrying Araghchi at the OIC in Baghdad on 17 October saying Tehran is ready for dialogue on credible guarantees and has passed a seven-day plan through Qatar under which the Strait could reopen if conditions are met. No Persian front page in the batch carries the seven-day plan. The significance is that the offer is an external instrument with a domestic cost Tehran has declined to pay in print, which both limits how far it can be walked back and limits how much domestic constituency it can build. Tracking cue: the first Persian front page to print the seven-day clock would mark a decision to prepare the domestic audience for a settlement.

KJ-3 **[HIGH]** The published reprisal set for a strike on Iran's buried nuclear complex now names Israel's nuclear facilities, which widens the retaliation envelope to a state that need not be the striking party. The evidence is two Kayhan surfaces on the same day: the front-page analysis «انهدام تأسیسات هسته‌ای اسرائیل پاسخ هرگونه حمله به کوه‌کلنگ», and Shariatmadari's two-part «یادداشت روز» stating that American and allied infrastructure in the region, Europe and the United States itself would not be safe and extending the set to Israeli nuclear facilities. The occasion is Trump's 16 October refusal to rule out the MOAB and his naming of the buried Pickaxe Mountain site. The significance is that Kayhan's editor is appointed by the Leader's office, which makes the paper the conventional channel for positions the state wants circulated without adopting, and that naming a target converts deterrence into a commitment with a visible failure mode. Nothing here is endorsed or treated as a capability assessment.

KJ-4 **[HIGH]** Two IRGC-aligned front pages inflated the same hedged American statement into a claimed rupture on the same morning, which indicates centrally guided message discipline rather than organic convergence. The evidence is the pairing: Javan's lead, «ونس: درباره ایران با ترامپ اختلاف دارم», staged across a rocket warhead between the two men and kickered to the rift becoming more public before the elections; and Vatan-e Emrooz's right rail, «برائت ونس از ترامپ», with a deck saying the vice president declared he had been opposed to the war. Externally, Vance did signal disagreement in a 16 October interview, but also said the two are aligned and urged critics not to abandon the administration, and Trump characterised him only as having been philosophically a little bit different at the outset. The significance is in the uniformity of the omission rather than in the claim: both titles dropped the same qualifier. Tracking cue: survival into a third cycle would mark a campaign rather than a news peg.

KJ-5 **[HIGH]** Iranian war coverage has adopted the American midterm election as its organising date, across factional lines. The evidence is six of thirteen titles: Sobh-e No's editorial «آیا جنگ می‌شود؟» answering that the war is now a liability for Trump sixteen days out; the government daily's «هزینه جنگ ترامپ با ایران در انتخابات آمریکا آشکار خواهد شد»; Javan's and Vatan-e Emrooz's election-framed Vance covers; Hamshahri's «هفته وحشت اقتصاد آمریکا» with oil at 110 dollars and record diesel; and Ta'adol's «کابوس هرمز در واشنگتن». The significance is that a theory of the adversary anchored to a dated event has a dated expiry, and external reporting that Trump has ordered readiness for larger operations after 3 November means both sides have placed their next decision point on the same calendar square. Calibration: this is a reading of Iranian editorial intent, not a prediction of either side's conduct after that date.

KJ-6 **[MODERATE-HIGH]** The negotiation track is weaker than the day's offer implies, and only the channels report the weakness. The evidence is three non-front-page surfaces: Etemad carrying

Doha's confirmation that the Salalah meeting intended to reopen the Strait temporarily «این تلاش به نتیجه نرسید», did not succeed, and that mediation continues under serious challenge; Nour News saying Qatar considers the Iranian proposal obstructed by American insistence on the nuclear file, and refusing to treat Trump's talk of an ending as an ending; and Nour News reporting roughly six billion dollars of Iranian funds held in Qatar as an incentive in play. The significance is that the seven-day plan is a second attempt after a failed one, which materially changes how it should be read, and that no Iranian front page carries the failure. Tracking cue: whether Doha or Islamabad, the two named mediators, publicly set a deadline.

KJ-7 **[MODERATE-HIGH]** Yemen remains the better-corroborated theatre and Tehran is offering mediation there from a position of leverage rather than neutrality. The evidence is Iranian and external. Jomhouri Eslami leads on the foreign ministry's readiness to use its good offices «در صورت تقاضای طرفین», if the parties request it, with the framing that twelve years of intervention and blockade have not worked; Iran Daily runs a page-one interview asking whether Riyadh could tap Iranian clout. Externally, Ansarullah struck Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport four times in five days with the airport closed through 17 October, Saudi aircraft struck Taiz and Al-Khokha, and the Saudi-led coalition itself confirmed intercepting two ballistic missiles towards Khamis Mushait. The significance is that the offer is made while the pressure runs Riyadh's way and dates the problem to 2015 rather than to the present escalation. Tracking cue: any Saudi public response, which has not appeared in two cycles of offers.

KJ-8 **[MODERATE-HIGH]** The mine-on-an-unauthorised-route template has now been applied to a second loaded supertanker and is being contested in public by the adversary's theatre commander, which makes the Strait a contested-claims environment rather than a reported one. The evidence is the pairing of claims: the IRGC's 17 October statement that a supertanker carrying more than two million barrels caught fire after striking a mine while running an unauthorised route with navigation and radar switched off, with the naval commander warning that vessels deactivating navigation would be treated as hostile; against CENTCOM's commander stating on 16 October that the Strait is controlled by the United States and its regional partners and not by Iran, that 400 ships and 100 million barrels transited in a week, and that the container ship GFS Pride was struck by an IRGC projectile rather than a mine. The significance is that the template is stable while the verification environment is not, which is the condition under which an incident is most likely to be misread by one side or both. Calibration: neither account is adopted here.

KJ-9 **[MODERATE]** The Leader is on the Iranian front pages for a second consecutive cycle, again through a ceremonial vehicle, and the audiovisual gap recorded on 17 October is unchanged. The evidence is six of ten scanned pages carrying his message on the under-23 Greco-Roman world title as banner, ear or lead, with Jam-e Jam and Chaharsoo printing his portrait and Javan printing the body in full over the signature «سید مجتبی حسینی خامنه‌ای» and the date ۲۵ مهر ۱۴۰۵. The significance is that the documentary basis of the succession continues to strengthen while the physical one does not: no dated public appearance, confirmed photograph or confirmed recording accompanies the text on any surface in the batch, as was the case in the previous cycle. Filed as a continuing negative-evidence item rather than as a resolved one. Tracking cue: a Leader item carrying a dated appearance.

KJ-10 [MODERATE] Negative evidence, filed as a finding: the reformist press has opened a defence-capability file in its own party organ, and nothing else in the batch answers it. The evidence is a single column. Sazandegi's «یادداشت روز» is «لزوم نوسازی ناوگان هوایی», the necessity of renewing the air fleet, bylined to a member of the Kargozaran-e Sazandegi central council and standfirsted «چرا در دهه‌های گذشته، توسعه زیرساخت‌های دفاع هوایی کمتر مورد توجه قرار گرفته است؟». No other title in the batch, and no channel read for this edition, raises air defence at all. The significance is in the asymmetry: on a morning when thirteen papers discuss the Strait, the American election, a bomb and a wrestling title, exactly one asks why the country's air defences were underbuilt, and it is a party daily rather than a military or principlist surface. Tracking cue: whether any principlist title answers it, which would indicate the question has been permitted.

KJ-11 [MODERATE] The Azerbaijan file has been re-centred again, this time from Israel's diplomatic presence onto the internal religious politics of Baku, while energy cooperation with the same government is advertised on the English page. The evidence is two surfaces on one morning: Javan's banner «وحشت ژئوپلیتیک باکو در سرکوب حجاب», arguing that the hijab crackdown reflects an anxiety about religion's role that could shift the regional balance against the Baku establishment; and Iran Daily's lead headline on Iran, Russia and Azerbaijan discussing regional gas cooperation with proposed seasonal swaps, printed as the Russian foreign minister tours the Gulf en route to Tehran. The significance is that the file is being worked as partnership and as ideological target simultaneously, which is a pattern this monitor has now logged in two consecutive cycles with the target shifting each time.

KJ-12 [MODERATE] The domestic cost of the war is being reported in units the state cannot reframe, and the economic press is doing it on the same pages that carry the deterrence line. The evidence is three items: Ta'adol's ear counting 2,771 trucks halted and exports to Pakistan disrupted, under a banner quoting the President that Iran must reach a point where enemies do not dare attack; Sazandegi's brief «پاکستان مرز خود با ایران را بست - تله تحریم!»; and Chaharsoo's cartoon of citizens paying cash at an internet cafe to register for a ration coupon. Externally, Islamabad suspended the Gabd-Rimdan and Taftan crossings on 17 October citing security and smuggling, while Tehran's foreign ministry calls the halt technical. The significance is that stranded freight and a fee to claim a subsidy are concrete and unanswerable by war framing, and they are appearing beside the war's rhetoric rather than in place of it.

Named-Figure Tracker

Figure	Role / relevance	Today's framing	Flag
Donald Trump	President of the United States	Named on five front pages. Vatan-e Emrooz makes his MOAB remark the occasion for «خودسوزی», self-immolation; Javan stages him opposite his vice president across a warhead; Hamshahri composites his face from a falling stock-market heat map; Sobh-e No's editorial reduces him to a man carrying an electoral liability; the government daily dates his bill to 3 November.	TARGET FRAMING

Figure	Role / relevance	Today's framing	Flag
JD Vance	Vice President of the United States	Promoted this cycle from absent to co-lead. Javan prints «ونس: درباره ایران با ترامپ اختلاف دارم»; Vatan-e Emrooz prints «برائت ونس از ترامپ». Both omit his statement that he and Trump are aligned.	NEW NAMED FIGURE
Abbas Araghchi	Iranian Foreign Minister	The batch's principal Iranian voice. Iran Daily's lead picture story from the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers in Baghdad on 17 October: ready for dialogue on credible guarantees, a seven-day Hormuz plan passed through Qatar. On the channels he tells the Iraqi prime minister that the root of regional insecurity is Israeli occupation and expansionism, and states that the United States violated the Islamabad agreement.	WATCH
Hossein Shariatmadari	Managing editor of Kayhan, appointed by the Leader's office	Author of the day's flagged editorial «مادر بمب‌های شما و پدر موشک‌های ما», which extends the reprisal set to Israel's nuclear facilities and addresses the American aircrews directly.	COERCION SPOKESMAN
Seyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei	Leader of the Islamic Republic	Present on six of ten scanned pages through the wrestling message, printed in full by Javan over his signature and dated 25 Mehr 1405. Ceremonial vehicle for the second consecutive cycle.	WATCH
Masoud Pezeshkian	President of Iran	Carried by the establishment and economic press on education investment and state-company productivity, and by Ta'adol on deterrence in the aspirational grammar «ایران باید به جایی برسد که دشمنان جرأت تعرض نداشته باشند». Absent from every Hormuz item in the batch.	absence noted
Benjamin Netanyahu	Prime Minister of Israel	Appears only as a domestic-legal and electoral figure: Sobh-e No asks whether Arab parties' share will topple him before the 27 October vote; Jomhouri Eslami carries a 41-million-dollar residence-security bill attributed to Yedioth Ahronoth and Haaretz on his efforts to avoid prison. He is not framed as a war decision-maker on any page in this batch.	WATCH
Rear Admiral Ali Azmaei	Commander of the IRGC Navy	Not named on any front page in the batch, although his formulation is printed on two of them in compressed and full form. The warning that vessels deactivating navigation systems will be treated as hostile reaches Iranian readers as an institutional statement rather than as a commander's.	absence noted

Figure	Role / relevance	Today's framing	Flag
Seyed Abdolrahim Mousavi	Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces, killed 28 February 2026	Commemorated on two front pages through the opening of a 14.5-kilometre western Tehran ring road and highway in his name, with Jomhouri Eslami printing the mural. The naming is the first infrastructure dedication to a February casualty recorded in this run.	WATCH
Seyed Mohammad Hosseini	Parliamentary deputy to the late President Raisi	Chaharsoo's front-page interview subject, prosecuting the Pezeshkian government for abandoning the market and for disparaging Raisi. The batch's only purely domestic factional lead.	WATCH
Amir-Hossein Sabeti	Member of the Majlis	Sazandegi's left ear: he says he saw in parliament that some deputies «قیمت دارند», have a price. A hardline MP supplying a reformist daily with its corruption banner is itself the signal.	WATCH
General Brad Cooper	Commander, US Central Command	Absent by name from every Iranian surface in the batch, although Sazandegi paraphrases his claim that control of Strait traffic rests with the United States and its regional partners in order to rebut it. His 16 October statement is the external counter-claim against which the Iranian maritime account should be read.	absence noted

Headline Summary Table

Outlet	Lead Headline (English)	Orientation	Theme	Threat signal
Sazandegi	Explosion of the tankers	Reformist, Kargozaran party daily	Nearly thirty vessels struck in three weeks printed as a scale finding, with oil at 110 dollars and a party-organ question about neglected air defence	SEVERE
Kayhan (channel-read)	Destroying Israel's nuclear facilities is the answer to any attack on Kouh-e Kolang	Hardline, editor appointed by the Leader's office	A named reprisal set against a third state's nuclear sites, with Shariatmadari's two-part MOAB note	SEVERE
Sobh-e No	Iran's flag atop the peaks of honour	Principlist	The Army confirms rising tanker damage in the banner while the editorial prices the war into the US midterms	HIGH
Vatan-e Emrooz	Self-immolation	Hardline principlist	Trump's MOAB threat answered as self-destruction, with Vance's hedged remark printed as a disavowal	HIGH

Outlet	Lead Headline (English)	Orientation	Theme	Threat signal
Javan	RPG nostalgia!	Hardline, IRGC-affiliated	A claimed Trump-Vance rupture over Iran staged across a warhead, over an escalating Azerbaijan file	HIGH
Iran (channel-read)	The cost of Trump's war with Iran will become apparent in the American elections	Official government daily	The Guard's burn formula printed in full in the government's own voice, with the bill dated to 3 November	HIGH
Jam-e Jam	The youth, hope for the realisation of a brilliant future	State broadcaster IRIB daily	The Leader's sports message above the Guard's burn warning carried as routine bulletin copy	MODERATE-HIGH
Hamshahri	A week of terror for the American economy	Centrist, Tehran municipality	Oil at 110 dollars and record diesel priced as American damage, with a front-page debunk of a sunken container ship's cargo rumour	MODERATE-HIGH
Jomhouri Eslami	Iran declares readiness to help resolve the issues between Saudi Arabia and Yemen peacefully	Traditional clerical establishment	Mediation offered while Riyadh is under fire, alongside an admission that Tehran and Karaj fuel depots are being rebuilt	MODERATE-HIGH
Etemad (channel-read)	(front-page headline not retrievable this cycle)	Reformist	The failed Salalah reopening track reported where no front page carries it, with Doha still mediating	MODERATE-HIGH
Iran Daily	Araghchi: Tehran ready for dialogue based on credible guarantees	English-language state daily (IRNA)	A seven-day Hormuz reopening plan routed through Qatar, printed in English beside gas diplomacy with Moscow and Baku	MODERATE
Ta'adol	A slow decline in the price of gold	Economic daily	Pakistan's border closure counted in 2,771 stranded trucks while the Strait is framed as Washington's nightmare	MODERATE
Chaharsoo	The difference between parliament's treatment of the Raisi and Pezeshkian governments	Economic daily, principlist register	Wartime scarcity turned into a factional competence attack, with a ration coupon that costs cash to claim	LOW-MODERATE

Per-Paper Front-Page Analysis

Iran Daily

English-language state daily published by IRNA

"Araghchi: Tehran ready for dialogue based on credible guarantees" «(published in English)»

MODERATE: the conditional offer, dated and routed, printed for an external audience


Iran Daily

Iran, Russia, Azerbaijan discuss regional gas cooperation

Araghchi: Tehran ready for dialogue based on credible guarantees

Riyadh could tap Iran's diplomatic clout to help resolve Yemen crisis

- Main: The banner headline is "Iran, Russia, Azerbaijan discuss regional gas cooperation" over the deck "NIGC proposes seasonal gas, electricity swaps to strengthen energy ties", printed as the Russian foreign minister begins a Gulf tour that ends in Tehran.
- Main: The lead picture story is "Araghchi: Tehran ready for dialogue based on credible guarantees", captioned to the Iranian foreign minister walking with delegates after the family photograph at the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation Council of Foreign Ministers, held in Baghdad on 17 October. In the speech Araghchi said Iran had negotiated in good faith for two years and been attacked instead, that resuming talks requires credible guarantees of non-repetition, and that Tehran had passed a seven-day plan through Qatar under which the Strait could reopen if conditions were met.
- Main: The page-one interview is "Riyadh could tap Iran's diplomatic clout to help resolve Yemen crisis", by staff writer Delaram Ahmadi, opening on the observation that Saudi officials have accused Iran of involvement and asking what the likely outcomes of the Yemeni crisis are given the escalation of Saudi-Yemeni hostilities.
- Left rail: "Skilled people are Iran's greatest asset: President", the English rendering of Pezeshkian's education remarks that lead the Persian establishment press.
- Left rail: Cultural and sporting items: the tombak "speaking in a universal language of rhythm", Hegmataneh continuing to unveil Iran's ancient past, and five Iranian nominations in the AFC football awards.

ANALYST NOTE The English state daily is where the two halves of Tehran's posture are printed side by side without embarrassment: the Guard's burn warning is absent from this page entirely, and in its place is a dated, named, conditional reopening offer routed through Qatar with a seven-day clock on it. Read against the Persian batch, that is the edition's central structure rather than a contradiction, because the coercion and the offer are addressed to different audiences and are both real. The gas item deserves separate tracking: proposing seasonal swaps with Moscow and Baku on the morning Lavrov tours the Gulf, and on the same morning Javan attacks the Aliyev government over hijab policy, shows the Azerbaijan file being worked simultaneously as an energy partnership and as an ideological target.

Jam-e Jam

Daily of the state broadcaster IRIB

“The youth, hope for the realisation of a brilliant future” «جوانان، امید تحقق آینده‌ای درخشان»

MODERATE-HIGH: the Guard's burn warning normalised as routine bulletin copy


جام جم

جوانان، امید تحقق آینده‌ای درخشان

جزئیات رصد هوشمند بنزین با ۱۰ هزار تومانی

نگرانی غرب از قدرت تمدنی ایران

عاقبت سرپیچی سوختن در آتش است

سپیدپوشان چشم‌به‌راه بهارستان

رادیو به دنبال صداهای تازه

«جانشین»، ادای دین به یک قهرمان ملی

پیوند هوشمندانه درام و آموزش

روایتی تکرار موفقیت در تاکوپا

پروژه نفوذ اسرائیل در شام

ایجابخشش آزادی می‌آفریند

جایگاه غذا

- Main: The lead is the Leader's congratulatory message on the under-23 Greco-Roman world title, with his portrait in the masthead ear and the kicker «رهبر معظم انقلاب در پیام تبریک قهرمانی تیم ملی کشتی فرنگی زیر ۲۳ سال در مسابقات جهانی مطرح کردند».
- Right rail: «هشدار نیروی دریایی سپاه: عاقبت سرپیچی سوختن در آتش است», warning of the IRGC Navy: the fate of defiance is to burn in fire. This is the compressed form of the Guard's own formulation, printed on the government daily Iran the same morning in full as «عاقبت متخلفان، سوختن در آتش اعتماد به آمریکاست», the fate of violators is to burn in the fire of trusting America.
- Op-ed: «نگرانی غرب از قدرت تمدنی ایران», the West's anxiety about Iran's civilisational power, an exclusive note for Jam-e Jam by Dr Mousa Najafi setting out what it calls the open dimensions of the triangle «صهیونیسم، شرق‌شناسی، هالیوود», Zionism, Orientalism, Hollywood.
- Sub-item: «جزئیات رصد هوشمند بنزین ۱۰ هزار تومانی», the details of smart monitoring of 10,000-toman petrol, over a photograph of a filling station, continuing the wartime fuel-rationing file.
- Right rail: «سپیدپوشان چشم به راه بهارستان», those in white await Baharestan, reporting two nursing bills on the Majlis table and tying them to what it calls an important part of the Leader's demand; it follows directly from the Nurse Day message this monitor recorded on 17 October.
- Sub-item: «پروژه نفوذ اسرائیل در شام», Israel's infiltration project in Syria, and «جانشین؛ ادای دین به یک قهرمان ملی», Successor: a tribute to a national hero, a drama item on a Sacred Defence commander.

ANALYST NOTE The state broadcaster's daily is the surface where the Guard's maritime formula is normalised into ordinary news furniture: the burn-in-fire warning runs as a right-rail bulletin rather than as a lead, below a sports message, which is how a deterrent threat is converted into settled policy rather than an event. Note the register of the warning as printed here: سرپیچی, defiance or non-compliance, places the Strait inside an administrative order with rules to be obeyed, which is the same legal-sounding architecture as the Persian Gulf Strait Authority that Tehran stood up during the war. The nursing item is the second consecutive cycle in which the Leader's Nurse Day message generates follow-on legislative coverage, which is consistent with a deliberate re-establishment of his domestic policy voice.

Hamshahri

Centrist daily owned by the Tehran municipality

"A week of terror for the American economy" «هفته وحشت اقتصاد آمریکا / بورس آمریکا به خاک سیاه نشست»

MODERATE-HIGH: the chokepoint campaign priced as American economic damage



- Main: The lead image composites Donald Trump's face from a red stock-market heat map, individual tiles legible as NVDA -1.43, GOOGL -2.47, MSFT -1.93, AVGO -4.52, MU -5.63, META -3.72 and TSLA -2.12. The deck reads that oil suddenly rose to 110 dollars, that US fuel prices set a record, and that technology shares shed more than a trillion dollars.
- Sub-item: Three boxed claims carry the numbers. «قیمت گازوئیل رکورد زد و به ۶٫۳۲ دلار در هر گالن رسید؛ افزایش ۶۸ درصدی قیمت از آغاز جنگ تاکنون», diesel hit a record at 6.32 dollars a gallon, a 68 percent rise since the war began. «قیمت نفت به بالاترین سطح در ۵ ماه اخیر افزایش یافت و هر بشکه نفت برنت به‌طور ناگهانی به حدود ۱۱۰ رسید». «سهام فناوری آمریکا بیش از یک تریلیون دلار سقوط کرد و شاخص نزدک ۷ درصد پایین‌تر از رکورد تاریخی ایستاد».
- Banner: The Leader's message runs across the lower half as «رهبر انقلاب: قهرمانی تیم ملی کشتی فرنگی زیر ۲۳ سال ایران را تبریک می‌گویم» over «تبریک به قهرمانان آینده‌ساز», congratulations to the future-making champions.
- Sub-item: «۱۴٫۵ 14.5 کیلومتر مسیر جدید تقدیم به مردم», kilometres of new route presented to the people: the new western Tehran ring road, opened in the name of «امیر شهید سپهبد موسوی» with military and civil deputies present. The name is that of Lieutenant General Seyed Abdolrahim Mousavi, chief of the General Staff, killed in the opening strikes of 28 February.
- Right rail: «تنگه هرمز، آیفون دریایی ندارد», the Strait of Hormuz has no seaborne iPhones, with the standfirst «حاشیه‌های غرق شدن یک کشتی سنگاپوری و داستان‌سرایی درباره صید آیفون ۱۸ دنباله‌دار شده است», the fallout from the sinking of a Singaporean vessel and the storytelling about hauling in iPhone 18s has continued.
- Op-ed: The left-hand column carries «چرا بازار نفت هنوز می‌ترسد؟», why is the oil market still afraid; the byline is not legible at the resolution of the available scan.

ANALYST NOTE The municipality's paper reads the war through the adversary's balance sheet rather than through the front, and its three boxed figures are close enough to the external record to be treated as reported rather than invented: Brent settled near 109.86 dollars on 16 October, its first touch of 110 since May, and US diesel averaged about 6.32 to 6.33 dollars a gallon. The trillion-dollar technology-share claim is the one this monitor could not corroborate and should be carried as the paper's own. The more interesting item is the debunk at the foot of the page: the Singapore-flagged container ship GFS Pride, which sank in the Strait after being struck on 15 October, has generated a salvage rumour inside Iran about recoverable iPhone 18 cargo, and a state-adjacent daily has judged the rumour worth a front-

> page correction. That is a signal about domestic information control around the maritime campaign, not about the campaign itself.

Vatan-e Emrooz

Hardline principlist daily, volume 18

HIGH: MOAB threat answered with a self-destruction frame, plus amplification of a claimed US leadership split

"Self-immolation" «خودسوزی»



- Main: The full-page illustration is a headless suited figure on a plinth carrying a burning US flag, its own back alight. The deck reads «اظهارات ترامپ درباره استفاده احتمالی از «مادر همه بمب‌ها» علاوه بر اینکه نشان‌دهنده سردرگمی و استیصال او در جنگ علیه ایران است، چه تبعات مرگباری برای او خواهد داشت؟», Trump's remarks about the possible use of the Mother of All Bombs, besides showing his confusion and desperation in the war against Iran, what deadly consequences will they have for him.
- Banner (right ear): The Leader's message is the masthead ear: «رهبر انقلاب در پیامی به مناسبت قهرمانی تیم ملی کشتی فرنگی امید در مسابقات جهانی آمریکا تصریح کردند» over «تلألؤ امیدهای ملت در مسیر تحقق آینده‌ای درخشان», the shimmering of the nation's hopes on the path to a bright future.
- Banner (left ear): «دستور ویژه برای شناسایی عاملان ترور ۲ بانوی شهید», a special order to identify the perpetrators of the assassination of two martyred women, issued following their killing in terrorist attacks in Sistan and Baluchestan. The two names printed in the kicker are not legible at the resolution of the available scan.
- Right rail: «صید ترال در هرمز», trawl-fishing in Hormuz, over a photograph of a vessel burning bow to stern, captioned to the effect that attempts at unauthorised transit of the Strait of Hormuz have led to the explosion and burning of tankers and vessels in recent days. The numeral in the caption is not legible at scan resolution.
- Right rail: «برائت ونس از ترامپ», Vance's disavowal of Trump, over the deck «معاون رئیس‌جمهور آمریکا در اظهاراتی قابل تأمل گفت مخالف جنگ آمریکا علیه ایران بوده است», the US vice president said in notable remarks that he had been opposed to America's war against Iran.
- Right rail: «رسوایی دروغ», the scandal of a lie, boxed in red with a counter-disinformation stamp; the standfirst is not legible at scan resolution.
- Sub-item: A bottom-rail feature on the Iranian woman behind the front, headlined «زن: ستون مقاومت», woman: pillar of the resistance.

ANALYST NOTE Vatan-e Emrooz converts a real American statement into a claimed rupture: Vance did signal disagreement with Trump over the war in a 16 October interview, but he also said the two are aligned and urged critics not to abandon the administration, and Trump's own account was that his vice president had been «philosophically a little bit different» at the outset. Rendering that as برائت, disavowal, is the inflation step, and it matters because Javan prints the same claim on the same morning in near-identical terms. The lead is the mirror image: Trump's refusal to rule out the MOAB against the buried Kouh-e Kolang complex is answered not with a counter-threat of capability but with a prediction of self-harm, which is the same argumentative move Kayhan's editorial makes today at greater length. Continuity: the burning-vessel photograph continues the standing Hormuz-as-coercion thread, with the

> novelty that the victim-blaming formula (they ignored the warnings) now appears on the front page rather than in the Guard's own statements.



A headless suited figure in a red tie mounted on a plinth, carrying a large US flag over one shoulder; the figure's back and the flagstaff are alight, with heavy black smoke rising across the page.

Javan

Hardline daily affiliated with the IRGC

“RPG nostalgia!” «نوستالژی آرپی‌جی!»

HIGH: coordinated amplification of a claimed US leadership split, plus an escalating Azerbaijan file



- Main: The lead image is a large rocket warhead standing between Donald Trump and JD Vance, who face each other across it in profile. The overlay reads «علنی‌تر شدن شکاف در کاخ سفید در آستانه انتخابات» over «ونس: درباره ایران با ترامپ اختلاف دارم», the rift in the White House becomes more public on the eve of the elections: Vance: I have a disagreement with Trump about Iran.
- Banner: «وحشت ژئوپلیتیک باکو در سرکوب حجاب», Baku's geopolitical dread behind the hijab crackdown, with a deck arguing that the suppression of hijab-related protests in the Republic of Azerbaijan is not merely a matter of school rules or of the Aliyev government's secular leanings but reflects a broader anxiety about the role of religion in society, which «می‌تواند موازنه ژئوپلیتیک در منطقه را به ضرر حکومت مستقر در باکو تغییر دهد», could shift the regional geopolitical balance against the establishment in Baku.
- Right rail: The Leader's message is printed in full down the right-hand column under «رهبر انقلاب: درخشش جوانان میهن / تلألؤ امیدهای ملت به جوانان / در مسیر تحقق آینده‌ای باشکوه است», and carries the printed signature «سید مجتبی حسینی خامنه‌ای» above the date ۲۵ مهر ۱۴۰۵. This is the batch's clearest documentary instance of the Leader's name as printed.
- Sub-item: «پسرم به دوست آسمانی‌اش «علیرضا» پیوست», my son has joined his heavenly friend Alireza, a Javan interview with the family of a martyred figure, illustrated with an embrace and captioned «شهید محمدحسین».
- Op-ed: A Javan interview headed «سینمای مقاومت باید دور از هیجان به تحلیل ریشه‌های جنگ برسد», resistance cinema must move past excitement and reach an analysis of the roots of the war.

ANALYST NOTE Two IRGC-aligned surfaces, Javan and Vatan-e Emrooz, lead the same morning on the same claimed Trump-Vance split in near-identical language, which indicates centrally guided message discipline rather than organic editorial convergence: the underlying remark is real but was hedged by Vance himself, and the hedge is absent from both pages. Javan's choice of image is the more revealing half, since an RPG between the two men frames the split as a weapon Iran did not have to supply. The Azerbaijan banner keeps alive the file this monitor logged on 17 October, but re-centres it from Israel's diplomatic presence in the Caucasus onto the internal religious politics of Baku, which widens the target from a visiting delegation to the Aliyev government itself. Tracking cue: whether the Vance framing survives into a third cycle, which would distinguish a campaign from a news peg.

Sobh-e No

Principlist daily, close to the parliamentary leadership

“Iran's flag atop the peaks of honour” «پرچم ایران بر فراز قله‌های افتخار»

HIGH: war recast as an American electoral liability, with the Army confirming rising tanker damage



- Banner: The masthead banner is the batch's only front-page attribution of the maritime damage to Iran's own regular army: «ارتش خبر داد: افزایش تعداد نفتکش‌های صدمه دیده در تنگه هرمز», the Army announced: an increase in the number of damaged tankers in the Strait of Hormuz. It is printed above the fold, unqualified, as a bulletin rather than as an accusation against anyone.
- Main: The lead is the Leader's message on the under-23 Greco-Roman wrestling world title, the deck reading that he congratulated the Iranian nation on the championship won «در مسابقات بین‌المللی امیدهای جهان در آمریکا», at the international world youth competitions in America.
- Sub-item: The centre feature reproduces a Newsweek cover captioned THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF AMERICA in Chinese-poster styling, under «برآمدن سوسیالیسم مقابل ترامپیسم», the rise of socialism against Trumpism, billed as the paper's own analysis «از جلد مجله نیوزویک که نمایانگر جامعه قطبی‌شده آمریکاست», of the Newsweek cover that displays America's polarised society, with a companion item on «الیگارشی خانواده ترامپ», the oligarchy of the Trump family.
- Right rail: «سهم شانزده درصدی احزاب عرب، نتانیاهو را سرنگون می‌کنند؟», will the Arab parties' sixteen percent share topple Netanyahu, over «انتخابات رژیم در دست اعراب», the regime's election is in Arab hands. The Israeli general election falls on 27 October, nine days after this page.
- Sub-item: «ادعای جنجالی مأمور سابق اطلاعات بریتانیا؛ حمایت از فلسطین بهای جان پرنسس دایانا بود», the controversial claim of a former British intelligence officer: support for Palestine cost Princess Diana her life.
- Op-ed: The سرمقاله, lead editorial, is «آیا جنگ می‌شود؟», will there be war, and argues that the war against Iran is no longer a political trump card for Donald Trump but has become a political and economic liability on the eve of the elections, citing a Pew Research survey it renders as 64 percent of Americans opposing the war. The byline is printed in red at the head of the column and is not legible at the resolution of the available scan.

ANALYST NOTE Sobh-e No is the one paper that puts an Iranian state institution's name on the tanker damage, and it chooses the Artesh rather than the Guard, which keeps the bulletin in the register of an advisory about a hazard rather than a claim of enforcement. Everything else on the page is addressed to the American domestic clock: a Newsweek cover read as evidence of US polarisation, a Trump-family oligarchy item, an Israeli election counted in Arab seats, and an editorial that reduces the war to an electoral liability sixteen days before the US midterms. This is the clearest instance in the batch of the standing thread this monitor has tracked since the summer: Tehran's principlist press now assesses the war primarily through the adversary's electoral calendar, not through the battlefield. Tracking cue:

> whether the 64 percent figure is repeated across other titles, which would mark it as a centrally supplied talking point.

Sazandegi

Reformist, the daily of the Kargozaran-e Sazandegi party (masthead: روزنامه کارگزاران سازندگی ایران), year 9, issue 2345, 8 pages

"Explosion of the tankers" «انفجار نفتکش‌ها»

SEVERE: scale of the maritime campaign printed as a domestic finding



- Main: The lead deck states the batch's hardest number: «در سه هفته گذشته نزدیک به ۳۰ کشتی و نفتکش که به اخطارها توجه نکردند، در تنگه هرمز هدف قرار گرفتند», in the past three weeks nearly 30 ships and tankers that did not heed the warnings were targeted in the Strait of Hormuz. The construction is notable: the vessels are described as having been targeted for ignoring warnings (اخطارها), which concedes deliberate targeting while assigning the cause to the victim's non-compliance.
- Main: A second deck line prices the consequence: «خبرها حاکی است که تنش در خلیج فارس افزایش یافته و قیمت نفت به ۱۱۰ دلار رسیده است», reports indicate tension in the Persian Gulf has risen and the oil price has reached 110 dollars. The full-width lead photograph is a burning tanker listing at sea.
- Sub-item: The international-desk analysis under the photograph opens «تنگه هرمز بار دیگر به کانون رویارویی نظامی ایران و آمریکا تبدیل شده است», the Strait of Hormuz has once again become the focus of the military confrontation between Iran and the United States, and sets increased attacks on shipping, reduced oil transit and Tehran's warnings on vessel passage against the outlook for global energy trade.
- Sub-item: The same block carries the paper's framing of the duelling claims: that the IRGC Navy's latest warning is that vessels defying Strait regulations will burn, while US Central Command claims that control of that traffic rests with it and its regional partners rather than with Iran, and that beyond the contradictory claims the attack and transit-stoppage figures show that passage through Hormuz is no longer what it was. A sidebar headed «رکورد حملات», record of attacks, cites a Financial Times compilation of UKMTO and maritime-incident data.
- Banner (left ear): «اتهام مالی به نمایندگان مجلس», financial accusation against members of parliament, over the MP Amir-Hossein Sabeti saying he saw in the Majlis that some deputies «قیمت دارند», have a price.
- Kicker (brief rail): «تله تحریم - پاکستان مرز خود با ایران را بست!», the sanctions trap: Pakistan has closed its border with Iran. A second brief, «بازگشت به عقلانیت», return to rationality, is credited to Ali Akbar Salehi; a third, «کلنگ و بهانه», Kolang and the pretext, flags the consequences of a possible strike on Kouh-e Kolang, the buried nuclear site Trump named as a target.
- Op-ed: «یادداشت روز: لزوم نوسازی ناوگان هوایی», note of the day: the necessity of renewing the air fleet, bylined Seyed Mahmoud Alizadeh

Tabatabai and identified beneath the byline as a member of the central council of the Kargozaran-e Sazandegi party. Its standfirst asks «چرا در دهه‌های گذشته، توسعه زیرساخت‌های دفاع هوایی کمتر مورد توجه قرار گرفته است؟», why in past decades has the development of air-defence infrastructure received less attention.

ANALYST NOTE This is the most consequential page in the batch and it comes from the reformist side of the aisle, which is what gives it weight: a party daily with every incentive to blame the war on escalation instead prints the attack campaign as a scale finding and lets the IRGC's warning and CENTCOM's counter-claim stand side by side without adjudicating between them. The thirty-vessel figure is the paper's own and sits above the externally corroborated range (UKMTO counted twelve in the week to 16 October; TASS counted twenty-two between 1 and 13 October), so it should be read as the upper bound of a real campaign rather than as a verified total. The air-defence note is the sharper signal: a Kargozaran central-council member asking in print why air defence was neglected for decades is wartime self-criticism aimed at the security establishment, and it is the first such item this monitor has recorded from a party organ.

Chaharsoo

Economic daily in a principlist register

LOW-MODERATE: wartime scarcity converted into a factional competence attack

"The difference between parliament's treatment of the Raisi and Pezeshkian governments" «تفاوت برخورد مجلس با دولت‌های رئیسی و پزشکیان»



- Main: An interview with «سید محمد حسینی», parliamentary deputy to the late President Raisi, run as a bulleted indictment of the fourteenth government: «دولت چهاردهم آن قدر ضعیف است که برای پوشش ضعف‌هایشان به سراغ تخریب شهید رئیسی می‌روند», the fourteenth government is so weak that to cover its own failings it turns to tearing down martyr Raisi.
- Main: Further bullets in the same list: «دولت پزشکیان بازار را رها کرده است», the Pezeshkian government has abandoned the market; «دولت بر بازار نظارت کافی ندارد»; «مردم افزایش چندباره قیمت کالاهای اساسی را نمی‌پذیرند», people will not accept repeated rises in the price of staple goods; and «رئیسی شخصاً بازار را دنبال می‌کرد», Raisi followed the market personally.
- Banner: The masthead banner is the Leader's message on the under-23 Greco-Roman world title, repeated in a boxed item lower on the page.
- Sub-item: «هزینه اداری و حقوق و دستمزد هلدینگ خلیج فارس طی دو سال ۲٫۵ برابر شده است», the administrative and payroll costs of the Persian Gulf holding have risen two and a half times in two years.
- Sub-item: The economist Farshad Momeni asks «ارز ارزان، اعتبار ارزان و زمین ارزان برای پنل‌های خورشیدی در اختیار چه افرادی قرار گرفته است؟», into whose hands have the cheap currency, cheap credit and cheap land for solar panels been placed.
- Cartoon: A queue at an internet cafe under «برای ثبت‌نام کالابرگ پول نقد همراه داشته باشید», bring cash to register for the ration coupon, with a customer saying «قرار بود کالابرگ بگیریم، حالا باید برای ثبت‌نامش هزینه کنیم!», we were supposed to receive a ration coupon, now we have to pay to register for it.

ANALYST NOTE Chaharsoo runs the only front page in the batch that is about Iranian domestic politics rather than the war, and the vehicle is a dead president. Using Raisi's own parliamentary deputy to prosecute the Pezeshkian government for market abandonment, in the week the government is distributing ration coupons and rationing petrol at two tiers, converts wartime scarcity into a factional argument about competence. The cartoon is the sharper instrument, because paying to register for a subsidy is a complaint the government cannot answer with war framing. Continuity: on 17 October this title audited parliament against the Leader's economic instructions and found it half shut; this morning the same counterweight has been turned back on the executive, which suggests the title is working a competence file rather than a single target.

Ta'adol

Economic daily, organ of the Iranian trade guilds

"A slow decline in the price of gold" «کاهش آرام قیمت طلا»

MODERATE: war costs kept on the domestic ledger, with the Pakistan closure priced in trucks


تعادل

کاهش آرام قیمت طلا

صادرات در تله خام‌فروشی

- Banner: «رئیس‌جمهور با اشاره به توانمندی علمی و دفاعی ایران اظهار کرد: ایران باید به جایی برسد که دشمنان جرأت تعرض نداشته باشند», the President, referring to Iran's scientific and defensive capability, said Iran must reach a point where enemies do not dare to attack. It is the only deterrence formulation in the batch spoken by the civilian executive rather than by a commander.
- Main: «کاهش آرام» over «نشانه‌های امیدوارکننده بازاری که هنوز در انتظار است قیمت طلا», a slow decline in the price of gold, the paper's weekly read of the domestic safe-haven trade.
- Right rail: «کابوس هرمز در واشنگتن», the Hormuz nightmare in Washington, a signed column placing the chokepoint inside American rather than Iranian politics.
- Banner (left ear): «از توقف ۲۷۷۱ کامیون در دو کشور تا اختلال صادرات به پاکستان» over «حمل یک‌سره کالا، فاصله میان مصوبه و اجرا», from 2,771 trucks halted in two countries to the disruption of exports to Pakistan: direct cargo haulage, the gap between the decision and its execution.
- Sub-item: «صادرات در تله خام‌فروشی», exports caught in the raw-selling trap, and «فرار نقدینگی از بورس», liquidity fleeing the bourse.
- Op-ed: «ملاک واردات در شرایط جنگی», the criterion for imports under wartime conditions, a signed economic panel running the width of the lower page.

ANALYST NOTE Ta'adol is the batch's inward ledger and it is now pricing the Pakistan border closure as a trade event rather than a political one: 2,771 trucks halted and exports disrupted is the commercial face of the suspension that Islamabad attributes to security and smuggling concerns and that Tehran's foreign ministry calls technical. The right-rail column is the notable move, because framing Hormuz as Washington's nightmare rather than Tehran's instrument assigns the cost of the chokepoint to the adversary's domestic politics, which is the same analytic frame Sobh-e No's editorial uses and which this monitor has now seen on three successive economic front pages. The President's deterrence line is worth logging for its grammar: it is aspirational, «باید به جایی برسد», must reach a point, which is a softer claim than the commanders' and sits oddly beside a Strait the Guard says is already closed.

Jomhouri Eslami

Traditional clerical establishment daily

MODERATE-HIGH: mediation offered from a position of leverage while Riyadh is under fire

“Iran declares readiness to help resolve the issues between Saudi Arabia and Yemen peacefully” «اعلام آمادگی ایران برای حل مسالمت‌آمیز مسائل بین عربستان و یمن»


جمهوری اسلامی

اعلام آمادگی ایران برای حل مسالمت‌آمیز مسائل بین عربستان و یمن

ایران آماده گفت‌وگوست و همیشه به منشور ملل متحد پایبند بوده است

افتتاح بزرگراه شهید امیر سپهبد موسوی در غرب تهران

- Main: The lead is the foreign ministry spokesman: «جمهوری اسلامی ایران همواره آماده به‌کارگیری مساعی خود برای کمک به خاتمه درگیری‌ها بوده و همچنان نیز آمادگی دارد در صورت تقاضای طرفین از تمامی ظرفیت‌های خود بدین منظور استفاده کند», Iran has always been ready to use its good offices to help end the conflicts and remains ready, should the parties request it, to use all its capacities to that end.
- Main: A second bullet carries the argument: «تحولات ۱۲ سال اخیر نشان داد که مداخله خارجی، رویکرد نظامی و محاصره راه‌حل مشکل یمن نیست», developments over the past twelve years have shown that foreign intervention, a military approach and blockade are not the solution to Yemen's problem, with an expectation that regional and Islamic states will act to end it.
- Sub-item: «ایران آماده گفت‌وگوست و همیشه به منشور ملل متحد پایبند بوده است», Iran is ready for dialogue and has always adhered to the UN Charter, kickered to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation session; the speaker is the foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi, who addressed the 52nd OIC Council of Foreign Ministers in Baghdad on 17 October.
- Sub-item: The lead photograph is the opening of «بزرگراه شهید امیر سپهبد موسوی» in western Tehran, in front of a wall mural of the commander, the second paper in the batch to carry the naming.
- Sub-item: «340 شهادت ۳۴۰ کودک از زمان آتش بس در غزه», children martyred since the ceasefire in Gaza, sourced to the UN children's fund and accompanied by figures on children deprived of schooling and on damaged education centres.
- Sub-item: «هزینه ۴۱ میلیون دلاری برای تأمین امنیت اقامتگاه‌های نتانیاهو», a 41-million-dollar bill for securing Netanyahu's residences, attributed to Yedioth Ahronoth and given as 127 million shekels between 2023 and 2026, with the reported rationale of drone threats after the October 2024 strike on his Caesarea home.
- Sub-item: «بازسازی انبارهای نفت تهران و کرج شتاب گرفت», reconstruction of the Tehran and Karaj fuel depots has accelerated, one of the few front-page admissions of domestic strike damage in the batch.
- Right rail: «اخبار جنگ علیه ایران: ۱۰۰ میلیارد یورو هزینه برای اروپا داشته است», the war against Iran has cost Europe 100 billion euros. A further brief carries Haaretz on Netanyahu resorting to any device to escape prison, and the President at the inauguration of 2,881 education projects.
- Sub-item: The foot of the page carries a quotation from the martyred Ayatollah Beheshti on where devotion ends and idolatry of the world begins.

ANALYST NOTE This is the diplomatic page of the batch and the one that connects to the better-corroborated theatre. Iran's mediation offer on Yemen lands in a week when Ansarullah struck Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport four times in five days, the airport stayed shut through 17 October and Saudi aircraft bombed Taiz and Hodeidah: offering good offices while the pressure runs in Riyadh's direction is leverage dressed as neutrality, and the twelve-year framing pointedly dates the problem to the 2015 intervention rather than to the present escalation. The depot item is the more unusual disclosure, because the reconstruction of Tehran and Karaj fuel storage is an admission of domestic damage on a front page that otherwise prices the war abroad. Continuity: the mediation offer repeats, in the foreign ministry's own voice, the position Esmaeil Baghaei put on the record two cycles ago and which this monitor logged as unanswered by Riyadh.

Agency wires (Fars, Nour News, Defa Press)

IRGC-affiliated and Supreme National Security Council-linked wires; treated as claims, not as front pages

"Wire corroboration and threat-signalling register"

HIGH: negotiation kept open on the wires while an Iraqi group commits to entry

- Sub-item: Nour News states that «ادعای ترامپ به‌تنهایی نشانه پایان جنگ یا منتفی شدن احتمال درگیری مجدد نیست», Trump's claim alone is not a sign that the war has ended or that renewed fighting is ruled out, and carries Doha saying Iran's proposal on managing the Strait faces difficulties because of American insistence on the nuclear file.
- Sub-item: Nour News reports the Qatari foreign ministry spokesman saying roughly six billion dollars of Iranian funds are held in Qatar under a humanitarian-channel arrangement and are in play as an incentive in the negotiations.
- Sub-item: Nour News carries Senator Bernie Sanders calling the war unnecessary and unlawful and urging Democratic candidates to work to stop it, and Yemeni media showing a Saudi air strike on a school in Al-Masrakh district, Taiz.
- Sub-item: Fars reports that Riyadh's airport had already been put out of action by the Ansarullah blockade, alongside the suspension of Dubai flights, and carries the UK maritime body's report of a tug struck by two projectiles northeast of Khorfakkan. It also carries the Palestinian agriculture ministry saying more than 3,500 fruit trees were destroyed in the West Bank in one week.
- Sub-item: Defa Press carries the Saudi-led coalition confirming the interception of two ballistic missiles fired from Yemen towards Khamis Mushait with air-threat alerts issued, Saudi strikes on Al-Khokha in Hodeidah, and the secretary general of Iraq's Kataib Sayyid al-Shuhada saying his group would enter a war if Iran faced a real threat.
- Sub-item: Vatan-e Emrooz's channel carries a TASS compilation: «شناور طی ۱۳ روز در تنگه هرمز مورد حمله قرار گرفت», 22 vessels attacked in the Strait of Hormuz between 1 and 13 October, described as a record, with 15 sailors injured, two missing and one ship sunk. The same channel carries the foreign ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei saying the Iran-Pakistan crossings are temporarily halted for technical reasons.

> **ANALYST NOTE** The wires do three things the front pages do not. They keep the negotiation track alive in the same breath as the threat, with the Council-linked wire explicitly refusing to treat Trump's talk of an ending as an ending. They supply the Yemen corroboration that makes that theatre the better-evidenced of the two, including a Saudi coalition admission of incoming ballistic missiles. And they put an Iraqi armed group on the record promising entry if Iran is genuinely threatened, which is the first such commitment this monitor has logged in this run. Every figure above is an attributed claim: the TASS vessel count, the Qatari funds figure and the Yemeni and Saudi battle claims are not independently reproducible from the retrieved record.

Etemad (channel-read) Reformist daily

"(front-page headline not retrievable this cycle)"

MODERATE-HIGH: the failed Salalah track reported where no front page carries it

- Main: The channel carries the Qatari foreign ministry spokesman saying US-Iran mediation continues despite serious challenges, and that the Salalah meeting, intended to reopen the Strait of Hormuz temporarily pending a permanent arrangement, «این تلاش به نتیجه نرسید», did not succeed. This is the negative half of the seven-day plan Araghchi announced the same day.
- Sub-item: A security incident northeast of Khor Fakkan in the United Arab Emirates, reported by the UK maritime trade operations body.
- Sub-item: Araghchi, meeting the Iraqi prime minister, attributing regional insecurity to Israeli occupation and expansionism and accusing Washington of repeatedly violating agreements and making international shipping unsafe.
- Sub-item: The Russian foreign minister beginning a regional tour in Bahrain, to conclude in Tehran with talks with Araghchi.
- Op-ed: A late political commentary describing the country as in a wartime situation, with a naval blockade extended into the air, American talk of a ground blockade and Israeli security meetings on Iran, and calling for political unity.
- Sub-item: Yemen's armed forces claiming the downing of a fourth Saudi Karyar reconnaissance drone over Hajjah, and the culture minister Ataollah Mohajerani deriding a speech by the US secretary of state as written from Huntington by machine.

> **ANALYST NOTE** Etemad is the one surface in the batch that publishes the failure as well as the offer: the Salalah track to reopen the Strait collapsed, and Doha says mediation continues under serious challenge. Placed beside Iran Daily's seven-day plan, that converts Tehran's proposal from a breakthrough into the second attempt after a failed one, which is the accurate reading and the one no Persian front page prints. The call for political unity under a naval blockade now extended into the air is the reformist register this monitor has tracked for several cycles: dissent is being expressed as a warning about national cohesion rather than as a challenge to the war itself.

Iran (channel-read) Official government daily

HIGH: the Guard's enforcement formula carried in the government's own voice

"The cost of Trump's war with Iran will become apparent in the American elections" «هزینه جنگ ترامپ با ایران در انتخابات آمریکا آشکار خواهد شد»

- Main: The government daily's front page pairs the electoral framing with the Guard's maritime formula printed in full: «عاقبت متخلفان، سوختن در آتش اعتماد به آمریکاست», the fate of violators is to burn in the fire of trusting America. Jam-e Jam's right-rail bulletin is the compressed version of this line.
- Sub-item: A third front-page line asks «نظم جهانی فرومی‌پاشد؟», is the world order collapsing.
- Sub-item: The channel carries American inflation at 3.7 percent in September, Washington asking allies to increase diesel supply, and a Trump order on tax-exempt diesel, which is the external half of the fuel-price argument Hamshahri runs on its front page.
- Sub-item: Araghchi met the Lebanese foreign minister on the margins of the OIC session in Baghdad on Tehran-Beirut relations, and met the Iraqi prime minister, telling him that the root of regional insecurity is «اشغالگری و توسعه‌طلبی رژیم صهیونیستی», the occupation and expansionism of the Zionist regime, and that the United States has disrupted diplomacy by repeatedly violating agreements and resorting to force.
- Sub-item: The IRGC spokesman derides what he calls a savage civilisation for using the word «mother» to name its heaviest bomb.
- Sub-item: Pezeshkian chaired a session on state-company productivity with university faculty, and the government spokesman announced hiring authorisation for 32,000 health ministry posts in support of nurses.

> **ANALYST NOTE** The official daily prints the sentence the Guard wants circulated and the sentence the government wants circulated on the same page, and the join between them is the American election: violators burn, and the bill for the war arrives on 3 November. Lebanon re-enters the record through the foreign minister's margins meeting rather than through any operational item, which is where it has sat for several cycles. The 32,000 health hires are the policy residue of the Leader's Nurse Day message of the previous cycle, which is now generating budgetary as well as legislative follow-through.

Kayhan (channel-read)

Hardline daily whose managing editor, Hossein Shariatmadari, is appointed by the Leader's office

“Destroying Israel's nuclear facilities is the answer to any attack on Kouh-e Kolang” «انهدام تأسیسات هسته‌ای اسرائیل پاسخ هرگونه حمله به «کوه‌کلنگ»»

SEVERE: a named reprisal set against a third state's nuclear facilities

- Main: The paper's lead analysis sets a stated reprisal doctrine against Trump's named target: any American strike on the buried Kouh-e Kolang nuclear complex, which Trump said on 16 October US forces may need to «take a shot» at, would be answered by the destruction of Israel's nuclear facilities. The threat is directed at a third party rather than at the party that would strike.
- Op-ed: The «یادداشت روز», note of the day, by Hossein Shariatmadari, runs in two parts under «مادر بمب‌های شما و پدر موشک‌های ما», your mother of bombs and the father of our missiles. Part one argues that Trump's repeated invocation of the MOAB has achieved none of its stated aims and enumerates claimed American failures, including rising US and European costs and Iranian pressure on shipping lanes at Hormuz and Bab el-Mandeb. Part two states that American and allied targets, Israel's nuclear facilities among them, would be struck in reply, and addresses itself to the US pilots who flew the strikes.
- Op-ed: The editorial's operative line is «بمب‌های مادرتان را بفرستید تا موشک‌های ما پدرشان را درآورند», send your mother of bombs and our missiles will give them their father, a deliberate vulgarisation of the weapon's nickname that was echoed the same day by the IRGC spokesman's remark deriding a civilisation that names its heaviest bomb «mother».
- Sub-item: The channel carries the UK Maritime Trade Operations report of a tug struck by two projectiles northeast of Khorfakkan in the United Arab Emirates, and Araghchi's statement that «توافق اسلام‌آباد را آمریکا نقض کرد», the United States violated the Islamabad agreement.
- Sub-item: A separate item records that Trump's speech was again met with protest.

> **ANALYST NOTE** Kayhan supplies the batch's doctrinal escalation and it is a specific, falsifiable one rather than a slogan: a named American target, Kouh-e Kolang, met with a named Israeli reprisal set, Israel's nuclear facilities. That is a deliberate widening of the retaliation envelope to a state that would not be the striking party, and it is printed on the surface whose editor the Leader's office appoints, which is the reason to treat it as signalling rather than commentary. The editorial's register is the second finding: Shariatmadari answers a weapons threat with a joke about parentage, which is addressed to a domestic audience that needs the threat deflated rather than to Washington. Continuity: the Islamabad-memorandum attribution thread moves again, with the foreign minister himself now naming the United States as the violator, three cycles after the breach was first attributed to Iranian action against shipping.

Appendix A: The Leader's message on the under-23 Greco-Roman world title

Javan, front page, 26 Mehr 1405, printed in full in the right-hand column; corroborated against Iranian agency reporting of the same text

Preliminary note. The message is the batch's most widely carried single item, appearing as banner, masthead ear or lead on Jam-e Jam, Hamshahri, Vatan-e Emrooz, Javan, Sobh-e No and Chaharsoo. Javan is the only paper in the batch to print the body in full. At the resolution of the available kiosk scan the body paragraph is legible only in part; what follows is therefore a reconstruction, assembled from the legible portions of that column and from Iranian agency renderings of the same text, and it is flagged as partial. The opening invocation, the closing prayer, the signature and the date are legible or independently confirmed and are given as printed.

Opening, as printed: «بسم الله الرحمن الرحیم».

Body, reconstructed: The championship of Iran's under-23 Greco-Roman wrestling team at the world youth competitions held in the United States is congratulated to the athletes, to their coaches and to the whole Iranian nation. The raising of the Iranian flag and the playing of the national anthem on that ground are presented as the visible form of something larger: «درخشش جوانان میهن», the brilliance of the homeland's youth, and «تلألؤ امیدهای ملت به جوانان در مسیر تحقق آینده‌ای باشکوه», the shimmering of the nation's hopes placed in its young people on the path toward the realisation of a glorious future.

Closing, as printed: «دعای خیر اینجانب بدرقه راه همه جوانان ایران سرافراز است», my prayers accompany the path of all of Iran's proud young people.

Signature and date, as printed: «سید مجتبی حسینی خامنه‌ای», Seyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei, ۲۵ مهر ۱۴۰۵, 17 October 2026.

Analyst flag. Two features are worth recording and neither concerns wrestling. First, the printed signature is again the full civil form of the incumbent Leader's name rather than a title alone, which continues to strengthen the documentary basis of the succession: this is the second consecutive cycle in which his name appears over a text on multiple front pages. Second, the vehicle is again ceremonial. On 17 October he returned to page one through a Nurse Day message; this morning he is there through a sports message. In neither case is the war the occasion, and in neither case does a dated public appearance, confirmed photograph or confirmed recording accompany the text on any surface in the batch. The verification position is therefore unchanged from the previous cycle: the paper record is strong and improving, the audiovisual record remains empty.

Note on the venue. The competitions were held in the United States, at Las Vegas, and Iranian reporting of the same event records three golds and two bronzes for the under-23 squad. That an Iranian national team competed, won and had its anthem played on American soil during a war with the United States is itself the framing the papers are using, and it is accurate.

Appendix B: Kayhan's note of the day, «مادر بمب‌های شما و پدر موشک‌های ما»

Kayhan, «یادداشت روز», published in two parts on the paper's channel on 26 Mehr 1405; author as printed: Hossein Shariatmadari, the paper's managing editor

Author verification. The note is signed Hossein Shariatmadari, who has been Kayhan's managing editor since 1993 by appointment of the Leader's office. The attribution is confirmed by the paper's own channel and by at least four Iranian outlets that reproduced the note the same day. The full text could not be retrieved from Kayhan's own site at the time of compilation; the summary below is drawn from the channel posting and from those reproductions, and the single line given in the original is the one all of them quote identically.

Title: «مادر بمب‌های شما و پدر موشک‌های ما», your mother of bombs and the father of our missiles. The pun is on the American weapon's nickname, the Mother of All Bombs, and on a Persian idiom in which to give someone their father, «پدرش را درآوردن», is to destroy them utterly.

Part one, summarised. The note takes as its occasion Trump's repeated invocation of the MOAB against Iran's nuclear sites, and in particular the buried complex at Kouh-e Kolang. It recalls that the weapon was tested in 2003 and cites the former American defence secretary Leon Panetta as having said that it was designed to reach Iran's enrichment facilities. It argues that the threat has achieved none of its stated aims, enumerates what it presents as American failures over seven months of war, and claims that American and European costs are rising while Iran applies pressure to the shipping lanes at Hormuz and Bab el-Mandeb.

Part two, summarised. The second part states the reprisal position: that the Islamic Republic will answer any attack, and that American and allied infrastructure in the region, in Europe and in the United States itself will not be safe from Iranian missiles. It extends the reprisal set to Israel's nuclear facilities, which is the position Kayhan also prints as a front-page analysis the same morning. It addresses itself directly to the American aircrews who flew the strikes.

Operative line, as published: «بمب‌های مادرتان را بفرستید تا موشک‌های ما پدرشان را درآورند», send your mother of bombs and our missiles will give them their father.

Analyst flag. Three things make this note a signal rather than bluster. It names a specific adversary target, Kouh-e Kolang, which Trump himself named on 16 October; it names a specific reprisal set, Israel's nuclear facilities, belonging to a state that would not necessarily be the striking party; and it is published on the surface whose editor the Leader's office appoints, which is the conventional channel for positions that the state wants circulated without formally adopting. The register is nonetheless domestic: a weapons threat is answered with a joke about parentage, which is aimed at an Iranian readership that needs the threat deflated rather than at Washington. The same formula surfaced on the same day in the IRGC spokesman's derision of a civilisation that names its heaviest bomb mother, which is evidence of coordination rather than coincidence. Verification note: nothing in this appendix is endorsed. The Panetta attribution, the claimed American failures and the cost figures are Kayhan's and are not independently reproducible from the retrieved record. The quoted line is documented for defensive assessment and is not to be reproduced as an authoritative statement of Iranian military capability.

Appendix C: Methodology and sourcing notes

iran-press-digest pipeline, 2026-10-18

Scan coverage. Ten front-page scans were retrieved from the morning kiosk batches: nine Persian pages from the NewspaperTasnim album posted at 00:22 UTC on 18 October under the caption «صفحه نخست روزنامه‌های یک‌شنبه ۲۶ مهر ماه ۱۴۰۵», and one English page from the Newspapers_Iran album posted at 04:30 UTC. The stale-batch guard compared the album's own printed Jalali date with the target day and matched, so this edition rests on a fresh batch rather than a carried-over one. Papers identified from the scans by masthead: Jam-e Jam, Hamshahri, Vatan-e Emrooz, Javan, Sobh-e No, Sazandegi, Chaharsoo, Ta'adol, Jomhouri Eslami and Iran Daily.

Channel coverage. Kayhan, Iran and Etemad are read from their own channels because no scan of them reached the day's kiosk batch; their entries are marked channel-read and their front-page headlines are taken from the channel's own front-page posting where one exists. Three wires were read for corroboration only and are not treated as front pages: Fars, Nour News and Defa Press. Tehran Times and Kayhan's own website were unavailable at the time of compilation, so the Kayhan editorial is reconstructed from the paper's channel and from four Iranian outlets that reproduced it.

Resolution limits, stated as a constraint on the record. The kiosk scans are published at approximately 560 by 800 pixels. Headlines, decks and boxed figures are reliably legible at that size after enlargement; continuous body text generally is not. Where a byline, a name or a numeral could not be read with confidence it is marked as not legible rather than guessed. Four such cases occur in this edition: the byline of Sobh-e No's lead editorial; the byline of Hamshahri's oil-market column; the two names in Vatan-e Emrooz's Sistan and Baluchestan banner; and the vessel count in Vatan-e Emrooz's Hormuz photograph caption.

Single-source and unverified claims. The following are carried as attributed claims and are not adopted: Sazandegi's figure of nearly thirty vessels struck in three weeks; Hamshahri's claim that US technology shares lost more than a trillion dollars and that the Nasdaq stands seven percent below its record; the TASS count of 22 vessels in thirteen days; the Qatari figure of roughly six billion dollars in Iranian funds; all Iranian and Saudi battle-damage claims from Yemen; and Jomhouri Eslami's figure of 100 billion euros in European war costs. The oil and diesel figures printed by Hamshahri and Sazandegi are close to the external record and are noted as such in the body: Brent settled near 109.86 dollars on 16 October and US diesel averaged about 6.32 dollars a gallon.

External corroboration used. Al Jazeera's 17 and 18 October reporting on the competing American and Iranian claims to control of the Strait, including the CENTCOM commander's statement of 16 October and the UK Maritime Trade Operations count of at least twelve vessels attacked in the week to 16 October; Kpler transit data showing 11.6 million barrels a day in the seven days to 13 October against a pre-war baseline of 17.1 million; reporting of the Vance interview of 16 October and Trump's response; reporting of Trump's 16 October MOAB remarks and his naming of the buried Pickaxe Mountain complex; Amwaj and CNN reporting on the Ansarullah strikes that closed Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport through 17 October; and Pakistani and Iranian reporting on the suspension of the Gabd-Rimdan and Taftan crossings.

The Mojtaba succession evidence, restated. The incumbent Leader is identified throughout this product as Mojtaba Khamenei on the basis of the printed Persian name rather than inference. This edition adds one further documentary instance: Javan prints the wrestling message over the signature

«سید مجتبی حسینی خامنه‌ای» above the date ۲۵ مهر ۱۴۰۵. As in the previous cycle, no dated public appearance, confirmed photograph or confirmed recording accompanies the text on any surface in the batch.

Handling. This product documents and analyses hostile foreign-press rhetoric for defensive assessment only. Nothing in it endorses, amplifies or operationalises that rhetoric. Every claim is attributed to its outlet or speaker. Quotations rendered from Persian are editorial translations; the original script is retained beside them so that the framing can be checked. Second-hand quotations, including Iranian renderings of Western reporting, remain flagged as such: quoting a rendering does not verify it, and no unverified attributed quotation here should be reproduced as authentic without primary-source confirmation.

Open-source material only. All translations from Persian/Arabic originals. Iranian claims are labelled as claims. Prepared for analysis and early warning; hostile content is documented for defensive assessment only, not endorsed.