OPEN-SOURCE PRESS INTELLIGENCE

# Iranian Press Monitor

Daily Front-Page Intelligence

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**ZERO HOUR AND INJURY TIME EDITION**

*Eight Iranian front pages of 2 Aban 1405 read in full, together with the English-language Iran Daily, six newspaper channels and three agency wires. Kayhan's page is read from the paper's own channel listing because it did not reach the kiosk album, and Tehran Times was not available at the time of compilation.*

*Front pages published the morning of 24 October 2026, reflecting events through late Friday 23 October local.*

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




*Front page: Nobonyad*

## Executive Summary

The lead judgment of this edition is that the nuclear-doctrine question has crossed from aside to argument in forty-eight hours of publishing time. On 22 October this monitor filed the question as live on both sides for the first time, on the evidence of one unbannered right-rail box in Kayhan carrying its managing director saying the doctrine on producing a nuclear weapon may change as the times change, paired with an Israeli accusation relayed on an Iranian channel. Today Nobonyad, a conservative daily, gives the whole of its front page to «خروج از ان‌پی‌تی در وقت‌های اضافه», leaving the NPT in injury time, printed across a photograph of the United Nations flag seen through razor wire, and supports it with two separate pieces of its own. The signed editorial by Alireza Bahrami argues that «تجربه‌های جنگ ۱۲ روزه و جنگ رمضان باید یک تصور خطرناک را در سیاست خارجی ایران به چالش بکشد», that the twelve-day war and the Ramadan war must challenge the assumption that compliance, transparency and one-sided confidence-building can buy security from parties that use sanctions and force, and it closes the case with the facts of the file: Iran cooperated with the Agency, was subject to the severest inspections, and its facilities were struck and its scientists assassinated anyway. A third item on the same page reports that «مطالبه بازنگری در دکترین هسته‌ای ایران از یک بحث محدود سیاسی فراتر رفته است», the demand for revision has moved beyond a confined political debate. This is one small masthead and not a policy organ, and the injury-time metaphor concedes that nothing has been decided, but a structured public case is a different object from a remark, and cases of this kind are normally built in the smaller press before they appear in the large.

The cycle's second finding is an imminence signal carried simultaneously by papers that agree on nothing else. Etemad, reformist, runs «آماده باش برای ساعت صفر», alert for zero hour, and reports American and Israeli plans against Iranian industrial infrastructure and the missile arsenal, sourced in its body text to American officials, with the caveat that it is not yet clear whether Donald Trump will approve them. Shargh, also reformist, runs «دو صندوق، یک ماشه», two boxes and one trigger, captioned as a report on a pass in the war's fate and on «ادعاهای اطلاعاتی آمریکا و اسرائیل», the intelligence claims of America and Israel. Nour News, linked to the Supreme National Security Council, publishes the same picture in security-service register: reports indicate the preparation of new American and Israeli attack options, Tom Barrack is said to have called an attack likely at the weekend, Trump's reaction is called ambiguous, CNN's report of American diplomats being moved out of regional posts is folded in, and the summary then states plainly that «وقوع حمله و زمان احتمالی آن هنوز تأیید نشده است», the attack and its timing are not confirmed. Three surfaces from two factions plus the security wire, carrying one imminence signal with the confirmation caveat intact, is centrally available information being distributed rather than a panic.

Against that warning the state apparatus published readiness in three registers in one morning. The government's own daily leads on «آمادگی در اوج؛ هم برای دفاع هم تهاجم», readiness at its peak for defense and for offense alike, attributing it not to a named commander but to the aggregate positions of senior political and military officials, and carrying one attributed line from the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council: «همه باید بدانند اقدام علیه ایران هزینه دارد», everyone must know that action against Iran carries a cost. The Jam-e Jam channel carries the Army Ground Forces commander ordering units to hold readiness at the highest level, with the warning that in a state of war any negligence carries heavy costs. And the Chief of the General Staff, Major General Ali Abdollahi, in a statement carried verbatim by both Defa Press and Fars News, says «تحت هیچ شرایطی نمی‌گذاریم ناوهای زنگ‌زده آمریکا دوباره وارد خلیج فارس شوند», that under no circumstances will America's rusty

warships be allowed back into the Persian Gulf, and claims the US Navy has been rendered unable to approach Iran's territorial waters. The same statement contains the cycle's most revealing passage on the nuclear question: Abdollahi turns Trump's own two claims against each other, that the facilities were destroyed and that Iran must not have a weapon, and asks what the repetition means if the first is true. The claim about the US Navy is an assertion by an Iranian commander and nothing in the monitored set tests it.

The oil price has become the Iranian press's shared instrument, and this cycle it carries a number and a mechanism. Brent passing $117 appears on four front pages and three channels within one morning: Kayhan leads on «قیمت نفت از ۱۱۷ دلار عبور کرد» with American technology stocks falling in the shadow of the oil shock, Sobh-e No fills its page with «نفت علیه ترامپ», oil against Trump, Donya-e-Eqtesad examines «پیام نفت ۱۱۷ دلاری», the message of $117 oil, and the Vatan-e Emrooz kiosk item calls it «رکورد رسوایی ترامپ», Trump's record scandal, the highest level since the Ramadan war. The IRGC spokesman's own posting, relayed by the Iran newspaper and Sobh-e No channels, gives Brent at $117.30 and West Texas Intermediate at $103.57. What makes this more than a scoreboard is the accompanying argument, assembled almost entirely from Western officials' words as rendered by Iranian outlets: Poland's prime minister saying it must be stated loudly that Trump is responsible for fuel prices, Emmanuel Macron insisting «این جنگ، جنگ اروپا نیست», that this war is not Europe's war, France's foreign minister warning each new tension raises the price, Britain's foreign secretary Ed Miliband saying the Iran war has driven British inflation and that the country cannot bear its continuation, and Germany's foreign minister saying the conflict has no military solution. Sazandegi reaches the same conclusion through the Clintons. Four Iranian factions have converged on the proposition that the chokepoint's cost is being paid inside the Western alliance.

Two things in the same cycle complicate that proposition from inside Iran's own press. Sobh-e No's lead text concedes, in a clause its headline does not carry, that the oil price rose «پس از دستور او برای محاصره طولانی‌مدت بنادر ایران», after Trump's order for a prolonged blockade of Iran's ports, and that «تردد شناورهای متخلف در تنگه هرمز به کلی متوقف شده», traffic of non-compliant vessels through the Strait has stopped completely. That is the first description in this monitor's record of pressure running in both directions on the waterway, and it sits awkwardly beside Kayhan's own evidence of success, an American carrier's fuel bill up 67.5 percent with a $269 million loss and QatarEnergy negotiating to buy American LNG, both of which Kayhan attributes to «بسته‌شدن تنگهٔ هرمز», the closure of the Strait. Closure is now the fifth Iranian formula for the waterway in four cycles, after closed, not fully open, not completely closed, and the IRGC Navy's managed and controlled of 22 October. Separately, Donya-e-Eqtesad prints the domestic cost in the only terms its readership trusts: capital leaving manufacturing for cryptocurrency mining because production has become the riskier bet, under a question no political paper in the batch is permitted to ask, «ایران و آمریکا در آستانه جنگ سوم؟».

The standing escalation threads moved unevenly. The submarine-cable file, which this monitor has tracked from a spokesman's warning on 20 October to a signed column on 21 October to the Guard daily's lead image on 22 October, today acquires a named senior commander and a second target class: Kayhan's front page carries «سرلشکر محسن رضایی هشدار داد: هدف قرارگرفتن کابل‌های ارتباطی و مراکز داده منطقه در صورت تجدید جنگ», Major General Mohsen Rezaei warning that the region's communication cables and data centres will be targeted if the war resumes. Extending the threat from the cables to the data centres behind them widens the target class from transit to storage and is the single most consequential escalation line in the batch. The seven-vessel interdiction claim of 22 October has no successor in this cycle: no new shipping claim appears on any front page, channel or

wire read here. The numbered drone-attrition series is absent for a fourth consecutive cycle, and no shootdown claim of any kind appears in the monitored set.

The diplomatic track reappeared in print after a cycle of being closed from both ends, and it reappeared with a venue. Jomhouri-ye Eslami leads on the foreign minister by name, «اگر عراقچی: آمریکا جنگ را به دیپلماسی ترجیح دهد قطعاً دچار شکست بزرگ‌تری خواهد شد», if America prefers war to diplomacy it will certainly suffer a bigger defeat, with the conditional offer restated in the deck. Its right rail reports «نشست هفت کشور در اسلامبول برای جلوگیری از گسترش درگیری‌های منطقه‌ای», a seven-country meeting in Istanbul to prevent the spread of regional conflicts, and Sazandegi's banner independently calls the same session «کنفرانس میانجی‌گری / نشست استانبول برای مهار جنگ», the mediation conference to contain the war. The Etemad channel, citing Tasnim, supplies the roster: the foreign ministers of Germany, France, Italy, Pakistan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia met Erdogan in Istanbul on Friday evening to discuss regional developments, the situation of the Strait of Hormuz and America's war against Iran. Running alongside it is a second, bilateral track that reached only one channel: Araghchi, writing on the Iran newspaper's channel, says he hosted Sergey Lavrov in Tehran this week and that «هفته آینده این گفت‌وگوها و رایزنی‌ها، با حضور روسای جمهور دو کشور در مسکو استمرار خواهد یافت», that next week the consultations continue with the two presidents in Moscow, confirming that Masoud Pezeshkian will travel to Russia. Against both, Shargh prints Mohsen Rezaei saying the negotiations have stopped.

Net assessment: this is a threshold edition rather than an escalation edition. Nothing happened in the monitored twenty-four hours that an Iranian paper could call a victory, and the one hard claim from the previous cycle, the seven-vessel interdiction, was not renewed. What the press did instead was prepare three thresholds in public: the nuclear one, argued as a full front-page case for the first time; the infrastructural one, extended from cables to data centres by a named general; and the diplomatic one, reopened at a named venue with a named roster while a Guard-adjacent figure declares the talks already stopped. The imminence warnings sit above all three, carried identically by reformist front pages and by the security council's own wire, with the confirmation caveat attached in each case. The edition's most telling absence is at the top: two cycles after the Leader's first photographed, dated appearance, nothing from the office reaches any front page, and the only leadership image published anywhere in the set is the President at the grave of the predecessor.

**BOTTOM LINE** On the morning Iranian papers across three factions printed warnings of an imminent American and Israeli strike, the escalation that actually advanced in print was nuclear: a conservative daily gave its entire front page to leaving the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which means the doctrinal question recorded two cycles ago as a single right-rail remark has become a published argument with a lead headline behind it.

**CRITICAL SOURCING NOTE** Eight Persian front pages were read in full from the NewspaperTasnim album of «شنبه ۲ آبان ماه ۱۴۰۵», with the English Iran Daily of Vol 8246 from the Newspapers_Iran album of the same date; the stale-batch guard matched the album's own printed Jalali date to the target date, so this edition rests on pages published the morning of 24 October. Kayhan's page did not reach the kiosk album and its front page is read from the paper's own channel listing of its headlines, which is marked in the entry. Six newspaper channels and three agency wires were read for the same window. Tehran Times was not available at the time of compilation, and the Leader's official site was likewise unreachable, though no front page or channel carried a Leader item either. The 800-pixel scans render mastheads, headlines and decks reliably but defeat body text and some bylines; where a byline or a figure could not be read with confidence it has been omitted rather than guessed, which is why the Shargh editorial's author is unnamed here and why the Brent figure is cited from the IRGC spokesman's posting rather than from the Iran

newspaper's sidebar. Four named officeholders were verified before assertion: Abdolnaser Hemmati as Central Bank governor, Major General Ali Abdollahi as Chief of the General Staff and Khatam al-Anbiya commander, Ed Miliband as Britain's foreign secretary, and Seyyed Hossein Marashi as the Kargozaran spokesman whose editorial Sazandegi prints. Every Iranian military, commercial and battle-damage claim here is labelled as a claim; quotations attributed to Western figures reach this monitor as Iranian renderings and are not to be reproduced as authentic without primary-source confirmation. The Istanbul session of Friday evening is attested by three Iranian surfaces and was not independently confirmed at compile time; its participant roster differs in one member from the comparable Istanbul session of 30 August.

## Macro Trend Analysis

### 1 The nuclear threshold is now argued in public, not alluded to

Nobonyad devotes a lead headline, a signed editorial and a separate news item to the same proposition on one front page: that NPT membership failed to protect Iran and that withdrawal is a live option in injury time. Two cycles ago this monitor recorded the doctrinal question as a single unbannered remark in Kayhan's right rail. The argument's structure is the thing to note, a sunk-cost case built from the file's own history, compliance honoured and facilities struck anyway, which is the form taken by a case being prepared for a general readership. The counter-position is printed the same morning and is not weak: Sazandegi gives its left rail to Ali Akbar Salehi, the former head of the Atomic Energy Organisation, under «حاصل جنگ، زمین سوخته است», the outcome of war is scorched earth. The factional line on the nuclear question now runs through the press in both directions on the same day.

### 2 An imminence warning carried identically by reformists and by the security wire

Etemad's «آماده باش برای ساعت صفر» reports prepared American and Israeli plans against Iranian industrial infrastructure and the missile arsenal, sourced to American officials, with Trump's approval described as still unsettled. Shargh frames the day as a pass in the war's fate turning on American and Israeli intelligence claims. Nour News, linked to the Supreme National Security Council, publishes the same content in security register, folding in Tom Barrack's reported weekend-attack remark, Trump's ambiguous reaction and CNN's report of diplomats leaving regional posts, and then states that the attack and its timing are unconfirmed. When a reformist front page, a reformist analytical lead and the security council's own wire carry one warning with the caveat intact, the mechanism is distribution of available information rather than factional alarm.

### 3 Readiness published in three registers on one morning

The government daily prints «آمادگی در اوج؛ هم برای دفاع هم تهاجم», offensive as well as defensive readiness, attributed to the aggregate positions of senior officials rather than to a commander. The Army Ground Forces commander orders units to hold readiness at the highest level. The Chief of the General Staff, Major General Ali Abdollahi, tells two wires that America's rusty warships will never re-enter the Persian Gulf and that the US Navy has been rendered unable to approach Iranian waters. Civilian attribution for the offensive claim, institutional attribution for the discipline order, and personal attribution for the maximal claim is a distribution of risk across three kinds of speaker, and it is what centrally coordinated messaging looks like when the content is deterrence rather than mobilisation.

### 4 The oil price has become a shared instrument, and the alliance is the target

Brent at $117 appears on four front pages and three channels in one morning, with the IRGC spokesman's own posting supplying $117.30 for Brent and $103.57 for WTI. The argument built on it is

assembled almost entirely from Western officials' words as rendered in Iranian outlets: Poland's prime minister, Macron's «این جنگ، جنگ اروپا نیست», France's foreign minister, Ed Miliband on British inflation, Germany's foreign minister on the absence of a military solution, and in Sazandegi's case the Clintons on American gasoline prices. Hardline, principlist, reformist and business mastheads have converged on one proposition, that the chokepoint's cost is being paid inside the Western alliance. Its vulnerability is that the same press has now published a prolonged American blockade of Iran's ports and a complete stop to non-compliant vessel traffic as the price's cause.

### 5 The target class widens from cables to data centres

Kayhan's front page carries Major General Mohsen Rezaei warning that the region's communication cables and data centres will be targeted if the war is renewed. The cable thread has run for five cycles, from a spokesman's warning on 20 October, to a signed column naming seven cables on 21 October, to the Guard daily's severed-cable lead image and Farhikhtegan's published rationale on 22 October, and now to a named general adding storage to transit. Nothing in the monitored set establishes that any cable has been cut or any data centre approached. What has changed is the breadth of the class that has been publicly justified, and a class that is argued for in public is further along than one that is merely threatened.

### 6 Mediation reappears with a venue and a roster, bilaterally and multilaterally

Two front pages print the Istanbul mediation session, Jomhouri-ye Eslami as a seven-country meeting to prevent regional spread and Sazandegi as a conference to contain the war, with the Etemad channel supplying the roster of German, French, Italian, Pakistani, Egyptian and Saudi foreign ministers meeting Erdogan on Friday evening to discuss the Strait of Hormuz and America's war against Iran. In parallel, Araghchi confirms on the Iran newspaper's channel that he hosted Lavrov in Tehran and that the consultations continue next week with the two presidents in Moscow, which makes a Pezeshkian visit to Russia the cycle's firmest scheduled diplomatic event. On 22 October this monitor recorded a track being closed from both ends; today it has two named venues and one named date, while Mohsen Rezaei tells Shargh the negotiations have stopped.

### 7 The land-transit front moves in Iran's favour for the first time

Jomhouri-ye Eslami photographs trucks under Turkish flags and captions «توافق ایران و ترکیه برای تردد شبانه‌روزی کامیون‌ها در مرز رازی», round-the-clock truck traffic at the Razi crossing. Sobh-e No answers the Iraqi closure with dependency rather than grievance, printing Seyyed Hamid Hosseini of the Iran-Iraq Joint Chamber of Commerce saying Iraq grounds its own industry by closing the borders because roughly 8,000 megawatts of its electricity and its gas come through Iran. Iran Daily, in English, prints an Iran-Iraq target of ten million two-way tourist trips a year. Three neighbouring borders have now moved in four cycles, Pakistan reopened, Iraq restricted, Turkey extended to twenty-four hours, which is what a transit squeeze looks like when it is being worked around rather than absorbed.

### 8 Europe in revolt becomes a cross-factional frame

Kayhan prints an iron-fist policy with the French army assisting police repression; the Vatan-e Emrooz channel reports 70,000 police with helicopters and armoured vehicles deployed and left and green parties filing a joint complaint; Sobh-e No runs «اروپا زیر فشار گرانی» listing protests in France, Portugal, Italy, Belgium and Serbia, alongside Qalibaf telling the peoples of the world not to let their protests be distorted; Shargh, reformist, runs «آماده‌باش پاریس برای شنبه سرنوشت‌ساز». Four mastheads across the factional spectrum are telling one domestic audience that the adversary's societies are the ones in the street. The Iranian press has spent four cycles publishing its own cost-of-living material; this frame is the answer it has chosen to pair with it.

### 9 The domestic ledger is tariffs, water and demography, and it is being published

The internet tariff is the cycle's shared domestic grievance and it leads a reformist flagship: Shargh runs «گرانی روی فیلترینگ», price rises on top of filtering, while Nobonyad gives it a banner at 30 to 80 percent and an item saying people's virtual life has got dearer too. Alongside it the Iran newspaper's channel reports a 45 percent fall in North Khorasan's water resources with yields down by half; Shargh reports drought across 77 percent of the country; Fars reports the population of women aged 20 to 39 down by two million since 1394 and by 300,000 in the last year; Donya-e-Eqtesad reports housing at its highest in twelve and a half years and capital moving from production into crypto mining. The state's visible answer is administrative, the remote-working regulation now issued by the First Vice President and the national census opening today.

## Key Judgments

**KJ-1** [HIGH] KJ-1. The case for leaving the Non-Proliferation Treaty has moved from a single remark to a fully argued front page, which makes this the most advanced doctrinal escalation in this monitor's record. The evidence is three items on one page of Nobonyad on 24 October: the lead «خروج از ان‌پی‌تی در وقت‌های اضافه», leaving the NPT in injury time, run full-width over a United Nations flag behind razor wire; a signed editorial by Alireza Bahrami arguing that the twelve-day and Ramadan wars disprove the assumption that compliance and transparency can secure Iran from parties that use sanctions and force, with the file's own history as proof, cooperation with the Agency and the severest inspections followed by strikes on the facilities and the assassination of scientists; and a separate news item reporting that the demand for revision «از یک بحث محدود سیاسی فراتر رفته است», has moved beyond a confined political debate. On 22 October the equivalent evidence was one unbannered box in Kayhan's right rail. The significance is that a structured public case addressed to a general readership is a different stage from an allusion, and in Iranian practice such cases are built in the smaller conservative press before they surface in the flagships. Calibration runs hard in both directions: treating a single conservative daily as a policy signal would badly overstate it, nothing here is attributed to any official body, «در وقت‌های اضافه» explicitly concedes no decision has been taken, and the opposite case is printed the same morning by Sazandegi through Ali Akbar Salehi; equally, dismissing a lead headline, an editorial and a news item that all argue one proposition as ordinary commentary would understate a genuine shift. Tracking cue: whether any flagship masthead or any official repeats the injury-time framing.

**KJ-2** [HIGH] KJ-2. An imminent-strike warning was carried in one cycle by two reformist front pages and by the security council's own wire, with the confirmation caveat intact in each, which indicates distribution of centrally available information rather than factional alarm. The evidence is three surfaces. Etemad runs «آماده باش برای ساعت صفر», alert for zero hour, reporting American and Israeli plans against Iranian soil including industrial infrastructure and the missile arsenal, sourced in its body to American officials, and stating it is not yet clear whether Trump will approve them. Shargh runs «دو صندوق، یک ماشه» over a montage of Lavrov, Trump, Pezeshkian and Rezaei, captioned as a report on a pass in the war's fate and on American and Israeli intelligence claims. Nour News, linked to the Supreme National Security Council, publishes the same picture with named components: reported preparation of new American and Israeli attack options, Tom Barrack's reported remark that an attack was likely at the weekend, Trump's ambiguous reaction, CNN's report of American diplomats being moved out of regional posts, and the explicit statement that «وقوع حمله و زمان احتمالی آن هنوز تأیید نشده است». The significance is that the Iranian system is preparing its domestic

audience for a strike while declining to assert that one is coming, which is the posture of a state that expects to absorb rather than to initiate. Calibration: every element reaches this monitor as an Iranian rendering, the Barrack remark is single-sourced to Nour News and unverified, and warnings of this kind have recurred in this series without a strike following.

**KJ-3** [HIGH] KJ-3. The submarine-cable threat has acquired a named senior commander and a second target class, extending the publicly justified target set from transit infrastructure to the data centres behind it. The evidence is Kayhan's own front-page listing for 2 Aban: «سرلشکر محسن رضایی هشدار داد: هدف قرارگرفتن کابل‌های ارتباطی و مراکز داده منطقه در صورت تجدید جنگ», Major General Mohsen Rezaei warning that the region's communication cables and data centres will be targeted if the war is renewed. The thread's prior steps are on this monitor's record: a spokesman's warning on 20 October, a signed column naming seven cables under the Strait on 21 October, and on 22 October the Guard daily's severed-cable lead image, Farhikhtegan's published rationale that the cables belong to the war's paymasters, and Shargh's reformist framing of digital deterrence. The significance is that the conditional has been retained, «در صورت تجدید جنگ», if the war is renewed, while the class of things covered by it has grown, and that it is now attached to a commander rather than to a spokesman or a column. Calibration: nothing in the monitored set establishes that any cable has been cut or any data centre threatened operationally, Rezaei holds no operational command over such a mission, and the same commander is printed elsewhere in the batch saying the negotiations have stopped, which is consistent with a figure whose current function is public signalling.

**KJ-4** [HIGH] KJ-4. Iran's own press has now published, in one cycle, both the claim that the chokepoint is costing the adversary and the admission that the waterway is closed in both directions. The evidence is a pairing inside the hardline and principlist press. Sobh-e No's lead text states that the oil price rose «پس از دستور او برای محاصره طولانی‌مدت بنادر ایران», after Trump's order for a prolonged blockade of Iran's ports, and that «تردد شناورهای متخلف در تنگه هرمز به کلی متوقف شده», traffic of non-compliant vessels has stopped completely. Kayhan attributes American Airlines' 67.5 percent fuel-cost increase and $269 million loss, and QatarEnergy's negotiation to buy up to three million tonnes a year of American LNG from Woodside's Louisiana project, to «بسته‌شدن تنگهٔ هرمز», the closure of the Strait. The significance is twofold. Closure is now the fifth Iranian formula for the waterway in four cycles, after closed, not fully open, not completely closed, and the IRGC Navy's managed and controlled of 22 October, and it is the formula least compatible with a toll that can be traded. And an Iranian paper conceding a prolonged American blockade of Iranian ports is the first acknowledgement in this monitor's record that the interdiction runs in both directions. Calibration: the blockade line appears once, in one paper's body text and not in a headline, and the commercial figures reach this monitor through Iranian renderings of Western reporting.

**KJ-5** [MODERATE-HIGH] KJ-5. The diplomatic track reopened in print with a named venue, a named roster and one scheduled date, after a cycle in which this monitor recorded it being closed from both ends. The evidence is four surfaces. Jomhouri-ye Eslami leads on «عراقچی: اگر آمریکا جنگ را به دیپلماسی ترجیح دهد قطعاً دچار شکست بزرگ‌تری خواهد شد», with the conditional offer restated in the deck, and reports «نشست هفت کشور در اسلامبول» in its right rail. Sazandegi's banner independently calls the session «کنفرانس میانجی‌گری / نشست استانبول برای مهار جنگ». The Etemad channel, citing Tasnim, names the participants: the foreign ministers of Germany, France, Italy, Pakistan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia met Erdogan in Istanbul on Friday evening to discuss regional developments, the Strait

of Hormuz and America's war against Iran. And Araghchi, on the Iran newspaper's channel, confirms he hosted Lavrov in Tehran and that «هفته آینده این گفت‌وگوها و رایزنی‌ها، با حضور روسای جمهور دو کشور در مسکو استمرار خواهد یافت», placing Pezeshkian in Moscow next week. The significance is that mediation now has an address and the bilateral Russian channel has a date, which is more institutional substance than this file has carried in a week. Calibration: Iran was not at the Istanbul table, which is a mediation session about Iran rather than with it; no independent confirmation of the 23 October session was available at compile time and its roster differs in one member from the comparable 30 August Istanbul session; and Mohsen Rezaei is printed in the same batch saying the negotiations have stopped.

**KJ-6** [MODERATE-HIGH] KJ-6. Readiness was published in three registers on one morning with the attribution graded to the size of the claim, which indicates centrally guided message discipline rather than organic convergence. The evidence is the pattern of who says what. The offensive claim, «آمادگی در اوج؛ هم برای دفاع هم تهاجم», appears on the government daily's front page attributed only to the aggregate positions of senior political and military officials, with the single named line being the Supreme National Security Council secretary's «همه باید بدانند اقدام علیه ایران هزینه دارد». The discipline order is institutional: the Army Ground Forces commander, on the Jam-e Jam channel, instructing units to hold readiness at the highest level because in a state of war negligence carries heavy costs. The maximal claim is personal: Major General Ali Abdollahi, Chief of the General Staff and Khatam al-Anbiya commander, telling Defa Press and Fars verbatim that America's rusty warships will never re-enter the Persian Gulf and that the US Navy has been rendered unable to approach Iran's waters. The significance is that the most falsifiable claim carries the most personal attribution and the least falsifiable carries the least, which is how a system distributes reputational risk when it is signalling rather than reporting. Calibration: Abdollahi's claim about the US Navy is an assertion and nothing in the monitored set tests it; his appointment on 10 August 2026 after his predecessor's death in a strike is confirmed independently.

**KJ-7** [MODERATE-HIGH] KJ-7. Iran's argument that the war's cost is being paid inside the Western alliance is now built almost entirely out of named Western officeholders, which makes it stronger as rhetoric and more exposed as a forecast. The evidence is the roster assembled across four mastheads and three channels in one morning: Poland's prime minister saying it must be stated loudly that Trump is responsible for fuel prices; Emmanuel Macron tying France's costs to the confrontation and insisting «این جنگ، جنگ اروپا نیست»; France's foreign minister warning each new tension raises the price; Britain's foreign secretary Ed Miliband saying the cost-of-living crisis is his public's first concern, that the Iran war has sharply raised energy bills, food prices and inflation, and that the country cannot bear the conflict continuing; Germany's foreign minister saying the conflict has no military solution and warning that a new round would damage the global economy and European citizens; and Bill and Hillary Clinton, on Sazandegi's front page, blaming Trump for American gasoline prices. The significance is that Tehran has chosen a theory of victory that depends on Western domestic politics rather than on the battlefield, and has committed its own press to it across the factional spectrum. Calibration: every one of these quotations is an Iranian rendering and none was verified against its original; statements of this kind are routine domestic politics in the countries concerned and do not by themselves indicate a policy change toward Iran.

**KJ-8** [MODERATE] KJ-8. Negative evidence, filed as a finding: two cycles after the Leader's first photographed, dated appearance, the office produced nothing for any front page, and the only

leadership image in the batch is the President at the predecessor's grave. The evidence is a complete absence measured against a new baseline. On 22 October seven of ten Persian front pages carried the Leader's meeting with the Speaker, two printed a photograph, and two printed «آیت‌الله سیدمجتبی حسینی خامنه‌ای» in the body text. Today no front page, channel or wire in the monitored set carries a message, meeting, readout or photograph of the office holder; the Defa Press channel publishes the President «در رواق دارالذکر و زیارت مزار رهبر شهید», at the martyred Leader's grave; and the only invocation of the office is Abdollahi's general «رهبری شجاع و حکیم». The significance is that the turnout instruction which was the content of the first photographed appearance has not been repeated or developed by any masthead, so the appearance has not yet become a pattern of transmission. Filed as an absence with its ordinary explanation stated: the intervening day was a Friday falling in Fatimiyeh mourning, and one publishing day of silence proves little. Tracking cue: whether the next edition carries a dated engagement.

**KJ-9** **[MODERATE]** KJ-9. Negative evidence, filed as a finding: the 22 October seven-vessel interdiction claim has no successor, and the numbered drone-attrition series is now absent for a fourth consecutive cycle. The evidence is what is not there. On 22 October the IRGC Navy's public relations office put one statement on five Iranian surfaces within roughly ninety minutes: four non-compliant tankers struck and set on fire during ship-to-ship transfers, three further vessels mined west of the Strait, «این یک اخطار جدی است», and American bases named as a possible next step. In this batch no new shipping-interdiction claim appears on any front page, channel or wire; no shootdown claim of any kind appears, and the MQ-9 series that stood at a claimed fifty-fourth on 20 October has not resumed. The significance is that in a cycle whose dominant content was warning and readiness, the Iranian system published no new kinetic claim at all, which is consistent with a deliberate pause in advertised action while an imminence warning is being circulated, and is also consistent with there having been nothing to claim. Filed with both readings stated. Tracking cue: whether a claim resumes in the same week as the Moscow visit.

**KJ-10** **[MODERATE]** KJ-10. The land-transit squeeze recorded on 22 October has begun to be worked around rather than absorbed, and Iran is answering Iraq with dependency rather than grievance. The evidence is three moves in one cycle. Jomhouri-ye Eslami photographs trucks under Turkish flags at «مرز رازی» and captions an Iran-Turkey agreement for round-the-clock traffic there. Sobh-e No prints Seyyed Hamid Hosseini, board member and former secretary-general of the Iran-Iraq Joint Chamber of Commerce, saying «عراق با بستن مرزها، صنایع خود را زمین‌گیر می‌کند», that Iraq grounds its own industry by closing the borders, because roughly 8,000 megawatts of Iraqi electricity and its gas supply come through Iran. Iran Daily, in English, publishes an Iran-Iraq target of ten million two-way tourist trips a year on the same morning. The significance is that the response has shifted register in two cycles, from Jam-e Jam naming Iraq's prime minister on 22 October to an economic dependency argument and an English-language cooperation target today, which is the posture of a state that expects the Iraqi closure to be reversible. Calibration: the Razi agreement reaches this monitor only through one paper's photo caption, and a tourism target published in English is an aspiration rather than a transit fact.

**KJ-11** **[MODERATE]** KJ-11. The Iranian economic press is now publishing war costs in terms its own readership can price, and the figures are domestic rather than rhetorical. The evidence is concentrated in one masthead and corroborated across three. Donya-e-Eqtesad leads on «رقابت استخراج رمزارز با تولید», capital competing away from production into cryptocurrency mining under

the accumulation of industrial uncertainty, prints «بازگشت مسکن به خط دلار» with housing at its highest in roughly twelve and a half years, and runs its lead editorial by Mousa Ghaninejad on «تورم افسارگسیخته», runaway inflation tied explicitly to the recent war. Nobonyad reports internet tariffs rising 40 percent now and probably 80 percent by year end; Shargh leads on the same tariff; the Iran newspaper's channel reports North Khorasan water resources down 45 percent with yields halved; Fars reports two million fewer women of childbearing age since 1394. Against this, the Central Bank governor tells Bloomberg the project to collapse Iran's economy has failed, and Iran Daily tells English readers the Bank has curbed inflation's acceleration. The significance is that the official rebuttal is now being published in the same cycle as the material it rebuts, in two languages, which indicates the state expects the domestic cost argument to be made and intends to contest it rather than suppress it.

**KJ-12** [LOW-MODERATE] KJ-12. Lebanon remains off every Iranian front page for a sixth consecutive cycle, but the theatre's silence is no longer total on the wires, and the West Bank has displaced it. The evidence is a change in the shape of the absence. Not one of the eight Persian front pages mentions Lebanon; the only Lebanon item anywhere in the monitored set is the Jam-e Jam channel carrying the US State Department spokesperson saying there is no American or American-Turkish proposal to change Lebanon's political system and that nothing is being advanced against the Taif settlement. In its place the Palestinian theatre has returned to the wires: Kayhan reports the Israeli army beginning a broad operation in al-Khalil and raids on several West Bank cities after what it calls a successful resistance operation there; the Etemad channel reports Netanyahu ordering operations and a siege in the West Bank after a shooting near Halhul wounded five Israelis and two Palestinians were killed by army fire; and the Vatan-e Emrooz and Nour News channels report Israeli artillery striking west Rafah. The significance is that the de-emphasis recorded since 19 October is specific to Lebanon rather than to the Israeli file as a whole, which strengthens the reading that it is a choice about one front and not a general crowding-out. Tracking cue: whether Lebanon returns if the Istanbul track produces anything.

## Named-Figure Tracker

| Figure | Role / relevance | Today's framing | Flag |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Donald Trump** | President of the United States | Named on four front pages as the cause of $117 oil and of allied defection; Sobh-e No prints a digitally altered photograph of him with his eyes burned out; Vatan-e Emrooz relays him claiming control of the Strait of Hormuz; Abdollahi turns his two nuclear claims against each other. | TARGET FRAMING |
| **Abbas Araghchi** | Foreign Minister of Iran | Leads Jomhouri-ye Eslami with a conditional threat, that America will suffer a bigger defeat if it | WATCH |

| Figure | Role / relevance | Today's framing | Flag |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | prefers war to diplomacy, and confirms on the Iran newspaper channel that he hosted Lavrov and that the two presidents will meet in Moscow next week. | |
| **Major General Ali Abdollahi** | Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces and commander of Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, in post since 10 August 2026 | Carried verbatim by Defa Press and Fars saying America's rusty warships will never re-enter the Persian Gulf and that the US Navy has been rendered unable to approach Iranian waters. | COERCION SPOKESMAN |
| **Major General Mohsen Rezaei** | Senior IRGC figure, Expediency Council | On Kayhan's front page warning that the region's communication cables and data centres will be targeted if the war resumes; on Shargh's front page saying the negotiations have stopped. | COERCION SPOKESMAN |
| **Masoud Pezeshkian** | President of Iran | Photographed by Defa Press at the martyred Leader's grave; placed in Moscow next week by his own foreign minister; otherwise absent from the front pages. | WATCH |
| **Abdolnaser Hemmati** | Governor of the Central Bank of Iran | The Iran newspaper's lead photograph, telling Bloomberg the project to collapse Iran's economy has failed; the same claim runs in English in Iran Daily as a curb on inflation's acceleration. | NEW NAMED FIGURE |
| **Fatemeh Mohajerani** | Spokesperson for the Iranian government | Writing in Iran: Iran will not be removed by threat, Iranians determine their own fate, Iran waits for no power's permission to defend itself, and domestic disagreement must have space for expression but gives no foreign power a licence. | NEW NAMED FIGURE |

| Figure | Role / relevance | Today's framing | Flag |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Rafael Grossi** | Director General of the IAEA | Relayed by Vatan-e Emrooz as claiming the Agency is ready to verify Iran's activities and that no durable solution is possible without a diplomatic agreement; Iran Daily answers in English with a complaint about selective implementation of the Agency's statute. | WATCH |
| **Ed Miliband** | Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom | Relayed by the Etemad channel saying the Iran war has sharply raised British energy bills, food prices and inflation and that the country cannot bear its continuation; used as evidence of allied defection. | NEW NAMED FIGURE |
| **Recep Tayyip Erdogan** | President of Turkey | Host of the Istanbul mediation session on Friday evening with six visiting foreign ministers, and counterparty to the Razi crossing agreement photographed on Jomhouri-ye Eslami's front page. | WATCH |
| **Tom Barrack** | US special envoy for Syria and Iraq and ambassador to Turkey | Reported by Nour News as saying an attack was likely at the weekend; single-sourced and unverified. | WATCH |
| **Ali Akbar Salehi** | Former head of the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran and former foreign minister | Sazandegi's left rail, analysing the consequences of another regional war under the heading that the outcome of war is scorched earth; the batch's clearest counter to the NPT-withdrawal argument. | NEW NAMED FIGURE |
| **Hossein Shariatmadari** | Managing editor of Kayhan, appointed by the Leader | His Yadasht-e Rooz this cycle is a two-part devotional piece for the Fatimiyeh anniversary rather than a war editorial, closing on the twelve-day | WATCH |

| Figure | Role / relevance | Today's framing | Flag |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | and Ramadan wars; his nuclear-doctrine remark of 22 October is not repeated. | |
| **The Leader of the Revolution** | Office holder, identified in the 22 October batch as Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei | Absent from every front page, channel and wire in this batch two cycles after the first photographed, dated appearance; invoked only in general terms by the Chief of the General Staff. | absence noted |
| **Lebanon (as a theatre, no Iranian principal named)** | Standing absence tracked since 19 October | Absent from every Iranian front page for a sixth consecutive cycle; the only Lebanon item in the set is the US State Department denying any plan to change Lebanon's political system. | absence noted |

## Headline Summary Table

| Outlet | Lead Headline (English) | Orientation | Theme | Threat signal |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Nobonyad** | Leaving the NPT in injury time | Conservative / principlist | Nuclear doctrine: withdrawal argued as a lead | HIGH - NPT exit argued with editorial and news support |
| **Kayhan** | The oil price has passed $117; Rezaei warns the region's cables and data centres will be targeted | Hardline, close to the Leader's office (read from the paper's channel) | Infrastructure threat widened to data centres | SEVERE - named general extends the target class |
| **Etemad** | The day of speaking with one voice / Alert for zero hour | Reformist | Imminent-strike warning and a unity precondition | HIGH - prepared strike plans reported from American officials |
| **Iran** | Readiness at its peak: for defense and for offense alike | Official government daily | Offensive readiness declared without a named commander | HIGH - state daily asserts offensive capability |
| **Shargh** | Price rises on top of filtering / Two boxes, one trigger | Reformist | War at a turning point; Rezaei says talks have stopped | MODERATE-HIGH - negotiations declared stopped |
| **Sobh-e No** | Oil against Trump | Principlist | $117 oil as leverage; prolonged blockade of Iran's ports conceded | MODERATE-HIGH - both directions of the chokepoint acknowledged |

| Outlet | Lead Headline (English) | Orientation | Theme | Threat signal |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Donya-e-Eqtesad** | Crypto mining in competition with production / Iran and America on the threshold of a third war? | Business / economic | War risk priced; capital leaving production | MODERATE-HIGH - third war forecast with an energy mechanism |
| **Jomhouri-ye Eslami** | Araghchi: if America prefers war to diplomacy it will certainly suffer a bigger defeat | Traditional establishment | Conditional diplomacy, Istanbul mediation, Turkey corridor | MODERATE - threat stated conditionally |
| **Sazandegi** | The cost of war with Iran | Reformist / Kargozaran party | American domestic cost; Salehi warns of scorched earth | LOW-MODERATE - war costed in the adversary's politics |
| **Iran Daily (English)** | China hosts global forum to push for fairer world order | Government English-language daily | Multipolar order, IAEA grievance, Iraq tourism target | LOW - war kept off the English front page |

## Per-Paper Front-Page Analysis

### Iran Daily

The government's English-language daily, Vol 8246, published by the same house as the Persian Iran newspaper; its front page is Tehran's message to a foreign readership.

*“China hosts global forum to push for fairer world order”*

**LOW - English edition keeps the war off the front page**




- Main: "China hosts global forum to push for fairer world order", a report-exclusive on the 2026 Global Governance Forum in Guangzhou, with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi quoted calling for stronger international order, multilateralism, equality in international affairs and opposition to unilateralism, and with the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the Global South named as the vehicles.
- Banner: "Iran urges end to selective implementation of IAEA statute" (page 2), the English-language counterpart to Grossi's same-cycle statement that the Agency is ready to verify and that no durable solution exists without a diplomatic agreement.
- Teaser: "Iran, Iraq to raise annual two-way tourism to 10m trips" (page 8), published in the same cycle in which Sobh-e No prints an Iranian trade official saying Iraq's border closures are grounding Iraqi industry.
- Teaser: "CBI has curbed sharp acceleration in inflation, governor says", the English rendering of the Hemmati interview that fills the Persian Iran newspaper's lead photograph.
- Teaser: "Squandering attraction: How second Trump administration undermining American soft power" (pages 4 and 5), the English-language version of the allied-defection argument that Sobh-e No and Sazandegi run in Persian.
- Sport and culture: "Iran retains sitting volleyball dominance, wins triple gold in athletics" at the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Para Games, and "Experts call for global geopark development in Lut Desert".

**ANALYST NOTE** The English kiosk is a day fresh for the first time in three editions, and what it chooses to lead with is not the war: a Chinese governance forum, an IAEA procedural complaint, a tourism target with Iraq and an inflation claim from the Central Bank. The selection is an argument that Iran is a functioning state inside a reordering world, addressed to readers who will not see the Persian pages. The Iraq tourism item is the sharpest instance of the split: the same government that prints offensive readiness in Persian prints a ten-million-trip target with Baghdad in English on the morning its borders are the subject of a trade dispute.

## Iran

The official government daily, published by the Islamic Republic News Agency group; the executive's own masthead and the vehicle for cabinet and Supreme National Security Council messaging.

*“Readiness at its peak: for defense and for offense alike”* «آمادگی در اوج؛ هم برای دفاع هم تهاجم»

**HIGH - state daily asserts offensive as well as defensive readiness**




- Main: «آمادگی در اوج؛ هم برای دفاع هم تهاجم», readiness at its peak, for defense and for offense alike, strapped «"ایران" بر اساس مواضع مسئولان ارشد سیاسی و نظامی گزارش می‌دهد», the paper reporting on the basis of the positions of senior political and military officials rather than a single named speaker.
- Sub-item: the lead's one attributed line is the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council: «همه باید بدانند اقدام علیه ایران هزینه دارد», everyone must know that action against Iran carries a cost. The formulation is cost-imposition, not retaliation.
- Main photo: the Governor of the Central Bank, Abdolnaser Hemmati, over the caption «همتی در گفت‌وگو با رسانه آمریکایی بلومبرگ تشریح کرد: شکست پروژه فروپاشی اقتصاد ایران», Hemmati, in an interview with the American outlet Bloomberg, explains the failure of the project to collapse Iran's economy. The same governor's inflation claim runs in English in Iran Daily the same morning.
- Banner: «نفت؛ پاشنه آشیل بازارهای جهانی», oil as the Achilles heel of global markets, strapped to inflation fears pressing on equity markets, and carrying a Brent figure in a body line too small to transcribe from this scan.
- Right rail: «دورکاری کارمندان دولت آغاز شد», remote working for state employees has begun, with the regulation issued by First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref, and a priority clause for electric and hybrid vehicles. The decree this monitor first recorded on 22 October as a channel item is now an implemented instrument.
- Culture banner: «میراث بیهقی برای ایران / درخشش ابدی یک قلم», the Beyhaqi legacy for Iran, the eternal brilliance of a pen, over a photograph of the Beyhaqi statue: the government daily keeping a civilizational register beside the war register.

> **ANALYST NOTE** The government's own paper is the one that prints offensive capability on its masthead, and it does so without a named military source, attributing the claim to the aggregate posture of senior officials. Read against the Army Ground Forces readiness order carried on the Jam-e Jam channel and the Chief of the General Staff's Persian Gulf statement on two wires the same cycle, this is the civilian end of a single centrally supplied readiness message. The second column is the economic rebuttal, and it is now bilingual: Hemmati tells Bloomberg the collapse project failed while Iran Daily tells English readers the Central Bank has curbed inflation's acceleration. Tracking cue: whether the SNSC secretary's cost formula is repeated by a named military authority.

## Donya-e-Eqtesad

Iran's largest-circulation business daily, liberal-economist in register, read by the private sector and the technocracy; its front page is the market's own reading of the war.

*"Crypto mining in competition with production"* «رقابت استخراج رمزارز با تولید»

**MODERATE-HIGH - business press forecasts a third war and prices the energy chokepoints**




- Main: «رقابت استخراج رمزارز با تولید», crypto mining competing with production, strapped «چگونه انباشت ناطمینانی‌ها در صنعت، محاسبات سرمایه‌گذاران را تغییر می‌دهد؟», how the accumulation of uncertainties in industry is changing investors' calculations: capital moving out of manufacturing and into mining because the war has made production the riskier bet.
- Right rail, the day's hardest line in the economic press: «ایران و آمریکا در آستانه جنگ سوم؟», Iran and America on the threshold of a third war, under the kicker «پیام نفت ۱۱۷ دلاری بررسی شد», the message of $117 oil examined. The body warns of a conflict that «ممکن است از اهداف نظامی فراتر رود و زیرساخت‌های اقتصادی و امنیت انرژی منطقه را درگیر کند», may go beyond military targets to economic infrastructure and the region's energy security, and names the Hormuz and Bab al-Mandab linkage as the mechanism.
- Right rail: «موج کاهشی بازارهای جهانی», the downward wave in world markets, attributing it to the cooling of the artificial-intelligence fever and the return of inflation's shadow, with heavy falls in US technology stocks on Wall Street spreading to crypto.
- Op-ed (سرمقاله): «گامی برای کاهش تورم افسارگسیخته», a step toward reducing runaway inflation, by Dr Mousa Ghaninejad, the best-known liberal economist writing in the Iranian press, who ties the runaway inflation explicitly to «جنگ اخیر», the recent war.
- Analysis: «بازگشت مسکن به خط دلار», housing returns to the dollar line, reporting last month's housing price as the highest in roughly twelve and a half years.
- Analysis: «بانکداری ایران ربوی بوده است!», Iran's banking has been usurious, on a parliamentary plan revisiting the forty-three-year-old law on interest-free banking.

> **ANALYST NOTE** The business daily is the only title in the batch that prints the war as a forecastable event with a price attached, and the question mark in «جنگ سوم؟» is the whole point: the technocratic press is allowed to ask whether a third round is coming when the political press may only assert readiness for it. Its $117 framing is the same number Kayhan, Sobh-e No, Vatan-e Emrooz and the IRGC spokesman all carried this cycle, but Donya-e-Eqtesad is alone in treating the figure as a warning about Iran rather than a scoreboard against Trump. Capital fleeing production for crypto mining is the clearest domestic cost indicator published anywhere in this batch.

## Nobonyad

Conservative and principlist daily, online at NobonyadOnline.ir; a smaller masthead that functions as a proving ground for arguments the larger hardline papers have not yet printed in full.

*"Leaving the NPT in injury time"* «خروج از ان‌پی‌تی در وقت‌های اضافه»

**HIGH - NPT withdrawal argued as a lead, not as an aside**




- Main: «خروج از ان‌پی‌تی در وقت‌های اضافه», leaving the NPT in injury time, run full-width over a photograph of the United Nations flag seen through razor wire. The metaphor is from football: the decision is framed as one still available but only just.
- Op-ed (editorial, right column): «بازنگری در ان‌پی‌تی؛ وقتی تعهدات امنیت نمی‌آورند», revising the NPT, when commitments do not bring security, signed «علیرضا بهرامی، پژوهشگر حقوق عمومی», Alireza Bahrami, public-law researcher. Its argument: «تجربه‌های جنگ ۱۲ روزه و جنگ رمضان باید یک تصور خطرناک را در سیاست خارجی ایران به چالش بکشد», the experience of the twelve-day war and the Ramadan war must challenge a dangerous assumption, namely that greater compliance, transparency and one-sided confidence-building can secure national security from parties that resort to sanctions and military force. Full text is on page 2 and was not available to this monitor.
- Foreign-policy item: «صف مطالبه‌گران بازدارندگی اتمی بلندتر شد», the queue of those demanding atomic deterrence has grown longer, arguing that after two imposed wars, intensified threats from Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu, and the failure of NPT membership to prevent sanctions, assassination and military attack, «مطالبه بازنگری در دکترین هسته‌ای ایران از یک بحث محدود سیاسی فراتر رفته است», the demand for a revision of Iran's nuclear doctrine has moved beyond a confined political debate.
- Banner: «گران‌سازی به اینترنت رسید؛ از ۳۰ تا ۸۰ درصد!», the price-raising has reached the internet, from 30 to 80 percent.
- Economy: «زندگی مجازی مردم هم گران شد!», people's virtual life has got more expensive too, reporting a 40 percent tariff increase now and a probable 80 percent by year end.
- Interview: «اقتصاد کشور فرمانده جنگ می‌خواهد», the country's economy wants a war commander, a call for unified wartime economic command.

**ANALYST NOTE** This is the most advanced public statement of the nuclear-doctrine question anywhere in this monitor's record: not an aside in a right-hand box as Kayhan's was on 22 October, but a lead headline, a signed editorial and a separate news item on one front page, all arguing the same case. The argument's structure matters more than its volume: it is a sunk-cost argument from compliance, that the Agency relationship was honoured and the facilities were struck anyway, which is the form a withdrawal case takes when it is being built for a general audience rather than a factional one. Calibration runs hard: a small conservative paper is not a policy organ, nothing here is attributed to any official body, and «در

وقت‌های اضافه» concedes that the decision has not been taken. Tracking cue: whether a larger masthead, or any official, repeats the injury-time framing.

## Jomhouri-ye Eslami

Traditional establishment daily founded in the republic's first years, conservative but institutionally independent of the factional dailies; its front page is where official diplomatic positions are printed plainly.

*"Araghchi: if America prefers war to diplomacy it will certainly suffer a bigger defeat"* «عراقچی: اگر آمریکا جنگ را به دیپلماسی ترجیح دهد قطعاً دچار شکست بزرگ‌تری خواهد شد»

MODERATE - diplomacy printed as the lead, threat stated conditionally


جمهوری اسلامی

اگر آمریکا جنگ را به دیپلماسی ترجیح دهد قطعاً دچار شکست بزرگ‌تری خواهد شد

- Main: the foreign minister by name in red, «عراقچی:», over «اگر آمریکا جنگ را به دیپلماسی ترجیح دهد قطعاً دچار شکست بزرگ‌تری خواهد شد». The deck restates the conditional offer: Iran will give diplomacy another chance provided it sees strong evidence of sincere American intent toward confidence-building.
- Right rail, the batch's one genuinely new diplomatic fact: «نشست هفت کشور در اسلامبول برای جلوگیری از گسترش درگیری‌های منطقه‌ای», a seven-country meeting in Istanbul to prevent the spread of regional conflicts.
- Sub-item: «ایران و آمریکا به مسیر دیپلماسی بازگردند», Iran and America should return to the diplomatic path, printed as a third-party appeal rather than an Iranian position.
- Main photo: trucks at a border post under Turkish flags, captioned «توافق ایران و ترکیه برای تردد شبانه‌روزی کامیون‌ها در مرز رازی», an Iran-Turkey agreement for round-the-clock truck traffic at the Razi crossing.
- Right rail: «وزیر علوم: دانشگاه‌های ایران آماده پذیرش دانشجویان محجبه جمهوری آذربایجان هستند», the Science Minister, Hossein Simaei Sarraf, says Iran's universities are ready to admit hijab-wearing students from the Republic of Azerbaijan, paired with «تطهیر تصمیمات ضد دینی توسط نهاد دین», the whitewashing of anti-religious decisions by the institution of religion, attacking Baku's Sheikh al-Islam by office for justifying their exclusion.
- Culture: «تجلیل از ۶۰ نخبه مدال‌آور المپیادهای علمی جهان و نفرات برتر کنکور در حرم مطهر رضوی», sixty science-olympiad medallists and top university-entrance candidates honoured at the Razavi shrine.

**ANALYST NOTE** This masthead prints the diplomatic track the hardline papers spent the week closing: the foreign minister's conditional offer runs as the lead, and the Istanbul mediation session runs as news rather than as a provocation. The threat in the headline is contingent, «اگر», if, which is the grammar of a party that wants the other side to choose. The Razi crossing caption is the third neighbouring border to move in four cycles, after Pakistan reopened on 21 October and Iraq's Al-Shib closed on 22 October, and it is the first to move in Iran's favour on a northern route. The Azerbaijan hijab file is new in this monitor's record and is worth watching as a second, non-military front with a neighbour.

## Etemad

The principal reformist daily, closest to the Khatami-era political class; its front page is the one that treats domestic political convergence as a war-fighting variable.

*"The day of speaking with one voice" «روز یک‌صدایی»*

**HIGH - reformist daily prints an imminent-strike alert and a unity precondition**


اعتماد
روز یک‌صدایی
سمفونی اره‌ها

- Main: «روز یک‌صدایی», the day of speaking with one voice, strapped اعتماد" در گفت‌وگو با فعالان سیاسی راهکارهای عبور از بحران «نه جنگ، نه"» صلح» را بررسی می‌کند», Etemad canvasses political activists on ways out of the no-war-no-peace crisis. The deck makes unanimity a precondition: «دستیابی به صلح پایدار یا ورود به هرگونه چارچوب توافق جدید پیش شرط بنیادینی دارد و آن، ایجاد هم‌صدایی، اتحاد و همگرایی یکپارچه میان تمامی جریان‌های سیاسی و آحاد مردم در حمایت از منافع ملی است».
- Lead sidebar, the batch's sharpest warning: «آماده باش برای ساعت صفر», alert for zero hour, reporting American and Israeli plans against Iranian soil including industrial infrastructure and the missile arsenal, sourced in the body to American officials, and stating that it is still not clear whether Donald Trump will approve their execution.
- Interview: «بن‌بست دیپلماتیک یا مکث تاکتیکی», diplomatic deadlock or tactical pause, in conversation with Gholamreza Karimi.
- Second lead: «سمفونی اره‌ها», the symphony of the saws, a full-colour photograph of felled timber over a report on the continuing neglect of the country's natural resources and of enforcement against timber smuggling.
- Op-ed: «نیاز ایران، نیاز دشمن!», Iran's need, the enemy's need, first in a column of eight signed notes that also includes «از آکروپولیس تا پاسارگاد», from the Acropolis to Pasargadae, «ماتریس دیپلماسی، مقاومت و جنگ», the matrix of diplomacy, resistance and war, and «اصلاح‌طلبی بازگشت به جامعه؛ آزمون اعتماد عمومی», reformism's return to society as a test of public trust.
- Society: «نگاهی به رشد سکونتگاه‌های غیررسمی / زندگی خارج از متن», a look at the growth of informal settlements, life outside the text.

> **ANALYST NOTE** Etemad is doing two things at once that no other title in the batch attempts together: printing an imminent-strike warning sourced to the adversary's own officials, and making national unanimity the stated precondition for any settlement. That combination is the reformist press's characteristic move under pressure, accepting the threat picture in full in order to claim a seat in the response, and «روز یک‌صدایی» is a bid for inclusion rather than an endorsement of the war. The zero-hour sidebar is the civilian-press companion to the Nour News security summary and to Shargh's intelligence-claims lead the same morning: three surfaces across two factions carrying the same imminence signal in one cycle. Calibration: the warning reaches this monitor as an Iranian rendering of unnamed American officials and is not independently confirmed.

## Shargh

The flagship reformist daily of the technocratic centre-left, issue 5508; the title that has carried this monitor's border-embargo and digital-deterrence threads.

*“Price rises on top of filtering” «گرانی روی فیلترینگ»*

**MODERATE-HIGH - negotiations declared stopped; war framed as a turning point**




- Main: «گرانی روی فیلترینگ», price rises on top of filtering, strapped «اینترنت گران شد اما کیفیت همچنان در گرو وعده و وعید است», the internet got dearer while quality still depends on promises. A reformist paper leading on the internet tariff rather than on the war is itself the finding.
- Second lead, the war item: «دو صندوق، یک ماشه», two boxes and one trigger, over a montage of five figures including Sergey Lavrov, Donald Trump, Masoud Pezeshkian and Mohsen Rezaei in uniform, captioned «شرق" از گردنه‌ای در سرنوشت جنگ و ادعاهای اطلاعاتی آمریکا و اسرائیل" گزارش می‌دهد», Shargh reports on a pass in the war's fate and on the intelligence claims of America and Israel.
- Sub-item under the montage: «محسن رضایی: مذاکرات متوقف شده است», Mohsen Rezaei says the negotiations have stopped. The same commander is on Kayhan's front page the same morning threatening the region's cables and data centres.
- Op-ed (سرمقاله): «امکان‌یابی رهایی از وضعیت فرسایش و تعلیق», finding a way out of the condition of attrition and suspension, by a signed international-affairs columnist whose byline this scan does not render legibly.
- Selections: «خشکسالی در ۷۷ درصد ایران», drought across 77 percent of Iran, and «معمای ۲۰ میلیون متر مربع تراکم در تهران», the puzzle of twenty million square metres of density in Tehran.
- World: «آماده‌باش پاریس برای شنبه سرنوشت‌ساز», Paris on alert for a decisive Saturday, the reformist entry in this cycle's cross-factional Europe-in-revolt frame.

> **ANALYST NOTE** Shargh prints the war as a pass to be crossed and the negotiations as already stopped, on the authority of a Expediency Council figure rather than of the foreign ministry, which is the second time in three cycles that this paper has sourced the state of the talks to someone other than the negotiator. Against that, it leads the page on internet pricing, and the sequence matters: the reformist flagship judges that the readership's dominant grievance this morning is a tariff, not a strike warning. The standing digital-deterrence thread this paper opened on 22 October with «تنگه هرمز؛ بازدارندگی دیجیتال» returns today only indirectly, through Rezaei's cable-and-data-centre warning on Kayhan's page rather than on Shargh's own.

## Sobh-e No

Principlist daily, issue 2455; a young-conservative masthead that specialises in reading the adversary's domestic politics back to an Iranian readership.

*“Oil against Trump” «نفت علیه ترامپ»*

**MODERATE-HIGH - oil price weaponised against Trump; blockade of Iranian ports conceded**




- Main: «نفت علیه ترامپ», oil against Trump, filling the page with a digitally altered photograph of the American president in a USA cap with his eyes burned out to white, under the deck «نفت ۱۱۷ دلاری، کشورهای غربی می‌گویند: «دونالد مسئول است»», $117 oil, and Western countries say Donald is responsible.
- Main text (channel copy): Trump enters the third year of his second term caught between two crises, an oil price that passed $117 «پس از دستور او برای محاصره طولانی‌مدت بنادر ایران», after his order for a prolonged blockade of Iran's ports, and the collapse of traditional alliances. It states flatly that «تردد شناورهای متخلف در تنگه هرمز به کلی متوقف شده», the movement of non-compliant vessels through the Strait has stopped completely.
- Main text: the allies are quoted against Washington by name of office, Poland's prime minister saying it must be stated loudly that Trump is responsible for fuel prices, Emmanuel Macron tying France's war costs to the confrontation with Iran and insisting «این جنگ، جنگ اروپا نیست», this war is not Europe's war, and France's foreign minister warning that each new Tehran-Washington tension raises the oil price further.
- Banner: «ایران اجازه جنگ کوتاه‌مدت نمی‌دهد», Iran will not permit a short war, from Qais Qureshi on the second episode of the programme «جنگ ترامپ بین جنگ فرسایشی و صلح»; the channel version is sharper, «کوتاه‌مدت تردید دارد / ایران امکان جنگ کوتاه مدت را از او گرفته است», Trump is hesitating between an attrition war and a short one and Iran has taken the short war away from him.
- Left vertical: «سیدحمید حسینی در گفت‌وگو با صبح نو: عراق با بستن مرزها، صنایع خود را زمین‌گیر می‌کند», Seyyed Hamid Hosseini, board member and former secretary-general of the Iran-Iraq Joint Chamber of Commerce, says Iraq grounds its own industry by closing the borders, noting that roughly 8,000 megawatts of Iraq's electricity and its gas come through Iran.
- Right rail: «قالیباف خطاب به مردم دنیا: اجازه ندهید اعتراضات شما را تحریف کنند», Qalibaf addressing the peoples of the world, do not let them distort your protests; «اروپا زیر فشار گرانی», Europe under the pressure of inflation, listing street protests in France, Portugal, Italy, Belgium and Serbia; and «شکست پروژه اسلام‌هراسی», the failure of the Islamophobia project.

**ANALYST NOTE** Sobh-e No is running the most developed version of this cycle's central argument, that the cost of the chokepoint is being paid in the adversary's domestic politics rather than in Iran's, and it builds the case almost entirely out of Western officials' own words. The significant line is buried in the

body rather than the headline: the paper accepts that a prolonged American blockade of Iran's ports is in force, which is the first time in this monitor's record that an Iranian front page has described the pressure on the waterway as running in both directions. The Hamid Hosseini interview is the day's most substantive answer to the Iraq border file, and it argues dependency rather than grievance. Tracking cue: whether the blockade formulation reappears on a second masthead.

## Sazandegi

The daily of the Kargozaran-e Sazandegi party, reformist and technocratic, year 9; the masthead closest to the Rafsanjani-era political managerial class.

*"The cost of war with Iran"* «هزینه جنگ با ایران»

**LOW-MODERATE - war costed in the adversary's domestic politics; mediation printed as containment**




- Main: «هزینه جنگ با ایران», the cost of war with Iran, over a full-page photograph of Bill and Hillary Clinton, decked «کلینتون‌ها در موضع‌گیری‌هایی جداگانه، به انتقاد شدید از ترامپ آمریکا پرداختند و او را مسبب افزایش قیمت بنزین و هزینه‌های زندگی در آمریکا دانستند», the Clintons, in separate statements, sharply criticised Trump's America and held him responsible for the rise in gasoline prices and living costs there.
- Banner (world): «کنفرانس میانجی‌گری», the mediation conference, strapped «نشست استانبول برای مهار جنگ», the Istanbul meeting to contain the war. This is the second front page in the batch to carry the session, independently of Jomhouri-ye Eslami.
- Left rail: «حاصل جنگ، زمین سوخته است», the outcome of war is scorched earth, «تحلیل علی‌اکبر صالحی از پیامدهای وقوع جنگ دوباره در منطقه», Ali Akbar Salehi's analysis of the consequences of another war in the region. Salehi is the former head of the Atomic Energy Organisation and former foreign minister, which makes the byline itself a signal on the nuclear file.
- Op-ed (سرمقاله): «مأموریت فراموش‌شده احزاب», the forgotten mission of the parties, decked «هر حزب بیش از هر چیز باید برای اداره کشور برنامه داشته باشد», every party must above all have a programme for running the country, signed «سیدحسین مرعشی», Seyyed Hossein Marashi, spokesman of the Kargozaran-e Sazandegi party.
- Banner (Iran): «جدال به‌جای شناخت!», confrontation instead of understanding, a critique directed at the economist Saeed Laylaz.
- Banner (culture): «زیبای بی‌نتیجه», the fruitless beauty, on the film «بت».

**ANALYST NOTE** Sazandegi is the only paper in the batch to make the war's cost an American domestic story told through named American politicians rather than through oil futures, and the choice of the Clintons rather than a serving official is a reformist gesture toward the existence of an American opposition that could change the policy. Against the hardline papers' reading of the same price data as proof of Iranian leverage, this page reads it as proof that a constituency exists inside the adversary for ending the war. Salehi's byline on a scorched-earth warning, on the same morning Nobonyad argues for leaving the NPT, is the clearest factional opposition on the nuclear question that this batch contains.

## Kayhan

The hardline daily closest to the Leader's office, managing editor Hossein Shariatmadari, appointed by the Leader; no scan of its page reached this edition's kiosk batch, so its front page is read from the paper's own channel listing.

**SEVERE - named general extends cable threat to regional data centres**

*"The oil price has passed $117; US technology stocks fall in the shadow of the oil shock"* «قیمت نفت از ۱۱۷ دلار عبور کرد / ریزش سهام فناوری آمریکا در سایه شوک نفتی»

- Main (as listed by the paper's own channel): «قیمت نفت از ۱۱۷ دلار عبور کرد / ریزش سهام فناوری آمریکا در سایه شوک نفتی», the oil price has passed $117 and American technology stocks are falling in the shadow of the oil shock.
- Front page: «سرلشکر محسن رضایی هشدار داد: هدف قرارگرفتن کابل‌های ارتباطی و مراکز داده منطقه در صورت تجدید جنگ», Major General Mohsen Rezaei warns that the region's communication cables and data centres will be targeted if the war is renewed. The target class now includes data centres, which is new.
- Front page: «وحشت دشمن از رونمایی مراکز تولید انبوه پهپادهای رزمی و هجومی ارتش», the enemy's terror at the unveiling of the Army's mass-production centres for combat and assault drones.
- Front page: «اظهارات شنیده نشده از شب‌های جهنمی آمریکا پس از حملات ایران», unheard statements about America's hellish nights after Iran's attacks.
- Front page: «سیاست مشت آهنین برای مهار اعتراض‌های فرانسه / ارتش برای سرکوب به کمک پلیس آمد», an iron-fist policy to contain France's protests, with the army coming to the police's aid for repression.
- Channel: «بزرگ‌ترین ایرلاین جهان زیان‌ده شد», the world's largest airline has gone into loss, reporting American Airlines' fuel costs up 67.5 percent year on year and a $269 million net loss, attributed by Kayhan to «بسته‌شدن تنگهٔ هرمز», the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.
- Channel: «بن‌بست هرمز؛ غول انرژی قطر از آمریکا گاز می‌خرد», the Hormuz deadlock has QatarEnergy negotiating with Woodside Energy to buy up to three million tonnes a year of LNG from its Louisiana project, attributed to Reuters via IRNA.
- Yadasht-e Rooz: «فاطمه عزیز! از امت خود راضی شدید؟», dear Fatima, are you satisfied with your community, a two-part devotional note by Hossein Shariatmadari for the martyrdom anniversary, which closes on the war: «در دو جنگ ۱۲ روزه و رمضان، پوزه کثیف آنان را به خاک مالیده‌اند», in the twelve-day and Ramadan wars they ground their filthy snouts into the dirt.

> **ANALYST NOTE** Kayhan is where the cable threat acquires a named general and a second target class: Rezaei's warning now covers the region's data centres as well as its communication cables, which widens the standing digital-deterrence thread from a transit chokepoint to the cloud infrastructure that sits behind it. The paper's commercial evidence is its strongest material and also its most self-incriminating: an American carrier's fuel bill and Qatar's forced purchase of American LNG are both presented as Iranian wins, and both rest on Kayhan's own description of the Strait as closed, a fifth and harder formula than the «managed and controlled» this monitor recorded from the IRGC Navy on 22 October. The editor's own column is devotional rather than political this cycle, which is itself a reading of the day: Fatimiyeh outranks the war on the hardline page.

## Appendix A - The Leader's message: absence recorded

*Monitored set: eight Persian front pages of 2 Aban 1405, the Iran Daily English edition, six newspaper channels and three agency wires, 23-24 October 2026*

No message, meeting, readout or photograph of the Leader of the Revolution appears on any front page in this batch, and none appears on any monitored channel or wire in the compilation window. There is therefore no Leader's lead message to translate in this edition, and this appendix records the absence instead.

The absence is a finding rather than a gap in collection, because two cycles ago it was the opposite. On 22 October seven of the ten Persian front pages in that batch carried the Leader's meeting with the Speaker of parliament, two of them printed a photograph above it, and two printed the office holder's name in the body text as «آیت‌الله سیدمجتبی حسینی خامنه‌ای». That was the first photographed, dated appearance in this monitor's record, and its operative instruction concerned turnout at field gatherings. Today, on the first publishing day after the intervening Friday, the office has produced nothing for the front pages at all.

Two leadership-adjacent items do appear and are recorded here for completeness. The Defa Press channel publishes photographs of President Masoud Pezeshkian «در رواق دارالذکر و زیارت مزار رهبر شهید», at the Dar al-Zikr portico visiting the grave of the martyred Leader, which is an act of commemoration directed at the predecessor rather than a transmission from the incumbent. Separately, the Chief of the General Staff, Major General Ali Abdollahi, invokes the office in general terms on two wires: «با عزم راسخ رهبری شجاع و حکیم، اراده مردم مبعوث شده و مقاوم», with the firm resolve of a brave and wise leadership and the will of the commissioned and resistant people. The adjective «مبعوث», commissioned in the sense of prophetic sending, is the same loaded term this monitor logged in the 22 October readout, which indicates the vocabulary has outlived the appearance that introduced it.

Analyst flag: one publishing day of silence after a holiday weekend is weak evidence of anything on its own, and the ordinary explanation, that no public engagement was held on a Friday that fell within Fatimiyeh mourning, is not excluded by anything here. The finding is filed because the preceding cycle set a new baseline and this cycle did not sustain it. Tracking cue: whether the next edition carries a dated engagement, and whether any front page returns to the turnout instruction of 22 October.

# Appendix B - Flagged editorial in translation: "Revising the NPT: when commitments do not bring security"

*Nobonyad, Saturday 2 Aban 1405, issue 967, front-page editorial, signed «علیرضا بهرامی، پژوهشگر حقوق عمومی» (Alireza Bahrami, public-law researcher); marked «متن کامل در صفحه ۲», full text on page 2*

Editorial, as printed on the front page: «تجربه‌های جنگ ۱۲ روزه و جنگ رمضان باید یک تصور خطرناک را در سیاست خارجی ایران به چالش بکشد: اینکه با رعایت بیشتر دستورالعمل‌های بین‌المللی، شفافیت بیشتر و اعتمادسازی یک‌طرفه، می‌توان امنیت ملی را از طرف‌هایی تضمین گرفت که برای پیشبرد اهداف خود به تحریم و نیروی نظامی متوسل می‌شوند.»

Translation: "The experiences of the twelve-day war and the Ramadan war must challenge a dangerous assumption in Iran's foreign policy: that by greater observance of international instructions, greater transparency and one-sided confidence-building, national security can be guaranteed from parties who resort to sanctions and military force to advance their own aims."

Continuing: «ایران سال‌ها درگیر پرونده هسته‌ای بود، با آژانس همکاری می‌کرد و تحت شدیدترین نظارت‌ها قرار داشت، اما سرانجام تأسیسات هسته‌ای آن هدف حملات اسرائیل و آمریکا قرار گرفته و دانشمندانش ترور شدند.»
Translation: "Iran was engaged with the nuclear file for years, cooperated with the Agency and was subject to the most severe inspections, yet in the end its nuclear facilities became the target of Israeli and American attacks and its scientists were assassinated."

Context on the page. The editorial does not stand alone. The same front page leads on «خروج از ان‌پی‌تی در وقت‌های اضافه», leaving the NPT in injury time, printed across a photograph of the United Nations flag behind razor wire, and carries a separate foreign-policy item, «صف مطالبه‌گران بازدارندگی اتمی بلندتر شد», the queue of those demanding atomic deterrence has grown longer, whose text reads: «همزمان با تجربه دو جنگ تحمیلی علیه ایران پس از ۲۳ خرداد، تشدید تهدیدهای دونالد ترامپ و بنیامین نتانیاهو و ناکامی در جلوگیری از تحریم، ترور و حمله نظامی، مطالبه بازنگری در دکترین هسته‌ای ایران از یک بحث محدود سیاسی فراتر رفته است», that alongside the experience of two imposed wars since 23 Khordad, the intensification of threats from Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu, and the failure of NPT membership to prevent sanctions, assassination and military attack, the demand for revision of Iran's nuclear doctrine has moved beyond a confined political debate.

Verification note. The byline is read directly from the printed page and is given here exactly as printed; no independent profile of the author was available to this monitor, and the designation «پژوهشگر حقوق عمومی», public-law researcher, is the paper's own. The full text continues on page 2, which was not in the scanned batch, so this translation covers the front-page portion only and is flagged partial. The loaded register is retained: «جنگ رمضان», the Ramadan war, is the Iranian press's name for the current conflict, and «۲۳ خرداد» is the Iranian calendar marker the paper uses for the start of the earlier round.

Analyst flag: this is an argument for withdrawal published in a conservative but non-flagship daily, not a policy announcement, and nothing in the monitored set attributes it to any official body. Its significance lies in form rather than authority: it is a structured sunk-cost case addressed to a general readership, and such cases are normally built in the smaller press before they appear in the large. Documented here for defensive assessment; not to be reproduced as an Iranian government position.

## Appendix C - Methodology and sourcing notes

*iran-press-digest pipeline, compiled 24 October 2026*

Sources. Eight Persian front pages were read in full from the NewspaperTasnim kiosk album of «۲ شنبه آبان ماه ۱۴۰۵» (t.me/NewspaperTasnim/45371) and one English front page from the Newspapers_Iran album of the same date (t.me/newspapers_iran/3589). The stale-batch guard compared the album's own printed Jalali date with the target date and matched, so this edition rests on pages published the morning of 24 October. Six newspaper channels (Kayhan, Vatan-e Emrooz, Jam-e Jam, Etemad, Iran, Sobh-e No) and three agency wires (Defa Press, Fars News, Nour News) were read for the same window. Tehran Times was not reachable at the time of compilation and contributed nothing to this edition. The Leader's official site was likewise not reachable, which is recorded in Appendix A but does not affect that appendix's finding, since no front page or channel carried a Leader item either.

Scan versus text coverage. Kayhan's page did not appear in the kiosk album; its front page is reconstructed from the paper's own channel listing of its headlines (t.me/kayhan_online/87608) and is marked as such in the per-paper entry. The Persian pages are 800-pixel scans, which renders mastheads, headlines, decks and most sub-headings reliably but defeats body text and some bylines. Where a byline or figure could not be read with confidence it has been omitted rather than guessed: this applies to the Shargh editorial's author, to the interviewee behind Nobonyad's «اقتصاد کشور فرمانده جنگ می‌خواهد», and to the Brent figure printed in the Iran newspaper's oil sidebar, which is instead cited from the IRGC spokesman's own posting relayed by two channels.

Identification. Mastheads were identified by nameplate against the project's recognition reference. Named figures were checked before assertion. Abdolnaser Hemmati is confirmed as Governor of the Central Bank of Iran, in post since 31 December 2025, which is why the Persian lead photograph and the English "CBI governor" teaser are treated as one story. Major General Ali Abdollahi is confirmed as Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces since 10 August 2026, appointed after his predecessor Abdolrahim Mousavi was killed, and as commander of the Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, which is the dual title the wires print. Ed Miliband is confirmed as the United Kingdom's Foreign Secretary, appointed July 2026, which is the office behind the inflation statement relayed by the Etemad channel. Hossein Simaei Sarraf is confirmed as Minister of Science. Seyyed Hossein Marashi is confirmed as the Kargozaran-e Sazandegi spokesman, the party whose paper carries his editorial.

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: the Chief of the General Staff's assertion that the US Navy has been rendered unable to approach the Persian Gulf; Sobh-e No's statement that traffic of non-compliant vessels through the Strait has stopped completely and that a prolonged American blockade of Iran's ports is in force; Kayhan's attribution of American Airlines' $269 million loss and QatarEnergy's American LNG purchase to the closure of the Strait; and Etemad's report, sourced to unnamed American officials, of prepared strike plans against Iranian industrial infrastructure and the missile arsenal. Quotations relayed through Iranian channels from Western figures, among them Ed Miliband, Emmanuel Macron, Poland's prime minister, Germany's foreign minister, Rafael Grossi, Tom Barrack, Pete Hegseth and the Clintons, are Iranian renderings and are not to be reproduced as authentic without primary-source confirmation.

Single-source flags. The Istanbul mediation session of Friday evening is carried by three Iranian surfaces, Jomhouri-ye Eslami's front page as a seven-country meeting, Sazandegi's banner as a

mediation conference to contain the war, and the Etemad channel citing Tasnim with a participant list of Germany, France, Italy, Pakistan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia meeting Erdogan; no independent confirmation of the 23 October session was available at compile time, and the roster differs in one participant from the comparable Istanbul session of 30 August, which included Britain and not Italy. Tom Barrack's reported remark that an attack was likely at the weekend reaches this monitor only through the Nour News summary and is unverified. The Riyadh explosions are carried by Defa Press and Fars, the latter citing Agence France-Presse after a Saudi civil-defence warning for Riyadh and Najran; no Saudi confirmation reached this monitor.

Succession evidence. Nothing in this batch adds to the documentary record on the succession. The identification of the office holder as Mojtaba Khamenei continues to rest on the printed name «آیت‌الله سیدمجتبی حسینی خامنه‌ای» recorded in the 22 October batch and on the pattern of usage since, and on the convention, maintained throughout this series, that «شهید سیدعلی» and «رهبر شهید» refer to the assassinated predecessor. Today's only instance of the latter is the Defa Press photograph of the President at the martyred Leader's grave.

Handling. This product documents and analyses hostile foreign-press rhetoric for defensive assessment only. Nothing in it endorses, amplifies or operationalises that rhetoric. Prepared for analysis and early warning.

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*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.*