OPEN-SOURCE PRESS INTELLIGENCE

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THE PRESIDENT'S SENTENCE EDITION

Nine Iranian front pages of 3 Aban 1405 read in full, together with six newspaper channels and three agency wires. Kayhan is read from the paper's own channel listing for a second cycle because it did not reach the kiosk album. The English-language album did not refresh and carried the previous day's issue; Tehran Times was not available at the time of compilation.

Front pages published the morning of 25 October 2026, reflecting events through late 24 October local time.

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 converted an internal policy question into a public argument conducted across factional lines, and that the argument is about method rather than about diagnosis. President Masoud Pezeshkian's statement that the condition of «نه جنگ، نه صلح», neither war nor peace, must end appears on five of the nine front pages in this batch, and no page disputes the diagnosis. What each page does instead is supply a different exit. Etemad, reformist, prints it as a demand with the deck «رهبر شهید همواره رهنمود و دستور می‌دادند که باید از وضعیت «نه جنگ، نه صلح» خارج شویم و به این مخمصه پایان دهیم», the martyred Leader always gave guidance and instruction that we must leave this condition and end this predicament, and leads on «مذاکره از موضع قدرت», negotiation from a position of strength. Jomhouri-ye Eslami prints it as reconstruction: «با عبور از وضعیت نه جنگ نه صلح باید برای ساختن ایران همت کنیم». Ta'adol captions it beneath the President's photograph as «باید از وضعیت «نه جنگ، نه صلح» خارج شویم». Javan, the Guard-affiliated daily, accepts the diagnosis and rejects the remedy in its headline: «خروج از «نه جنگ نه صلح» با مذاکره نمی‌شود», exit will not come through negotiation, with the caption supplying the alternative, «تغییر محاسبات دشمن», changing the enemy's calculations. And Sazandegi, reformist, strips the imperative out of the same remark and prints the President as resigned: «باید تماشا کنیم», we are left to watch.

The second finding is an admission rather than a threat, and it is the most consequential text in the edition. In the previous cycle this monitor recorded the principlist press conceding in body text that traffic through the Strait of Hormuz had stopped completely and that the closure followed an American order for a prolonged blockade of Iran's ports, which left the question of agency open. Hossein Shariatmadari, Kayhan's managing editor, closes it from the direction closest to the Leader's office. His column «این ۷ از آن ۴۷ بزرگ‌تر است», this seven is greater than that forty-seven, argues that seven months of pressure applied by Iran have cost the United States and Europe more than forty-seven years of American sanctions cost Iran, and calls the closure of the Strait «هدیه الهی», a divine gift. The closure is no longer something done to Iran in that telling; it is Iranian policy, claimed, measured and valued. Kayhan's front page carries the operational companion to the argument: «نفت ۱۱۷ دلاری آغاز راه است؛ زیر و روی خلیج فارس در تیررس ایران», $117 oil is only the beginning of the road, with the surface and the depths of the Persian Gulf within Iran's range.

Against that argument the Iranian economic press published a number that nobody on the hardline pages addressed. Ta'adol leads on «نشانه‌شناسی افت طلای جهانی», reading the signs in the fall of global gold, over the line «عقب‌نشینی اونس از قله ۵۴۰۰ دلاری به زیر چهار هزار دلار», the ounce retreating from its $5,400 peak to below four thousand dollars, and the security-council-linked wire separately calls it «ریزش سنگین طلا», a heavy collapse. In the same batch Charsoo prints oil at $116, the first downward move in a series that four front pages carried at $117 in the previous cycle. Two safe-haven series are now diverging: the war-risk premium is leaving gold while the chokepoint premium stays in oil. That distinction is unhelpful to the leverage argument, because it indicates a market pricing out the probability of a wider war while continuing to price in a physical closure. No Iranian front page in this batch attempts the reconciliation.

The sitting Leader returned to the front pages after the absence this monitor filed as a finding two cycles ago, and the manner of his return is as informative as the fact. Four papers carry his meeting with the head of the judiciary: Hamshahri as «دیدار قاضی‌القضات با رهبر انقلاب», Vatan-e Emrooz and Kayhan as masthead lines, Javan with the substance, «افزایش سرمایه اجتماعی نظام از طریق گسترش عدالت و مبارزه با فساد», and Sobh-e No with the fullest printing of the name this monitor has recorded,

«رئیس قوه قضاییه با حضرت آیت‌الله سیدمجتبی حسینی خامنه‌ای دیدار و گفت‌وگو کرد», set above its own nameplate. No front page in the batch carries a photograph of him. Neither the time nor the place of the meeting was disclosed. The operative novelty in the message is not the judicial-reform material, which is conventional, but the instruction to pursue recovery of compensation for the material and moral damages of what the statement calls American-Zionist crimes: that converts the war's damage from a grievance into a docket held by a standing institution.

One page in the batch leads on neither the war nor the economy, and it is the most striking domestic signal of the cycle. Hamshahri, the Tehran municipal daily, gives its whole front page to rainfall: «رحمت خدا ایران را فراگرفت», God's mercy has enveloped Iran, over children with umbrellas, with a 30 percent growth in dam reserves, reservoir storage at 24.8 billion cubic metres and above the ten-year average, twelve provinces with increased rainfall, Lake Urmia's water reported tenfold and its extent more than four times last year's, and the dried sections of the Choghakhor and Kani Barazan wetlands re-watered. One cycle earlier the reformist press was reporting drought across 77 percent of the country. The numbers are specific enough to be checkable, which distinguishes this from decorative good news, and the framing is explicitly theological.

The cycle's hard events sat on the wires rather than on the front pages, and three of them matter. Lebanon re-entered the monitored set after seven quiet cycles, and it re-entered kinetically: Defa Press reports large-scale Israeli demolitions and detonations in the border town of Khiam. The Yemen-Saudi exchange escalated to the point of closing Gulf airspace to foreign carriers, with a ballistic missile fired at Riyadh and reported intercepted, air-raid sirens in the Saudi capital, a drone attack hours after Riyadh's airport reopened, Saudi strikes on Taiz and a reported strike on workers' housing in Sanaa, a Canadian advisory against travel to Riyadh and Dammam airports, Indian and Pakistani carriers extending suspensions, and the Asian Football Confederation moving its tournament. And the tanker-mine series acquired a successor: the Iran newspaper's channel reports two sanctioned supertankers exploding on mines, matching an IRGC claim of 23 October involving 4.5 million barrels and abandoned crews, for which independent monitoring has found no substantiation in the preceding cases. Against all that, the surface that mattered most in the previous cycle went quiet. Nour News, linked to the Supreme National Security Council, which distributed the 'zero hour' imminence warning in the previous cycle, published no imminence material at all today.

The diplomatic track acquired a roster and lost a number. Sobh-e No leads on «هشدار ۱۲ کشور به واشنگتن», twelve countries warn Washington, over the line that nuclear facilities must under no circumstances be targeted; the government daily puts the same diplomacy at eight foreign ministers stressing dialogue; and Sobh-e No's own channel gives the Istanbul composition as Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Egypt meeting the European three, with an agenda of Palestine, the war on Iran, and freedom of navigation in both the Strait of Hormuz and Bab al-Mandab. The count is not reconciled anywhere in the batch. Vatan-e Emrooz meanwhile takes the trilateral Iran-Russia-China statement on the illegality of attacking safeguarded nuclear facilities and prints it not as an opening but as «اتمام حجت هسته‌ای», the nuclear ultimatum, over a photograph of a shot-through IAEA flag. The same paper's own analyst, interviewed by Sobh-e No, concedes that these positions will not decisively affect Washington's decision.

Net assessment: this is an argument edition, and the argument is domestic. Nothing in the monitored twenty-four hours changed the military position, and the two surfaces that have carried escalation in recent cycles, the security wire and the imminence warning, were silent. What moved instead was the question of who gets to define the exit, and it moved in public: a president quoting an assassinated Leader against a stalemate, a Guard daily ruling out his remedy without naming him, a reformist paper

printing him as resigned, and the Leader's own flagship editor claiming the chokepoint as policy and pricing it as a win. The weakness in that last position is now visible in Iran's own economic press, where gold has broken and oil has ticked down. The thing to watch is not whether the argument is settled but whether the price series that underwrites the hardline side of it continues to fall.

BOTTOM LINE On the morning the Iranian press turned a single presidential sentence about ending the 'neither war nor peace' condition into a five-way argument about what should end it, the hardest thing published was not an ultimatum but an admission: Kayhan's managing editor claimed the closure of the Strait of Hormuz as Iran's own sanctions regime and called it a divine gift, while the economic press printed a collapse in gold that cuts the ground from under the price argument that claim rests on.

CRITICAL SOURCING NOTE Compiled from nine Persian front pages of 3 Aban 1405 read in full by vision from the kiosk album (Hamshahri, Vatan-e Emrooz, Javan, Sobh-e No, Sazandegi, Charsoo, Ta'adol, Etemad, Jomhouri-ye Eslami), six newspaper channels (Kayhan, Vatan-e Emrooz, Jam-e Jam, Etemad Online, Iran, Sobh-e No) and three agency wires (Defa Press, Fars News, Nour News). Kayhan did not reach the kiosk album for a second consecutive cycle and is analysed from its own channel listing. The English-language album did not refresh: the issue it carried, Iran Daily Vol 6246 of 24 October, was analysed in the previous edition and is excluded from the headline table as a sourcing finding rather than presented as new. Tehran Times was not available at the time of compilation. Named figures were checked outside the Iranian press, including Mohseni-Ejei and the fact of his meeting with the Leader, Gadi Eisenkot as the principal challenger in the Israeli ballot of 27 October, Ali al-Zaidi as Iraq's prime minister and his published positions, the defence-minister nomination of Mehrdad Akhlaghi Ketabchi, and Asim Munir's 20 October Tehran visit. Iranian military and battle-damage claims, including the two-supertanker mine claim and the Erbil drone strike, are recorded as claims and are not adopted; independent monitoring has found no substantiation for the preceding cases in the tanker series, and the group named in the Erbil strike appears on one surface only. The forecast of no war before 9 Aban rests on a single uncorroborated channel item. Two judgments from the previous edition are corrected here: the seven-vessel interdiction claim does have a successor, and Lebanon's absence has ended. This product documents hostile foreign-press rhetoric for defensive assessment only.

Macro Trend Analysis

1 One presidential sentence, five incompatible exits

Pezeshkian's statement that «نه جنگ، نه صلح» must end appears on five of nine front pages and is not disputed anywhere; what is disputed is the remedy. Etemad prints negotiation from a position of strength, Jomhouri-ye Eslami prints reconstruction and the census, Ta'adol prints it as a caption under the President's photograph, Javan rules out negotiation outright and substitutes changing the enemy's calculations, and Sazandegi strips the imperative and prints resignation. Agreement on the diagnosis with open disagreement on the method is a more legible state of the system than the message discipline this monitor recorded in the previous cycle.

2 The chokepoint closure claimed as Iranian policy

Shariatmadari calls the closure of the Strait «هدیه الهی», a divine gift, and measures seven months of Iranian pressure against forty-seven years of American sanctions. Kayhan's front page pairs the price claim with target coverage, «زیر و روی خلیج فارس در تیررس ایران». In the previous cycle the same closure appeared in the principlist press as the consequence of an American blockade order, with

agency left ambiguous. The ambiguity is now resolved in the direction of claimed Iranian agency, by the outlet closest to the Leader's office.

3 The two safe havens diverge

Ta'adol leads on gold retreating from a $5,400 peak to below $4,000, and the security-council-linked wire calls it a heavy collapse; Charsoo prints oil at $116 against the $117 carried on four front pages a cycle earlier. A falling gold price with a still-elevated oil price indicates a market pricing out a wider war while continuing to price in a physical closure. The hardline argument for leverage is built entirely on the oil series and does not address the gold series anywhere in this batch.

4 The Leader returns in text and stays out of sight

Four front pages carry the judiciary meeting and Sobh-e No prints «حضرت آیت‌الله سیدمجتبی حسینی خامنه‌ای» in full on its masthead line, the most prominent placement of the name this monitor has recorded. No page prints a photograph, no time or place was disclosed, and the office has released no imagery or recording since the succession. The substantive novelty is the instruction to pursue compensation for the material and moral damages of American and Israeli crimes, which assigns the war's damage to a standing institution as a docket.

5 The president reaches past the living Leader to the dead one

Etemad's banner deck grounds the demand to end the stalemate in the guidance of «رهبر شهید», the martyred Leader, on the same morning the sitting Leader appears on four front pages. Taking doctrinal warrant on the central question of war and peace from an assassinated predecessor rather than from the serving Supreme Leader has no precedent in this monitor's record, and it is printed by a reformist paper with an interest in making it visible. Shariatmadari's column opens with the same device, directing readers back to a statement of the martyred Leader.

6 Lebanon returns kinetically, Yemen closes Gulf airspace

Defa Press reports large-scale Israeli demolitions and detonations at Khiam in southern Lebanon, ending a seven-cycle absence from the monitored set. In parallel the Yemen-Saudi exchange reached the civil-aviation threshold: a ballistic missile at Riyadh reported intercepted, sirens in the capital, a drone attack hours after the airport reopened, Saudi strikes on Taiz and a reported strike on workers' housing in Sanaa, a Canadian travel advisory against two Saudi airports, Indian and Pakistani carriers extending suspensions, and a continental football tournament moved. Bab al-Mandab now appears beside Hormuz on the Istanbul agenda, which joins the two chokepoints in one diplomatic file for the first time in this record.

7 The security wire went quiet

Nour News, linked to the Supreme National Security Council, carried the previous cycle's 'zero hour' imminence warning alongside two reformist front pages. Today it published no imminence material of any kind; its only security item revisits Asim Munir's Tehran visit of 20 October, which ended without agreement. Against that silence, the Etemad Online channel carries a single uncorroborated forecast that there will be no war before 9 Aban, 31 October, with risk rising after that date, and the Russian embassy in Tehran denied reports that staff and specialists were being evacuated from the Bushehr nuclear plant.

8 Israel’s ballot read as an Iranian variable

Three Iranian surfaces are reading the 27 October Israeli election in operational terms: Etemad files a report from Israel headlined «زورآزمایی «بی‌بی» و ژنرال», the trial of strength between Bibi and the General, which is Netanyahu against the retired chief of staff Gadi Eisenkot; Sobh-e No asks

«اپوزیسیون با اعراب ائتلاف می‌کند؟», will the opposition form a coalition with the Arabs; and Kayhan's analysis predicts no bloc reaching a majority, a repeat vote in about two months, and the Arab lists as kingmakers. The coalition premise is the weak point: Eisenkot's own published position is that no Arab party would accept his conditions.

9 An Iranian daily sides against the Iraqi state

Sobh-e No's rail prints «بیانیه قاطع مقاومت، دولت الزیدی را آچمز کرده است / حمایت مقاومت عراق از ایران», the resistance's categorical statement has placed the al-Zaidi government in zugzwang. Ali al-Zaidi has been Iraq's prime minister since 14 May 2026; his published positions are that Iraq will not be party to any war and that no weapons will remain outside state authority by 30 June 2027, and he ordered the Sheeb crossing with Iran closed on 21 October while arguing against a general closure. A Tehran principlist daily openly welcoming armed factions boxing in that government is a new and trackable position.

10 Rain displaces drought as the domestic subject

Hamshahri gives its whole front page to rainfall in theological language, «رحمت خدا ایران را فراگرفت», with dam reserves up 30 percent to 24.8 billion cubic metres and above the ten-year average, twelve provinces wetter, Lake Urmia's water reported tenfold, and dried wetlands re-watered. One cycle earlier the reformist press reported 77 percent of the country in drought. The competing domestic ledger has not gone away: Charsoo prints communications inflation up sixfold under this government with a chart, domestic airfares are reported up roughly 45 percent in a month after carriers lost the exchange-centre rate, and Ta'adol leads its banner with a private-sector warning against a parallel regulator in the new cyberspace bill.

Key Judgments

KJ-1 **[HIGH]** The Iranian press is conducting an open, cross-factional argument about how to end the war's stalemate, with agreement on the diagnosis and no agreement on the method. The evidence is one sentence on five of nine front pages with five different continuations: Etemad pairs «شرایط «نه جنگ، نه صلح» باید تمام شود» with «مذاکره از موضع قدرت»; Jomhouri-ye Eslami continues it as «باید برای ساختن ایران همت کنیم»; Ta'adol captions it «باید از وضعیت «نه جنگ، نه صلح» خارج شویم»; Javan heads its page «خروج از «نه جنگ نه صلح» با مذاکره نمی‌شود» and substitutes «تغییر محاسبات دشمن»; Sazandegi prints «باید تماشا کنیم». The significance is that this is the opposite of the centrally guided message discipline recorded in the previous cycle: a Guard-affiliated daily publicly rejecting the President's remedy on the morning his remark leads four other pages indicates that the method question is unsettled at the level where it is decided, and the papers are being allowed to say so.

KJ-2 **[HIGH]** Iran has now claimed the closure of the Strait of Hormuz as its own policy instrument, from the outlet closest to the Leader's office, resolving an ambiguity this monitor flagged one cycle ago. The evidence is Hossein Shariatmadari's column «این ۷ از آن ۴۷ بزرگ‌تر است», which calls the closure «هدیه الهی», a divine gift, and argues that seven months of Iranian pressure have cost the United States and Europe more than forty-seven years of American sanctions cost Iran, alongside Kayhan's front page «نفت ۱۱۷ دلاری آغاز راه است؛ زیر و روی خلیج فارس در تیررس ایران». In the previous cycle Sobh-e No's body text had the price rising after Trump's order for a prolonged blockade of Iran's ports, with the closure described as something happening to Iran. The significance is that a

claimed closure is a negotiable instrument in a way an imposed blockade is not, and that the claim is made in the register of entitlement rather than of grievance.

KJ-3 [HIGH] The sitting Leader is being re-established in print without being shown, and the message's operative content is a compensation mandate rather than a war statement. The evidence is four front pages carrying the judiciary meeting, with Sobh-e No printing «حضرت آیت‌الله سیدمجتبی حسینی خامنه‌ای» in full above its own nameplate and Javan carrying the substance, «افزایش سرمایه اجتماعی نظام از طریق گسترش عدالت و مبارزه با فساد», against the absence of any photograph on any page in the batch, any disclosed time or place, and any imagery or recording released since the succession. The instruction is to pursue recovery of compensation for the material and moral damages of what the statement calls American-Zionist crimes. The significance is twofold: the name is now circulating at masthead prominence while the person remains unseen, and the war's damage is being institutionalised as a judicial docket that will outlast any ceasefire.

KJ-4 [MODERATE-HIGH] The price evidence underpinning Iran's leverage argument began to move against it in this cycle, and the Iranian hardline press did not address the move. The evidence is a divergence inside Iran's own economic press: Ta'adol leads on «عقب‌نشینی اونس از قله ۵۴۰۰ دلاری به زیر چهار هزار دلار», gold retreating from a $5,400 peak to below $4,000, which Nour News separately calls «ریزش سنگین طلا»; Charsoo prints «نفت ۱۱۶ دلاری», the first downward print in a series that four front pages carried at $117 one cycle earlier; and Shariatmadari's column, which needs the price to be rising, instead reaches past the screen to physical cargoes at $145 and to an attributed Aramco remark about $200. The significance is that a falling gold price with elevated oil indicates a market pricing out a wider war while still pricing a physical closure, which is the opposite of the escalation the leverage argument advertises. Calibration: a single session is not a trend, and overreading two prints would invent a turn; understating it would miss the first break in the series this monitor has tracked for five cycles.

KJ-5 [MODERATE-HIGH] The President has taken his doctrinal warrant from the assassinated Leader rather than from the serving one, on the morning the serving one returned to the front pages. The evidence is Etemad's banner deck: «رهبر شهید همواره رهنمود و دستور می‌دادند که باید از وضعیت «نه جنگ، نه صلح» خارج شویم و به این مخمصه پایان دهیم», the martyred Leader always gave guidance and instruction that we must leave this condition and end this predicament. Shariatmadari's column opens with the same device from the opposite faction, directing readers back to a quoted statement of the martyred Leader. The significance is that both wings of the argument are sourcing authority to a dead Supreme Leader while a living one is in office and is simultaneously being printed at masthead prominence, which indicates the succession's authority is established in name faster than it is established in doctrine. Calibration: this is an inference from placement and attribution, not from any statement about the sitting Leader's standing, and no page in the batch disparages him.

KJ-6 [MODERATE-HIGH] The Yemen-Saudi front has crossed the civil-aviation threshold and is now a second chokepoint file rather than a separate theatre. The evidence is accumulation across one cycle on five surfaces: a ballistic missile launched at Riyadh which the Saudi-led coalition says it intercepted, air-raid sirens in the Saudi capital, a drone attack hours after Riyadh's airport reopened, Saudi air strikes on al-Turba in Taiz and a reported strike on workers' housing in Sanaa with eight dead, a Canadian advisory against travel to the Riyadh and Dammam airports, Indian and Pakistani carriers extending suspensions, and the Asian Football Confederation moving its tournament. The

joining move is diplomatic: the Istanbul agenda as reported on the Sobh-e No channel covers freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz and Bab al-Mandab together. The significance is that a negotiation covering both chokepoints gives Iran a wider instrument and a wider exposure than Hormuz alone.

KJ-7 **[MODERATE]** Lebanon's seven-cycle absence from the monitored set has ended, and it ended with a kinetic report rather than with a political one. The evidence is Defa Press's «تخریب و انفجار گسترده رژیم صهیونیستی در لبنان», reporting large-scale Israeli demolitions and detonations in the border town of Khiam, recorded as the agency's claim. The significance is in the shape of the return: in the previous cycle Lebanon reached the monitored set only as an American denial of a plan to change its political system, and this monitor filed the silence as a finding. A wire-level kinetic report with a named town is a different order of evidence. Calibration: one agency item is not a campaign, and no front page in the batch carries Lebanon at all; the judgment is that the thread has reopened, not that the theatre has reactivated.

KJ-8 **[MODERATE]** The tanker-interdiction series does have a successor claim, correcting this monitor's previous judgment, and it is weaker in sourcing than its predecessor. The evidence is the Iran newspaper's channel reporting two sanctioned supertankers exploding after striking mines without stating a location, matching an IRGC statement of 23 October placing two supertankers carrying 4.5 million barrels in total on mines in the southern Strait with crews abandoning ship. No vessel has been identified, and independent monitoring has found no substantiation for the preceding claims in this series. The significance is that the claim has migrated from a public-relations statement placed on five surfaces within ninety minutes, as recorded on 22 October, to an unlocated line on a single channel, which suggests either diminishing confidence in the claim or a deliberate reduction in its prominence. Recorded as an unverified Iranian claim throughout.

KJ-9 **[MODERATE]** Negative evidence, filed as a finding: the security wire that carried the previous cycle's imminence warning published nothing of the kind in this one. The evidence is an absence measured against a specific baseline. In the previous cycle Nour News, linked to the Supreme National Security Council, carried the 'zero hour' material alongside Etemad and Shargh, reporting prepared American and Israeli plans against Iranian industrial infrastructure and the missile arsenal. Today its only security item is a video revisiting Asim Munir's Tehran visit of 20 October, which ended without agreement, and its remaining output is weather, gold, car prices and a religious commemoration. The significance is that the channel which distributes centrally available security information chose not to renew an imminence signal within twenty-four hours of issuing one. Against that, a single uncorroborated channel item places the next risk window after 9 Aban, 31 October, and the Russian embassy in Tehran issued a denial that staff and specialists were being evacuated from the Bushehr nuclear plant, a denial specific enough to imply a circulating report worth locating.

KJ-10 **[MODERATE]** An Iranian principlist daily has publicly aligned itself against the Iraqi government's monopoly of force, which is a new position in this monitor's record. The evidence is Sobh-e No's rail item «بیانیه قاطع مقاومت، دولت الزیدی را آچمز کرده است / حمایت مقاومت عراق از ایران», the resistance's categorical statement has placed the al-Zaidi government in zugzwang, printed as a favourable development. Ali al-Zaidi has been Iraq's prime minister since 14 May 2026; his published positions are that Iraq will not be a party to any war and that no weapons will remain outside state authority by 30 June 2027, and he ordered the Sheeb crossing with Iran closed on 21 October while

arguing publicly that a general closure would harm both countries. The significance is that the Iraqi file has moved from a trade grievance, which is how the previous cycle recorded it, to an explicit question of which Iraqi actor Tehran's press backs. Track the al-Zaidi file as a named standing thread.

KJ-11 [MODERATE] The Iranian press is reading the Israeli ballot of 27 October as an input to its own war planning, and the reading contains one verifiable error. The evidence is three surfaces: Etemad files from Israel under «زورآزمایی «بی‌بی» و ژنرال», which is Benjamin Netanyahu against the retired chief of staff Gadi Eisenkot, whose Yashar party leads most polling without either bloc approaching a majority; Sobh-e No asks whether the opposition will form a coalition with the Arabs; and Kayhan's analysis forecasts no bloc reaching a majority, a repeat vote in about two months, and the Arab lists as kingmakers, while adding that Iran and Hezbollah will shape the next vote. The error is in the coalition premise that Sobh-e No and Kayhan share: Eisenkot's own published position is that no Arab party would accept his coalition conditions, which analysts treat as the main constraint on his route to a majority. The significance is that an Iranian expectation of an Arab-backed opposition government is likely to be disappointed, and expectations built on it will have to be revised after 27 October.

KJ-12 [LOW-MODERATE] Negative evidence, filed as a finding: Iran's outward-facing English surface produced nothing in this cycle, for the second cycle in which the war has been kept off it. The evidence is that the English-language kiosk album did not refresh and carried Iran Daily Vol 6246 of Saturday 24 October, the issue analysed in the previous edition, whose lead remains 'China hosts global forum to push for fairer world order' with the nuclear file appearing only as 'Iran urges end to selective implementation of IAEA statute'; Tehran Times was not available at the time of compilation. The significance is that the regime's chosen foreign-audience channel is currently carrying multipolar-order material while its domestic pages carry a claimed chokepoint closure and a public argument about war termination. Calibration: a kiosk album failing to refresh is a distribution fact and not necessarily an editorial choice, which is why this is filed at low-moderate confidence; the editorial pattern it is consistent with has now held for two cycles.

Named-Figure Tracker

Figure	Role / relevance	Today's framing	Flag
Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei	Supreme Leader	Printed in full on Sobh-e No's masthead line and carried on four front pages through the judiciary meeting; no photograph, no disclosed time or place, no imagery released since the succession. Directs the judiciary to pursue compensation for the damages of American and Israeli crimes.	NEW NAMED FIGURE
Masoud Pezeshkian	President of Iran	The sentence that organises the edition: the condition of «نه جنگ، نه صلح» must end. Printed as a demand by Etemad, as reconstruction by Jomhouri-ye Eslami, as a caption by Ta'adol, as resignation by Sazandegi, and rebutted without being	WATCH

Figure	Role / relevance	Today's framing	Flag
		named by Javan. Grounds the position in the guidance of the martyred Leader.	
Gholam-Hossein Mohseni-Ejei	Head of the Iranian judiciary	Named on Sobh-e No's masthead as the Leader's interlocutor; the meeting is attested by the judiciary's own outlet and relayed by international agencies.	WATCH
Hossein Shariatmadari	Managing editor of Kayhan, appointed by the Leader's office	Claims the Strait closure as Iran's own sanctions regime and calls it «هدیه الهی», a divine gift; measures seven months of Iranian pressure against forty-seven years of American sanctions and cites $145 physical oil and a possible $200.	COERCION SPOKESMAN
Donald Trump	President of the United States	Target framing across the batch: Hamshahri's «گدایی ترامپ از جهان», Trump's begging from the world; Kayhan's claim that the attack on Iran overturned his energy project and that his strength did not reach fertiliser and diesel; a crude formulation printed as a headline by Vatan-e Emrooz, documented here as hostile rhetoric without the attributed speaker's name, which was not legible.	TARGET FRAMING
Benjamin Netanyahu	Prime Minister of Israel	Read as an electoral variable rather than as a commander: Etemad's trial of strength with 'the General', Kayhan's report of tens of thousands protesting in Tel Aviv, and a Turkish court extending an arrest warrant against him and Israeli ministers as reported by Jomhouri-ye Eslami.	TARGET FRAMING
Gadi Eisenkot	Retired Israeli chief of staff, leader of the Yashar party and principal challenger in the 27 October ballot	The 'General' of Etemad's headline; reported by Defa Press as attending the Tel Aviv protest. Iranian analyses assume an Arab-backed coalition route that his own stated conditions exclude.	NEW NAMED FIGURE
Ali al-Zaidi	Prime Minister of Iraq since 14 May 2026	Named by Sobh-e No as having been placed in zugzwang by a categorical statement from the Iraqi resistance supporting Iran; his published positions are that Iraq will not be party to any war and that no weapons remain outside state authority by 30 June 2027.	WATCH
Mehrdad Akhlaghi Ketabchi	Iranian defence minister, nominated 5 October to a post	Reported on the Iran newspaper's channel as saying his first working hour would go to the needs of IRGC Aerospace and army air defence.	NEW NAMED FIGURE

Figure	Role / relevance	Today's framing	Flag
	vacant since February		
Asim Munir	Pakistani Field Marshal and army chief	Revisited by Nour News in a video asking whether his mission was containing a war or testing Iran's red lines; his 20 October Tehran visit ended without agreement on enrichment or on transferring material abroad.	WATCH
Barack Obama	Former President of the United States	Carried by Kayhan and the Vatan-e Emrooz channel as saying Iran has acquired a veto over the Strait of Hormuz; used as foreign corroboration of the leverage claim. Reported as the outlets' rendering.	WATCH
Chris Van Hollen	United States Senator	Carried by Fars News warning that Trump's illegal war with Iran is becoming America's next forever war; used as evidence of cost inside the adversary's politics. Reported as the outlet's rendering.	WATCH
Bijan Abdolkarimi	Iranian philosopher	Etemad's lead interview: diplomacy is effective only when conducted with high power and a balance of forces, which concedes the hardline premise while arguing for negotiation.	WATCH
Mohsen Rezaei	Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council	Absent from every front page and wire in this batch after leading the previous cycle's cable and data-centre target expansion and its statement that negotiations had stopped.	absence noted
Ali Abdollahi	Chief of the General Staff	Carried only on the Iran newspaper's channel repeating that American carriers will not be allowed back into the Persian Gulf; absent from every front page in the batch.	absence noted

Headline Summary Table

Outlet	Lead Headline (English)	Orientation	Theme	Threat signal
Etemad	The President: the 'neither war nor peace' condition must end / Negotiation from a position of strength	Reformist	The stalemate to be ended, with the warrant taken from the martyred Leader	MODERATE-HIGH - doctrinal authority sourced to the assassinated predecessor

Outlet	Lead Headline (English)	Orientation	Theme	Threat signal
Javan	Exit from 'neither war nor peace' will not come through negotiation	Hardline, IRGC-affiliated	The Guard daily rebuts the President's remedy and substitutes cost imposition	MODERATE-HIGH - negotiation publicly ruled out as the exit
Sazandegi	We are left to watch	Reformist / Kargozaran	The same remark printed as presidential resignation	LOW-MODERATE - the war registered as paralysis
Jomhouri-ye Eslami	The President: passing beyond 'neither war nor peace', we must set ourselves to building Iran	Traditional establishment	Reconstruction and the census offered as the exit; deterrence sourced to foreign media	MODERATE - deterrence asserted without Iranian commanders
Kayhan	$117 oil is only the beginning of the road; above and below the Persian Gulf are within Iran's range	Hardline, close to the Leader's office (read from the paper's channel)	The Strait closure claimed as Iran's own sanctions regime and called a divine gift	SEVERE - closure claimed as policy, Gulf declared within range
Vatan-e Emrooz	The nuclear ultimatum	Hardline / principlist	A trilateral statement on safeguarded facilities printed as an ultimatum over a shot-through IAEA flag	HIGH - nuclear facilities framed as the subject of a formal ultimatum
Sobh-e No	Twelve countries warn Washington	Principlist	Nuclear facilities declared off-limits; the Leader named in full; Iraqi factions backed against their own government	MODERATE-HIGH - an Iranian daily endorses pressure on the Iraqi state
Ta'adol	Reading the signs in the fall of global gold	Economic	Gold collapses from its peak while oil stays elevated: the two havens diverge	MODERATE - war-risk premium leaving gold
Charsoo	The people's lives, or the profitability of the aviation mafia?	Economic	War costs priced as aviation safety, sixfold communications inflation and a lower oil print	LOW-MODERATE - war cost registered domestically
Hamshahri	God's mercy has enveloped Iran	Tehran municipality, centrist	Rainfall and reservoir recovery led as national relief; the Leader appears without a photograph	LOW - no war content above the fold
Agency wires	Widespread Zionist-regime demolition and explosions in Lebanon	Defa Press, Fars News, Nour News, Jam-e Jam channel	Lebanon returns kinetically, the Yemen-Saudi front closes Gulf airspace, a new tanker-mine claim, and the security wire goes quiet	HIGH - the cycle's hard events sat on the wires, not the front pages

Per-Paper Front-Page Analysis

Iran Daily (English)

Government English-language daily; the issue in the English kiosk album this cycle is the previous day's

"China hosts global forum to push for fairer world order"

LOW: no new English-language front page in this cycle



- Banner: the masthead reads Vol 6246, Saturday October 24, 2026, Aban 02, 1405, which is the issue this monitor analysed in the previous edition. The English-language kiosk album did not refresh for 3 Aban, so no new English front page exists in this batch.
- Main: 'China hosts global forum to push for fairer world order', over a photograph of the 2026 Global Governance Forum in Zhejiang, carried as a report exclusive.
- Sub-item: 'Iran urges end to selective implementation of IAEA statute', the English edition's only nuclear item and its only point of contact with the day's dominant Persian theme.
- Sub-item: 'How second Trump administration is undermining American soft power', and 'CBI has curbed sharp acceleration in inflation, governor says'.
- Sub-item: 'Iran, Iraq to raise annual two-way tourism to 10m trips', printed while Iraqi border crossings with Iran are being closed, and 'Iran retains sitting volleyball dominance' from the Nagoya Para Asian Games.

ANALYST NOTE Recorded as a sourcing finding rather than as a front page: the English-language album carried no 3 Aban issue, so Iran's outward-facing English daily contributes nothing new to this cycle. The absence is worth filing because the English edition is the regime's chosen foreign-audience surface, and for a second consecutive cycle the war is kept off it in favour of multipolar-order material. The tourism item, a target of ten million annual Iran-Iraq trips printed while Baghdad is closing crossings, is the kind of divergence between the English and Persian surfaces this monitor tracks.

Hamshahri

Tehran municipality daily, centrist, owned by the Municipality of Tehran

“God's mercy has enveloped Iran”

«رحمت خدا ایران را فراگرفت»

LOW: no war content above the fold; rainfall led as national relief



- Main: «رحمت خدا ایران را فراگرفت», God's mercy has enveloped Iran, run over a full-width photograph of children with umbrellas in the rain, with the overline «رشد ۳۰ درصدی ذخایر سدهای کشور با بارش‌های اخیر», a 30 percent growth in the country's dam reserves from the recent rainfall, and the subhead «آب دریاچه ارومیه ۱۰ برابر شد و بسیاری از تالاب‌های کشور زنده شدند», Lake Urmia's water increased tenfold and many of the country's wetlands came back to life.
- Sub-item: four boxes beneath the photograph carry the numbers behind the lead: twelve provinces recorded increased rainfall with Golestan the largest at 28.8 millimetres; reservoir storage reached 24.8 billion cubic metres and passed even the ten-year average; Lake Urmia's extent is more than four times last year's; and the dried sections of the Choghakhor and Kani Barazan wetlands have been re-watered.
- Sub-item: «دیدار قاضی‌القضات با رهبر انقلاب», the Chief Justice's meeting with the Leader of the Revolution, with the deck listing the axes of the meeting as expanding justice, decisive struggle against corruption, tangible transformation of the judicial apparatus, and securing the people's rights from American-Zionist crimes. The item carries no photograph of the Leader.
- Sub-item: «گدایی ترامپ از جهان», Trump's begging from the world, decked as an eightfold account of the war's pressure on the United States' currency supply chain, raw materials and military industries.
- Op-ed: «امید از آسمان می‌بارد», hope rains from the sky, the left-column note reading the rainfall as a national-morale event rather than a hydrological one.
- Sub-item: «شایعه‌سازی در مسیر متروباس‌ها», rumour-manufacturing along the metrobus routes, with the Tehran mayor reporting a destructive effort aimed at creating ambiguity in public opinion.

ANALYST NOTE Hamshahri is the only front page in the batch whose lead is neither the war nor the economy, and the municipal daily's choice is the edition's clearest domestic-morale signal: after a cycle in which the reformist press reported drought across 77 percent of the country, the city paper leads on rainfall in explicitly theological language, «رحمت خدا», God's mercy. The numbers beneath it are specific enough to be checkable, which distinguishes this from decorative good news. Track whether the rain frame is picked up by the hardline titles in the next cycle, which would indicate a coordinated turn toward a non-war national subject rather than one paper's editorial judgment.

Vatan-e Emrooz

Hardline / principlist morning daily

HIGH: nuclear facilities framed as the subject of a formal ultimatum, with the Agency depicted as a damaged party

"The nuclear ultimatum" «اتمام حجت هسته‌ای»



- Main: «اتمام حجت هسته‌ای», the nuclear ultimatum (etmam-e hojjat, the formal discharging of an argument that leaves the other party without excuse), run over a photograph of a torn and perforated IAEA flag in front of the Agency's Vienna headquarters. The deck reports that Iran, Russia and China, in a joint statement stressing the illegality of a military attack on the nuclear facilities of safeguards-member states, warned of the consequences of such an action and in particular of the discrediting of international law and norms.
- Banner: «دیدار رئیس قوه قضاییه با رهبر انقلاب», the judiciary chief's meeting with the Leader of the Revolution, carried across the top of the page as a text line without a photograph.
- Kicker: «جنگ علیه ایران نامحبوب‌تر از جنگ علیه عراق», the war against Iran is more unpopular than the war against Iraq, attributed to the results of a new opinion poll of American respondents.
- Right rail: «زمستان سوزان», burning winter, a Vatan-e Emrooz report tying European energy costs to the opposition of foreign officials to a renewed American war on Iran.
- Right rail: «ترامپ روسپی اسرائیل», a crude formulation applied to the American president's relationship with the Zionist regime, which the deck attributes to a well-known American figure. The paper prints the phrase as a headline in its own right. This monitor records it as documented hostile rhetoric and does not identify the attributed speaker, whose name is not legible at the resolution available.
- Right rail: «سیلی بازار به روایت ترامپ», the market's slap as told by Trump, tagged ویژه, special, and built on American market figures.
- Op-ed: «کلاشینکف در تهران، ترقه در پاریس», a Kalashnikov in Tehran, a firecracker in Paris, a signed column contrasting Western coverage of the French protests with Western coverage of Iran's own street unrest.

> **ANALYST NOTE** Vatan-e Emrooz converts the day's multilateral diplomatic product into a hardline instrument: the Iran-Russia-China joint statement is printed not as a diplomatic opening but as «اتمام حجت», the formal exhaustion of argument that in Shi'a juridical usage licenses what follows. The imagery completes the move, an Agency flag shown shot through, which assigns the IAEA to the target set rather than the arbiter's chair. Note also that this is the hardline title that places the Leader's meeting on its masthead line, which is a legitimation choice, not a news choice. Track whether «اتمام حجت» recurs as a fixed formula, since in this press it has historically preceded rather than followed action.

A tattered, perforated IAEA flag flying in front of the Agency headquarters in Vienna, used as the lead image rather than a cartoon.

Javan

Hardline, IRGC-affiliated daily

“Exit from 'neither war nor peace' will not come through negotiation” «خروج از «نه جنگ نه صلح» با مذاکره نمی‌شود»

MODERATE-HIGH: negotiation publicly ruled out as the exit, with cost-imposition offered in its place



- Main: «خروج از «نه جنگ نه صلح» با مذاکره نمی‌شود», exit from 'neither war nor peace' will not come through negotiation, run as a full-height left-hand headline beside a drawn portrait of a bespectacled official at a microphone, with the caption «تغییر محاسبات دشمن راه خروج از «نه جنگ نه صلح»», changing the enemy's calculations is the way out of 'neither war nor peace'.
- Right rail: «رهبر معظم انقلاب در دیدار رئیس قوه قضائیه تأکید کردند: افزایش سرمایه اجتماعی نظام از طریق گسترش عدالت و مبارزه با فساد», the Leader of the Revolution emphasised in the meeting with the head of the judiciary that the system's social capital is increased through the expansion of justice and the struggle against corruption.
- Sub-item: a right-rail analysis on the erosion of American hegemony, built from the war's effect on the dollar and on energy routes.
- Sub-item: «شکست مهار اعتراضات با تجمع در ۲۰۰ نقطه فرانسه», the failure to contain the protests, with gatherings at 200 points across France.
- Sub-item: a bottom-of-page item on Iran's October position and what it says Washington is waiting for.
- Op-ed: a left-column editorial arguing that ambiguity itself is the adversary's instrument and that only a change in the enemy's cost calculation ends it.

ANALYST NOTE Javan supplies the rebuttal to the President on the same morning the President's remark leads four other front pages, and it does so without naming him: the Guard-affiliated daily accepts Pezeshkian's diagnosis, that «نه جنگ نه صلح» must end, and rejects his implied remedy, negotiation, substituting «تغییر محاسبات دشمن», changing the enemy's calculations, which in this register means raising the cost by military means. This is the sharpest intra-regime divergence recorded in this monitor for several cycles, and it is a divergence over method rather than over diagnosis, which is what makes it operationally meaningful. Track whether Javan escalates from rebutting the method to naming the official.

Sobh-e No

Principlist daily

MODERATE-HIGH: nuclear facilities declared off-limits by a bloc, while an Iranian daily endorses pressure on the Iraqi state

"Twelve countries warn Washington" «هشدار ۱۲ کشور به واشنگتن»



- Banner: «دیدار محسنی‌اژه‌ای با رهبر انقلاب», Mohseni-Ejei's meeting with the Leader of the Revolution, with the deck «رئیس قوه قضاییه با حضرت آیت‌الله سیدمجتبی حسینی خامنه‌ای دیدار و گفت‌وگو کرد», the head of the judiciary met and conversed with His Eminence Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei. This is the clearest printing of the Leader's full name in the batch and it is set as a masthead line, not as a news item.
- Main: «هشدار ۱۲ کشور به واشنگتن», twelve countries warn Washington, over the line «تأسیسات هسته‌ای تحت هیچ شرایطی نباید هدف قرار گیرند», nuclear facilities must under no circumstances be targeted.
- Sub-item: «تلاش اروپا برای خروج از انزوا», Europe's effort to escape isolation, over a photograph of eight foreign ministers in a line, decked as the European troika at the Istanbul meeting warning against a renewed attack on Iran while calling for nuclear negotiations with Iran.
- Sub-item: «ابوالفتح در گفت‌وگو با صبح نو: اروپا، فرصت مذاکره را از بین برد», the analyst Amirali Abolfath telling Sobh-e No that Europe destroyed the opportunity for negotiation by triggering the snapback mechanism, and that the diplomatic positions taken will not decisively affect Washington's decision.
- Right rail: «بیانیه قاطع مقاومت، دولت الزیدی را آچمز کرده است / حمایت مقاومت عراق از ایران», the resistance's categorical statement has placed the al-Zaidi government in zugzwang, Iraqi resistance support for Iran.
- Right rail: «اپوزیسیون با اعراب ائتلاف می‌کند؟», will the opposition form a coalition with the Arabs, an interview with the analyst Mehdi Gholami examining the Zionist regime's electoral situation.
- Right rail: «انزوای اشغالگر», the occupier's isolation, on a fifth European company withdrawing from the cable-car project in occupied Jerusalem.

ANALYST NOTE Two things on this page are worth more than its lead. The first is the masthead line: Sobh-e No prints «آیت‌الله سیدمجتبی حسینی خامنه‌ای» in full above its own nameplate, which is the most prominent placement of the sitting Leader's name this monitor has recorded, and it is still placed without a photograph. The second is the Iraq item, where a principlist Tehran daily openly celebrates armed factions having boxed in a sitting Iraqi prime minister whose published positions are that Iraq will not be party to any war and that no weapons will remain outside state authority by 30 June 2027. That is an Iranian outlet publicly siding with the challenge to a neighbouring government's monopoly of force. Track the al-Zaidi file as a named standing thread.

Sazandegi

Reformist, close to the Kargozaran party

"We are left to watch" «باید تماشا کنیم»

LOW-MODERATE: the war registered as paralysis rather than as threat



- Main: «باید تماشا کنیم», we are left to watch, run as the lead over a large photograph of President Masoud Pezeshkian in a Statistical Centre of Iran field jacket, with the deck «رئیس‌جمهور می‌گوید: باید برویم وضعیت نه جنگ، نه صلح را تماشا کنیم زیرا در بلاتکلیفی نمی‌توان برنامه‌ریزی کرد. ضرورت دارد از ابهام خارج شویم», the President says we must go and watch the 'neither war nor peace' situation because one cannot plan in limbo, and it is necessary to come out of ambiguity.
- Sub-item: «هزینه همسایگی», the cost of neighbourliness, on what the economic constriction of Iran's neighbours costs those neighbours.
- Sub-item: «فرصت تازه کیش», a new opportunity for Kish, on the island's position under the transit disruption.
- Op-ed: «از دولت متحمل به دولت توانمند», from an enduring government to a capable one, a signed column arguing that endurance has been mistaken for policy.
- Banner: a top strip of short items including municipal budget disagreement in the Tehran city council and parliamentary pressure items.

ANALYST NOTE Sazandegi performs the sharpest editorial operation in the batch: it takes the same Pezeshkian remark that the government daily, Etemad and Jomhouri-ye Eslami print as a call to act, and renders it as resignation, «باید تماشا کنیم», we are left to watch. The verb is the President's own, lifted from the clause about watching the situation, and the paper's framing strips the imperative around it. This is a reformist outlet using the President's words against the government's posture, which is a different register from the Guard daily's rebuttal on the same morning. The two attacks converge on the same target from opposite directions, and that convergence is the finding.

Charsoo

Economic daily, third year of publication, not carried in this monitor's standing recognition reference

LOW-MODERATE: war cost registered as domestic safety and tariff failure

"The people's lives, or the profitability of the aviation mafia?" «جان مردم یا سودآوری مافیای هوایی؟»



- Main: «جان مردم یا سودآوری مافیای هوایی؟», the people's lives or the profitability of the aviation mafia, over a photograph of a line of stored airliners in a desert boneyard, with the overline «هشدارهای پنج ساله درباره ایمنی امدی‌ها», five years of warnings about the safety of the MD fleet.
- Sub-item: «نفت ۱۱۶ دلاری و تله دیپلماسی نمایشی واشنگتن», 116 oil and the trap of Washington's performative diplomacy, arguing that Araghchi and his team must not negotiate from intimidation.
- Sub-item: «تورم ارتباطات در دولت پزشکیان ۶ برابر شد», communications inflation under the Pezeshkian government has risen sixfold, carried with a bar chart of the series.
- Op-ed: a cartoon captioned «هواپیمای فرسوده، مدیران آسوده», worn-out aircraft, untroubled managers, showing a wrecked MD-series airframe with a face and an official pushing at it beside a 'danger of crash' road sign.
- Banner: masthead line «یکشنبه ۳ آبان ۱۴۰۵ · ۱۴ جمادی‌الاول ۱۴۴۸ · October 25 2026 · سال سوم · شماره ۵۰۹», which fixes the batch's date against the Gregorian and Hijri calendars.

> **ANALYST NOTE** Charsoo is the one title in the batch that prices the war without mentioning it: the aviation lead is a safety story on its face, but the mechanism underneath it is the currency and parts constriction that the same page quantifies elsewhere, and a sister item on this cycle's wires puts domestic airfares up roughly 45 percent in a month after carriers lost access to the exchange-centre rate. The paper also supplies this edition's lower oil print, $116 against the $117 that four front pages carried in the previous cycle, which is the first downward move in the monitored oil series. Track the oil number across the next two cycles: it has been the hardline press's principal evidence of leverage, and a falling series removes that evidence.

A rusted MD-series airliner drawn with a weary face, propped up beside a 'danger of crash' road sign while an official in a suit pushes against it; captioned «هواپیمای فرسوده، مدیران آسوده».

Ta'adol

Economic daily, published by the Iran Chamber of Commerce network

“Reading the signs in the fall of global gold” «نشانه‌شناسی افت طلای جهانی»

MODERATE: war-risk premium leaving gold while the chokepoint premium stays in oil


تعادل

نشانه‌شناسی افت طلای جهانی

باید از وضعیت نه جنگ، نه صلح خارج شویم

- Main: «نشانه‌شناسی افت طلای جهانی», reading the signs in the fall of global gold, over the line «عقب‌نشینی اونس از قله ۵۴۰۰ دلاری به زیر چهار هزار دلار», the ounce retreating from its $5,400 peak to below four thousand dollars.
- Sub-item: «باید از وضعیت «نه جنگ، نه صلح» خارج شویم», we must exit the 'neither war nor peace' situation, captioned beneath a photograph of President Pezeshkian speaking at a podium beside the national flag.
- Banner: «هشدار بخش خصوصی درباره طرح ساماندهی فضای مجازی / قانون جدید نباید تنظیم‌گر موازی بسازد», a private-sector warning that the new cyberspace bill must not create a parallel regulator.
- Kicker: «مجرمان سایبری، کلاهبرداری با تجارت پنهان», cyber criminals and fraud conducted through concealed trade, reported alongside a decline in social trust.
- Sub-item: «ساز ناکوک بورس», the stock exchange out of tune, and a separate item on a plan to rescue the capital's finances.
- Sub-item: a page-bottom package on pressure in the commodity market and on an economy operating in darkness.

ANALYST NOTE Ta'adol prints the edition's most important number and the hardline press ignores it: gold has fallen from a $5,400 peak to under $4,000, a move the security-council-linked wire separately calls «ریزش سنگین طلا», a heavy collapse in gold. Read against oil at $116, the two series are now moving in opposite directions, which means the market is pricing out the probability of a wider war while continuing to price in the physical closure of the waterway. That distinction cuts against the leverage argument that the hardline titles have built on the oil print for five cycles, and no Iranian front page in this batch attempts to reconcile the two. Track whether any hardline outlet addresses the gold series at all.

Etemad

Reformist daily

MODERATE-HIGH: the doctrinal warrant for ending the stalemate sourced to the assassinated predecessor

"Negotiation from a position of strength" «مذاکره از موضع قدرت»



- Banner: «رئیس‌جمهور تأکید کرد: شرایط «نه جنگ، نه صلح» باید تمام شود», the President emphasised that the 'neither war nor peace' condition must end, with the deck «رهبر شهید همواره رهنمود و دستور می‌دادند که باید از وضعیت «نه جنگ، نه صلح» خارج شویم و به این مخمصه پایان دهیم», the martyred Leader always gave guidance and instruction that we must leave the 'neither war nor peace' condition and put an end to this predicament.
- Main: «مذاکره از موضع قدرت», negotiation from a position of strength, an interview with the philosopher Bijan Abdolkarimi on ways out of the suspended condition, decked «اگر قدرت نداشته باشیم نمی‌توانیم معادله را حل کنیم؛ بنابراین دیپلماسی زمانی کارآمد است که با قدرت بالا و تعادل نیروها انجام شود», if we have no power we cannot solve the equation, so diplomacy is effective only when conducted with high power and a balance of forces.
- Sub-item: «زورآزمایی «بی‌بی» و ژنرال», the trial of strength between 'Bibi' and the General, a report filed from Israel on the contest between Benjamin Netanyahu and the retired chief of staff Gadi Eisenkot ahead of the 27 October ballot.
- Sub-item: «کرختی روانی جامعه», society's psychological numbness, on the cumulative effect of the war on the population.
- Op-ed: «نقد جدی «قدرت» به زبان طنز و تئاتر», a serious critique of power in the language of satire and theatre.
- Right rail: a stacked «یادداشت‌ها», notes, column of signed short commentaries, the paper's standing format.

ANALYST NOTE The most consequential sentence on this page is in small type: the President grounds his demand to end «نه جنگ، نه صلح» in the instruction of «رهبر شهید», the martyred Leader, not of the sitting one, on the same morning that the sitting Leader appears on four front pages through the judiciary meeting. Reaching past a living Supreme Leader to a dead one for doctrinal authority on the central question of war and peace is a legitimation move with no precedent in this monitor's record, and it is printed by a reformist paper that benefits from making it visible. Read alongside Abdolkarimi's argument that diplomacy without power is void, the page argues for negotiation and concedes the hardline premise in the same breath.

Jomhouri-ye Eslami

Traditional establishment daily, founded in the Islamic Republic Party tradition

“The President: passing beyond 'neither war nor peace', we must set ourselves to building Iran” «رئیس‌جمهور: با عبور از وضعیت نه جنگ نه صلح باید برای ساختن ایران همت کنیم»

MODERATE: deterrence asserted through foreign sourcing rather than by Iranian commanders


جمهوری اسلامی

رئیس‌جمهور: با عبور از وضعیت نه جنگ نه صلح باید برای ساختن ایران همت کنیم

توان نظامی و موشکی ایران محاسبات اسرائیل برای حمله دوباره را پیچیده کرده است

ایران خانه تمامی نیست

شهید مظلوم آیت‌الله بهشتی:

- Main: «رئیس‌جمهور: با عبور از وضعیت نه جنگ نه صلح باید برای ساختن ایران همت کنیم», the President saying that by passing beyond the 'neither war nor peace' condition the country must set itself to building Iran, over a photograph of Pezeshkian addressing a hall at the launch of the 1405 general population and housing census.
- Sub-item: «رسانه‌های خارجی: توان نظامی و موشکی ایران محاسبات اسرائیل برای حمله دوباره را پیچیده کرده است», foreign media saying Iran's military and missile capability has complicated Israel's calculations for a renewed attack. The paper sources the deterrence claim outward rather than to its own commanders.
- Sub-item: «دادگاه ترکیه حکم بازداشت نتانیاهو و وزیران صهیونیست را تمدید کرد», a Turkish court extended the arrest warrant for Netanyahu and Zionist ministers.
- Sub-item: «سرشماری عمومی نفوس و مسکن ۱۴۰۵», the 1405 general population and housing census, reported as the occasion of the President's remarks and as a new lower-cost method.
- Banner: «عبور مطمئن از زمستان مستلزم مصرف متوازن برق و گاز است», safe passage through the winter requires balanced electricity and gas consumption, and on the other shoulder «افزایش اعتبار صندوق بیماران خاص و صعب‌العلاج», an increase in the fund for patients with special and intractable illnesses.
- Sub-item: «توزیع بیش از ۲۱۸ هزار بسته لوازم‌التحریر در سیستان و بلوچستان», more than 218,000 stationery packages distributed in Sistan and Baluchestan, printed as evidence of a functioning state.
- Op-ed: a page-foot commemorative column on «شهید مظلوم آیت‌الله بهشتی», the wronged martyr Ayatollah Beheshti, printed beneath his portrait.

ANALYST NOTE Jomhouri-ye Eslami gives the President's remark its most constructive reading in the batch, «همت برای ساختن ایران», setting ourselves to build Iran, and pairs it with the census, which is the state publishing an intention to count and plan. The deterrence claim is handled with unusual care: rather than quoting an Iranian commander, the paper attributes the judgement that Iran's missile capability complicates Israeli planning to «رسانه‌های خارجی», foreign media, which is weaker as evidence and more defensible as a claim. The Turkish warrant item is the second Turkey datum in two cycles, after the Razi border agreement, and Ankara is becoming this press's preferred third party.

Agency wires (Defa Press, Fars News, Nour News, Jam-e Jam channel)

Wire services and outlet channels, used for corroboration and threat-signal context rather than as front pages

HIGH: Lebanon re-enters with a kinetic event, the Yemen-Saudi front closes Gulf airspace, and a new tanker-mine claim appears

"Widespread Zionist-regime demolition and explosions in Lebanon" «تخریب و انفجار گسترده رژیم صهیونیستی در لبنان»

- Main: Defa Press reports «تخریب و انفجار گسترده رژیم صهیونیستی در لبنان», large-scale Israeli demolitions and detonations in the border town of Khiam in southern Lebanon. This is the first kinetic Lebanon item in the monitored set for seven cycles. Recorded as the agency's claim.
- Sub-item: Defa Press reports «حمله پهپادی به مقر گروه‌های جدایی‌طلب در شمال عراق», a drone strike on the headquarters of separatist groups northeast of Erbil, attributed to unnamed Iraqi Kurdish security sources and not naming the group; the Vatan-e Emrooz channel carries the same event as an IRGC strike on a Komala base at Balisan. The group name appears on one surface only.
- Sub-item: the Iran newspaper's channel reports two sanctioned supertankers exploding after striking mines, without stating a location. The IRGC claim of 23 October placed two supertankers carrying 4.5 million barrels in total on mines in the southern Strait with crews abandoning ship; independent monitoring had found no substantiation for the preceding claims in this series. Recorded as an unverified Iranian claim.
- Sub-item: the Yemen-Saudi front escalated across several wires in one cycle: a ballistic missile launched from Yemen at Riyadh which the Saudi-led coalition says it intercepted, air-raid sirens in Riyadh, a drone attack on the Saudi capital hours after the airport reopened, Saudi air strikes on al-Turba in Taiz, explosions in Aden and Lahij, and a reported Saudi strike on workers' housing in Sanaa with eight dead. Canada warned its citizens away from Riyadh and Dammam airports; Indian and Pakistani carriers extended flight suspensions; the Asian Football Confederation moved its tournament.
- Sub-item: Fars News carries a Kuwaiti citizen's video saying «مسدود شدن تنگه هرمز ما را بیچاره کرده است», the closure of the Strait of Hormuz has ruined us, with food and livestock scarce and prices doubled, published by an IRGC-affiliated wire as evidence of the closure's bite.
- Sub-item: named Western voices were carried as Iranian evidence of alliance strain: Barack Obama saying in a video clip that Iran has acquired a veto over the Strait of Hormuz, and Senator Chris Van Hollen warning that «جنگ غیرقانونی ترامپ با ایران در حال تبدیل شدن به جنگ ابدی بعدی ماست», Trump's illegal war with Iran is becoming our next forever war.
- Sub-item: Nour News, linked to the Supreme National Security Council, published no imminence material this cycle; its only security item was a video titled «مأموریت عاصم منیر: مهار جنگ یا آزمون خطوط قرمز ایران؟», the mission of Asim Munir, containing a war or testing Iran's red lines, revisiting the Pakistani army chief's 20 October Tehran visit. The Russian embassy in Tehran denied reports that its staff and Russian specialists were being evacuated from the Bushehr nuclear plant.
- Sub-item: the Etemad Online channel carried a figure it describes as a former adviser to the foreign minister saying «تا ۹ آبان خبری از جنگ نیست», there will be no war until 9 Aban, which is 31 October, while warning that the risk of attack rises after that date. Single-source and uncorroborated; filed for its date boundary rather than its authority.
- Sub-item: the IRGC spokesman told the Jam-e Jam channel that the United States «در تأمین امنیت و بازگشایی تنگه با چالش مواجه شد», has met difficulty in securing and reopening the Strait,

and the IRIB head Peyman Jebelli told a rally in Arak that the state will not leave the field until the martyred Imam is avenged and that «امت در کنار رهبر عظیم‌الشأن خود ایستاده», the nation stands beside its Leader of great standing.

> **ANALYST NOTE** The wires carry this cycle's hard events while the front pages carry its argument, and the distribution is itself the signal. Three things happened on the wires that no front page in the batch leads on: Lebanon re-entered the monitored set with a kinetic event after seven quiet cycles, the Yemen-Saudi exchange escalated to the point of closing Gulf airspace to foreign carriers, and the tanker-mine series acquired a successor claim. Against that, the surface that mattered most in the previous cycle went quiet: Nour News, which distributed the 'zero hour' imminence warning, published nothing of the kind today. Track the Bushehr evacuation denial, since a denial of that specificity implies a circulating report worth locating.

Kayhan

Hardline daily close to the Leader's office and the IRGC, managing editor Hossein Shariatmadari; read this cycle from the paper's own channel listing

SEVERE: the chokepoint closure claimed as Iran's own sanctions regime, with the Gulf declared within range

"$117 oil is only the beginning of the road; above and below the Persian Gulf are within Iran's range" «نفت ۱۱۷ دلاری آغاز راه است؛ زیر و روی خلیج فارس در تیررس ایران»

- Main: «117$,نفت ۱۱۷ دلاری آغاز راه است؛ زیر و روی خلیج فارس در تیررس ایران» oil is only the beginning of the road, with the surface and the depths of the Persian Gulf within Iran's range, which pairs the price claim with an explicit statement of target coverage.
- Op-ed: «این ۷ از آن ۴۷ بزرگ‌تر است», this seven is greater than that forty-seven, a signed column by Hossein Shariatmadari arguing that seven months of Iranian pressure through the closure of the Strait have cost the United States more than forty-seven years of American sanctions cost Iran, and calling the closure «هدیه الهی», a divine gift. The column cites physical cargo prices reaching $145 and reports that Saudi Aramco's chief executive did not rule out $200.
- Sub-item: «حمله به ایران، پروژه ترامپ برای تسلط بر انرژی جهان را واژگون کرد», the attack on Iran overturned Trump's project for mastery of world energy.
- Sub-item: «دیدار رئیس قوه قضائیه با رهبر معظم انقلاب», the judiciary chief's meeting with the Leader of the Revolution.
- Sub-item: «صدور فرمان سرکوب همزمان با استقرار تک‌تیراندازها», a repression order issued alongside the deployment of snipers, and «فرانسوی‌ها با توپ پر برگشتند», the French came back loaded for a fight, on the French protests.
- Sub-item: «روایت‌هایی از زندگی شهیده مهسا طاهری», accounts of the life of the martyr Mahsa Taheri, described by the paper as the first woman martyr of Iran's missile industry. This monitor records the description as the outlet's claim; it is not independently corroborated in the monitored set.
- Sub-item: «قیمت‌ها در آمریکا همچنان صعودی است» and «زور ترامپ به کود و گازوئیل نرسید», Trump's strength did not reach fertiliser and diesel, and prices in America continue to climb.

> **ANALYST NOTE** Shariatmadari's column is the most consequential text in the edition because it abandons the defensive framing entirely: the closure of the Strait is described not as a response to a blockade but as Iran's own sanctions regime, measured in months against the forty-seven years of the American one and called a divine gift. That is an Iranian admission of agency over the closure, published by the outlet closest to the Leader's office, and it removes the ambiguity this monitor flagged in the previous cycle when the same closure appeared in the principlist press as something done to Iran. The price ladder the column builds, $145 physical and an Aramco chief executive unwilling to rule out $200, is the escalation argument's quantitative spine, and it is the one the economic press's gold series now contradicts.

Appendix A - The Leader's message to the judiciary, 2-3 Aban 1405

Reconstructed from the judiciary's own account (Mizan Online) and the Leader's office statement as relayed by Iranian and international agencies, and from the decks printed on the front pages of Hamshahri, Vatan-e Emrooz, Javan, Sobh-e No and Kayhan for 3 Aban 1405. No primary speech text, photograph or recording was published.

Editorial note on status: this is a reconstruction, not a translation of a released text. The Leader, «حضرت آیت‌الله سیدمجتبی حسینی خامنه‌ای» as Sobh-e No prints the name in full on its masthead line, has not appeared in public since the succession, and communicates through written messages. Neither the time nor the place of this meeting was disclosed, and no photograph accompanied the item on any front page in this batch. What follows renders the substance as the judiciary and the Leader's office published it.

On the purpose of the judiciary: the system's social capital is increased through the expansion of justice and the struggle against corruption. Javan prints this as the meeting's headline finding: «افزایش سرمایه اجتماعی نظام از طریق گسترش عدالت و مبارزه با فساد». Hamshahri lists the axes of the meeting as the expansion of justice, decisive struggle against corruption, tangible transformation of the judicial apparatus, and the securing of the people's rights.

On corruption: the struggle is to be decisive («مبارزه قاطع با فساد») and is to address the bottlenecks that obstruct it, not only individual cases. Cases are to be handled quickly and rulings enforced promptly, so that enforcement itself carries deterrent effect.

On official accountability: where a failure to perform a duty amounts to an offence, the officials responsible are to be held to account. The instruction extends the judiciary's reach from citizens to office-holders.

On method: advanced technologies are to be used to monitor the implementation of laws and to improve the management of public-sector institutions.

On the war: the judiciary is directed to pursue the recovery of rights and compensation for the material and moral damages arising from what the statement calls the crimes of the American-Zionist criminals («جنایات آمریکایی - صهیونیستی»). Press renderings describe this as a direction to pursue reparations for the damages of the American and Israeli war.

Analyst flag: the reparations instruction is the operative novelty. It converts the war's damage from a grievance into a docket, assigns it to a standing institution with a named head, and creates a process that will outlast any ceasefire. The judicial-reform material around it is conventional and has appeared in comparable meetings for years; the compensation line has not. Note also what the message does not contain: no reference to negotiations, no reference to the Strait, and no doctrinal statement on the nuclear file, on a morning when all three dominated the front pages.

Verification note: the meeting is attested by the judiciary's own outlet and by the Leader's office, and was reported by international agencies on 24 October. It rests on official Iranian accounts; there is no independent confirmation that the meeting occurred as described, and no imagery. Source line: Mizan Online and the Leader's office, relayed by Iranian and international agencies, 2 Aban 1405; front-page decks, Hamshahri, Vatan-e Emrooz, Javan, Sobh-e No and the Kayhan channel listing, 3 Aban 1405.

Appendix B - Kayhan, «این ۷ از آن ۴۷ بزرگ‌تر است», by Hossein Shariatmadari

Kayhan, column tagged #نکته rather than the paper's standing «یادداشت روز» slot; retrieved from the paper's own channel listing for the cycle of 3 Aban 1405. The full verbatim Persian text was not retrievable at compile time.

Author verification: Hossein Shariatmadari («حسین شریعتمداری») is Kayhan's managing editor, appointed to the post by the Leader's office, and the by-line is the paper's own. The column ran under the paper's #نکته tag, not in the «یادداشت روز» slot this monitor usually draws on; the distinction is recorded because the slot carries different institutional weight.

The column opens by directing the reader back to a quoted statement of «رهبر شهید», the martyred Leader, with the instruction «نگاهی بیندازید», take a look. The rhetorical structure is retrospective vindication: the predecessor is said to have foreseen the present position.

Its central claim is arithmetic. Seven months of pressure applied by Iran, it argues, have cost the United States and Europe more than forty-seven years of American sanctions cost Iran. The title states the equation directly: this seven is greater than that forty-seven.

The instrument of those seven months is named without euphemism. The closure of the Strait of Hormuz is called «هدیه الهی», a divine gift. The column does not describe the closure as a response to an American blockade; it describes it as Iran's own sanctions regime, imposed by Iran, working as intended.

The evidentiary ladder is price. The column cites physical cargo prices reaching $145 a barrel, above the $116 to $117 screen prices carried on the day's other front pages, and reports that the chief executive of Saudi Aramco did not rule out $200.

Analyst flag: this is the edition's most significant text, and its significance is an admission rather than a threat. In the previous cycle this monitor recorded the principlist press conceding, in body text only, that traffic through the Strait had stopped and that Trump had ordered a prolonged blockade of Iranian ports, leaving the question of agency ambiguous. Shariatmadari removes the ambiguity from the direction closest to the Leader's office: the closure is Iranian policy, claimed as such, and valued. The attendant risk to the argument is that it is now wholly dependent on the price series, which the economic press's gold print on the same morning cuts against.

Verification note: the price figures and the attributed Aramco remark are the column's claims and are not corroborated elsewhere in the monitored set. Second-hand renderings of Western statements carried by this outlet are not to be reproduced as authentic without primary-source confirmation. Source line: Kayhan, column tagged #نکته, managing editor Hossein Shariatmadari, as listed on the paper's channel, 3 Aban 1405.

Appendix C - Methodology and sourcing notes

Iran Press Intelligence Monitor compilation record for 3 Aban 1405

Scan coverage. Nine Persian front pages were retrieved from the kiosk album for 3 Aban 1405 and read in full: Hamshahri, Vatan-e Emrooz, Javan, Sobh-e No, Sazandegi, Charsoo, Ta'adol, Etemad and Jomhouri-ye Eslami. The album's own printed Jalali date matched the target date, and the Charsoo masthead independently fixes the batch at 3 Aban 1405, 14 Jumada al-Awwal 1448, 25 October 2026.

English-language coverage. The English kiosk album did not refresh for this cycle: the issue it carried is Iran Daily Vol 6246 of Saturday 24 October, Aban 02, which this monitor analysed in the previous edition. It is recorded here as a sourcing finding and excluded from the headline table rather than presented as a new front page. Tehran Times was not available at the time of compilation.

Text-channel coverage. Six newspaper channels and three agency wires were read: Kayhan, Vatan-e Emrooz, Jam-e Jam, Etemad Online, Iran and Sobh-e No as dailies, and Defa Press, Fars News and Nour News as agencies. Kayhan did not reach the kiosk album for a second consecutive cycle and is analysed from its own channel listing, which is marked in its entry. Agency material is folded into the trends, judgments and the wire register, and is not presented as front-page content.

Identification. Masthead identification was made by vision against this monitor's recognition reference and checked against each paper's printed date line. Charsoo is not carried in the standing reference and is identified from its own masthead and tagline as an economic daily in its third year, issue 509.

Named-figure verification. The following were verified against sources outside the Iranian press: Gholam-Hossein Mohseni-Ejei as head of the judiciary and the fact and substance of his meeting with the Leader; Gadi Eisenkot as the principal opposition challenger to Benjamin Netanyahu in the Israeli ballot of 27 October, which identifies the 'General' of Etemad's headline; Ali al-Zaidi as prime minister of Iraq since 14 May 2026, together with his published positions that Iraq will not be party to any war and that no weapons are to remain outside state authority by 30 June 2027; Mehrdad Akhlaghi Ketabchi as the defence-minister nominee put forward on 5 October to fill the post left vacant when Aziz Nasirzadeh was killed in February; Asim Munir as the Pakistani army chief whose Tehran visit of 20 October ended without agreement; and Amirali Abolfath as the Iranian analyst of American affairs interviewed by Sobh-e No.

Single-source and unverified items, flagged. The claim that two sanctioned supertankers struck mines rests on IRGC statements of 23 October and on the Iran newspaper's channel; independent monitoring found no substantiation for the preceding claims in the same series, and no vessel has been identified. The drone strike northeast of Erbil is reported by Defa Press from unnamed Iraqi Kurdish security sources without naming the group; only the Vatan-e Emrooz channel names Komala. The forecast that there will be no war until 9 Aban rests on a single channel item attributed to a figure described as a former adviser to the foreign minister, and no corroboration was found; it is filed for its date boundary, not for its authority. Kayhan's description of Mahsa Taheri as the first woman martyr of Iran's missile industry is the outlet's claim and is uncorroborated here. The price figures of $145 physical and a possible $200 in the Shariatmadari column are that column's claims.

Attribution firewall. Iranian military and battle-damage claims are recorded as claims throughout and are not adopted. Renderings of Western officials' statements carried in Iranian outlets, including those attributed to Barack Obama and to Senator Chris Van Hollen, are reported as those outlets' renderings

and are not to be reproduced as authentic without primary-source confirmation. The crude formulation Vatan-e Emrooz prints about the American president is documented as hostile rhetoric for defensive assessment; the figure to whom the paper attributes it is not named here because the attribution line was not legible at the resolution available, and this monitor does not supply a name it cannot read.

Succession evidence. The sitting Leader's identity continues to rest on the printed name rather than on imagery. In this batch Sobh-e No prints «حضرت آیت‌الله سیدمجتبی حسینی خامنه‌ای» in full on its masthead line; no front page in the batch carries a photograph of him, and the office has released no imagery or recording since the succession. Where a page prints only «رهبر انقلاب» or «رهبر معظم انقلاب», this monitor reads it as the sitting Leader, and reads «رهبر شهید» and «امام شهید» as the assassinated predecessor.

Corrections and carried threads. The previous edition judged that the seven-vessel interdiction claim of 22 October had no successor; a successor claim exists, dated 23 October and surfacing in this cycle's wires, and that judgment is updated accordingly. The previous edition recorded Lebanon as absent from the monitored set for a sixth consecutive cycle; Lebanon returns in this cycle on the Defa Press wire with a kinetic report from Khiam, and the absence thread is closed.

Handling. This product documents and analyses hostile foreign-press rhetoric for defensive assessment only. Nothing herein endorses, amplifies or operationalises it. Translations are editorial and keep the original script alongside; honorifics and loaded regime vocabulary are rendered as printed and placed in quotation marks where they carry the outlet's framing rather than a fact.

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.