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THE BORROWED WARRANT EDITION

Nine Iranian front pages of 4 Aban 1405 read in full, together with five newspaper channels and three agency wires. Kayhan, Sobh-e No, Etemad, the Iran newspaper and Vatan-e Emrooz are read from their own channels because their pages did not reach the kiosk album in readable form. The English-language album refreshed after two stale cycles. Tehran Times was not available at the time of compilation.

Front pages published the morning of 26 October 2026, reflecting events through late 25 October local

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



Executive Summary

The lead judgment of this edition is that the Iranian press has adopted an adversary's words as its own strategic doctrine, and that it did so across institutional lines within forty-eight hours. Speaking in Cleveland on Saturday 24 October for the Democratic candidates Sherrod Brown and Amy Acton, Barack Obama attacked the Trump administration's war and said that Iran now has veto power over the Strait of Hormuz, where oil goes through to get to the world, and that this is the reason the price of oil is up. By Monday morning the sentence is on five Iranian surfaces in four different institutional lanes. Seda-ye Iran, published by the office for the preservation and publication of the Leader's works, gives its entire front page to «حق وتویی به نام تنگه هرمز», a right of veto by the name of the Strait of Hormuz, under the kicker «تأملی بر اعتراف تاریخی اوباما», a reflection on Obama's historic confession. Jam-e Jam, the state broadcaster's daily, prints «اوباما: ایران قدرت وتو دارد». Javan, the Guard-affiliated daily, prints «اوباما: حق وتوی هرمز را به ایران دادیم», we gave Iran the veto over Hormuz. The government's own paper prints «حق وتوی ایران بر شریان نفت جهان», Iran's right of veto over the world's oil artery. Vatan-e Emrooz carries the same material under «ایران قدرتمندتر شده است». Four institutional lanes printing one borrowed formula in one cycle indicates centrally guided message discipline rather than organic editorial convergence.

The significance is in what the borrowing does to a claim this monitor has been tracking for three cycles. Two editions ago the principlist press conceded in body text that Hormuz traffic had stopped and left the agency ambiguous. One edition ago Kayhan's managing editor closed that ambiguity from the hardline side, claiming the closure as Iran's own instrument and calling it «هدیه الهی», a divine gift. Today the same claim is republished with an American warrant attached, which converts a boast into a finding and makes it very much harder to walk back. It also changes who the claim is for: a divine gift is addressed to the faithful, a confession extracted from the enemy is addressed to everyone else. Note what the formula quietly does to the facts: Obama said the war had handed Iran a veto, as an indictment of the administration that started it. The Iranian pages print the veto and drop the indictment's premise, which is that the leverage is a product of American failure rather than of Iranian design.

The cycle's principal domestic event is that the Islamic Consultative Assembly resumed regular plenary business. Nobonyad's front page dates it precisely: «پس از دیدار قالیباف با رهبر انقلاب، صحن علنی مجلس پس از ۸ ماه تعطیلی و مشکلات متعدد جلسات مجازی بازگشایی شد», after Ghalibaf's meeting with the Leader of the Revolution, the public floor of parliament reopened after eight months of closure and the many problems of virtual sessions. Jam-e Jam confirms it as «نخستین جلسه حضوری مجلس بعد از جنگ». Sobh-e No's front-page headline is simply «جلسه علنی در صحن». Qods runs a wide photograph of the chamber. Jomhouri-ye Eslami carries the first legislative product, a schedule of penalties for unauthorised residence by foreign nationals. The eight-month figure is the paper's own and counts from the suspension of 28 February, passing over the single in-person sitting of 12 July; the accurate description is the resumption of regular plenary business, not the first sitting since the war. The causal claim printed on the page is the striking part: the chamber reopened because the Speaker went to see the Leader, which assigns a legislature's own procedure to an audience with an office-holder no one has seen.

The restoration is not being celebrated uniformly, and the quarrel is inside the principlist camp. Nobonyad, a principlist paper, uses the morning of the Speaker's success to run, in the box above its own lead, the charge «شاکی رسایی مجلس نبود؛ رئیس مجلس بود», Rasaei's plaintiff was not the

parliament, it was the Speaker of parliament. Hojjat al-Islam Hamid Rasaei, elected third on the Tehran list, began a ten-month sentence on 27 September after a complaint by Mohammad-Baqer Ghalibaf, and is the first sitting member of the Iranian parliament imprisoned during his term; Rasaei is a declared opponent of renewed talks with Washington and Ghalibaf is read by part of the principlist camp as favouring them. Qods, from the opposite side, complains on its own front page that «بازگشت جلسات مجلس به صحن علنی با حاشیه‌سازی یک رسانه خاص همراه شد», that the return of sessions to the chamber was accompanied by one particular outlet manufacturing a side-issue, under the headline «رسانه سیاست‌زده و نشاندن دعوای سیاسی به جای منافع ملی». Read together the two pages are a live factional fight about the Speaker, conducted in print on the day of his restoration.

The hardest fact of the cycle is on the wires and on no front page. The foreign ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei, carried by Defa Press and Fars News and independently reported by Reuters through the Etemad Online channel, says that the Saudi defence minister, Pakistan's army chief and Turkey's intelligence chief will attend a joint meeting in Tehran with the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council. Fars and Nour News publish a photograph of a Saudi C-130 Hercules transport at Mehrabad airport, which is the only physical corroboration available. This is three American-aligned regional militaries putting their most senior security principals on the ground in Tehran, and it is carried as agency copy while nine front pages lead on a borrowed slogan, on a reopened chamber, on European looting and on the fuel-savings dividend. The gap between the significance of the event and its placement is the single clearest editorial signal in the batch.

Against the leverage argument, the Iranian economic press continues to price what the political press narrates, and the vocabulary it uses has sharpened. Ta'adol leads on «سایه سنگین ابهام روی بازار سرمایه», the heavy shadow of ambiguity over the capital market, choosing ambiguity rather than loss as the market's dominant condition, and runs a signed column headed «روز صفر نفتی؛ اقتصاد ایران تا کجا دوام می‌آورد؟», oil zero day: how far can Iran's economy hold out. The security-council-linked wire quotes gold back near $4,000 an ounce after the collapse from a $5,400 peak that led the economic press one cycle ago, and the Etemad channel carries oil at the same $117 it carried a week ago. The most awkward datum is printed by a hardline paper: Vatan-e Emrooz carries a Middle East Eye citation of Kpler data showing regional exports back at pre-war levels, with some analysts treating the price move as a temporary spike. No page in the batch reconciles a veto over the world's oil artery with a price that has stopped moving and an export series that has recovered.

Four papers have replaced a claim of military victory with a claim about their adversaries' elections, and the substitution has a date on it. Nobonyad's front-page column by the journalist Mohsen Pourdadfar, «نتانیاهو میان آوار جنگ و خشم صهیونیست‌ها», argues that three years of multi-front war with full American backing has left Netanyahu facing a crisis of public confidence, bereaved families' protests, a split in his own camp and the charge of exploiting the Iranian threat for votes. Qods prints the same argument about both leaders as «فاتحان خیالی تهران، بازندگان احتمالی انتخابات», the imaginary conquerors of Tehran and the probable losers of the elections. Jam-e Jam's deck says the war has upset American political equations before the congressional elections and freed the hands of Trump's domestic critics. Nobonyad's international page prints it as the Democrats' revolt. The Israeli ballot falls on 27 October, with polling through the final week showing Netanyahu and the retired chief of staff Gadi Eisenkot close and neither bloc near a majority, and the American midterms fall on 3 November. The Etemad channel meanwhile reports Trump posting a direct appeal to Israelis to vote for Netanyahu, citing the strikes on Iran's nuclear programme.

Two softening signals appear in the batch and neither is owned by an Iranian official. Jomhouri-ye Eslami prints, attributed to unnamed European diplomatic sources, that Germany, France and Britain

have prepared a proposal to put to both Iran and the United States, describing a phased scheme reaching negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear agreement and the settlement of sanctions and frozen assets, alongside a Chinese call for the Agency's examination of the Iranian file to stop. The same page boxes «آمریکا درصدد برقرار کردن کاپیتولاسیون جدید در ایران!», America is seeking to establish a new capitulation in Iran, invoking the 1964 immunity law whose passage produced the founder's exile, and Javan independently runs «مراقب کاپیتولاسیون دیجیتال باشیم» on its own rail. Pairing an exit with the grievance that makes exits suspect is how this press has handled every opening in this record. In the other direction, a commentary on the Sobh-e No channel raises, as a conditional, a change in Iran's nuclear doctrine in the event of an American tactical strike: the softest available way of putting that question back on a principlist page.

The Iraqi file moved materially. Iran Daily's exclusive interview reports that Shalamcheh, the crossing Iranian officials recommended as the alternative when al-Sheeb, known in Iran as Chazabeh, closed on 21 October, is now itself closed on the stated grounds of technical problems, with passengers from both countries stranded and southern Iraqi local authorities negotiating with Khuzestan to reopen it. Kayhan and Jam-e Jam both report Iraqi street protests against the Chazabeh closure in Maysan province, which is a different posture from the one this monitor recorded one cycle ago, when Sobh-e No was welcoming armed factions boxing in Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi's government. Ta'adol answers the whole file with a photograph of lorries at a frontier post captioned «مرزهای ایران تحریم‌پذیر نیستند», Iran's borders are not sanctionable, which is an assertion rather than a report.

Net assessment: this is a borrowed-warrant edition, and the borrowing is doing work that Iran's own position cannot currently do for itself. The military position did not change in the monitored twenty-four hours; the price series that underwrites the leverage argument has stopped moving in Iran's favour and the export series has recovered; the parliament came back only after its Speaker went to see a Leader no one has seen; and the only genuinely new strategic development, a tri-national security delegation landing in Tehran, was handled as agency copy. What filled that space instead was an American politician's sentence and a bet on two foreign ballots. Both the sentence and the bet are external validations, and both are outside Iranian control. The thing to watch over the next eight days is what this press prints after 27 October and after 3 November, because an edition built on adversaries losing their elections has no second position prepared if they do not.

BOTTOM LINE On the morning Iran's parliament resumed regular plenary business for the first time since the war began, five Iranian surfaces including the Leader's own paper took a line from an American former president's campaign speech, that Iran now holds a veto over the Strait of Hormuz, and printed it as the regime's doctrine, while the cycle's one genuinely new strategic fact, the arrival in Tehran of the Saudi defence minister, Pakistan's army chief and Turkey's intelligence chief, appeared on no front page at all.

CRITICAL SOURCING NOTE Nine front pages of 4 Aban 1405 were read as images: Ta'adol, Javan, Jomhouri-ye Eslami, Hamshahri, Jam-e Jam, Nobonyad, Qods, Seda-ye Iran and Iran Daily. Kayhan, Sobh-e No, Etemad, the Iran newspaper and Vatan-e Emrooz were read from their own channels; for Kayhan this is the third consecutive cycle read that way. Three agency wires, Defa Press, Fars News and Nour News, were read for corroboration and are not treated as front pages. The English-language album refreshed to Iran Daily Vol 6248 after two cycles carrying Vol 6246. Tehran Times and the Leader's official site were not available at the time of compilation. The kiosk scans support mastheads, headlines, decks and captions but not continuous body text, so two front-page editorials in this batch, the lead column of Seda-ye Iran and the editorial of Jomhouri-ye Eslami, are reported only as far as their titles; nothing has been inferred

from an illegible block. All Iranian military, interdiction and battle-damage claims are recorded as claims, including Kayhan's claim of a confiscated American tanker cargo and its 1.5 billion litre diesel saving, Etemad's report of explosions in the southern Hormuz corridor, the Yemeni spokesman's strike claims, the Iraqi factions' airspace-violation count and the Handala group's breach claim. Obama's remark, Lana Nusseibeh's candidacy, Hamid Rasaei's sentence, the al-Sheeb and Chazabeh crossing closure of 21 October, Macron's Gulf tour and the Israeli polling picture were each checked against independent reporting. Kamal Kharrazi, named as a martyr in an Iran Daily photograph caption, was confirmed as having died in April 2026 of wounds from a strike on his Tehran home: the commemorative session is new, the death is not. The attribution of the Supreme National Security Council secretaryship to Mohsen Rezaei is Kayhan's and is carried as that outlet's attribution. The Tehran meeting's participants are recorded by office rather than by name because no Iranian surface named them.

Macro Trend Analysis

1 An adversary's sentence promoted to doctrine on five surfaces

Obama's Cleveland line that Iran now has veto power over the Strait of Hormuz appears on the Leader's own paper as «حق وتویی به نام تنگه هرمز», on the state broadcaster's daily as «اوباما: ایران قدرت وتو دارد», on the Guard daily as «اوباما: حق وتوی هرمز را به ایران دادیم», on the government paper as «حق وتوی ایران بر شریان نفت جهان» and on Vatan-e Emrooz as «ایران قدرتمندتر شده است». The Leader's outlet calls it «اعتراف تاریخی», a historic confession. Four institutional lanes carrying one borrowed formula in a single cycle is message discipline, and the formula is rhetorically stronger than the divine-gift framing it replaces because the warrant is external.

2 The chamber reopens, and the principlist camp fights over the Speaker who reopened it

Nobonyad dates the reopening to Ghalibaf's meeting with the Leader and then uses the same page to charge that the Speaker personally put the only imprisoned sitting member there. Qods accuses an unnamed outlet of manufacturing a controversy out of the restoration. Sobh-e No simply headlines «جلسه علنی در صحن». Jomhouri-ye Eslami carries the chamber's first legislative output. The restoration is real and the credit for it is contested, and the contest is internal to the principlist camp rather than between it and the reformists.

3 The cycle's hardest fact arrives by air and never reaches a front page

The Saudi defence minister, Pakistan's army chief and Turkey's intelligence chief are reported by the foreign ministry spokesman as meeting the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council in Tehran, with a Saudi C-130 photographed at Mehrabad. Three American-aligned regional militaries putting their senior security principals on Iranian soil is the most consequential item in the batch and it is carried only by wires. The security-council-linked wire that is closest to the hosting institution publishes nothing about it at all.

4 The presidential exit argument is displaced rather than settled

One cycle ago Pezeshkian's sentence that the condition of «نه جنگ، نه صلح» must end ran on five of nine front pages with five incompatible continuations. Today it survives as a single line in a headline list on the President's own paper. Nothing resolved the argument; a doctrine that requires no exit took its place. The President appears on two front pages in this batch, on health policy and on the Supreme Council for Health and Food Security, and on neither in connection with the war.

5 Economic war turned into standing machinery and a falsifiable transaction

Kayhan leads on «تشکیل شورای جنگ اقتصادی، پاتک ایران به ترامپ», dating the council against the expiry of what it calls the American Treasury Secretary's claimed deadline for Iran's collapse, and pairs it with the claim that Iran confiscated an American tanker's cargo and converted it into the entitlement of 771 epidermolysis bullosa patients. The shift matters: a claimed divine gift cannot be checked, a claimed council with a named secretary and a claimed seizure can be. Nothing in the open record substantiates either.

6 Adversary elections substituted for military victory

Nobonyad's front-page column puts Netanyahu between the rubble of war and the anger of his own public; Qods calls Trump and Netanyahu the imaginary conquerors of Tehran and the probable losers of the elections; Jam-e Jam says the war has freed the hands of Trump's domestic critics; Nobonyad's international page prints the Democrats' revolt; Javan's lead gives Europe over to hunger and looting and its rail asks what is behind the Vance-Trump rift. The Israeli ballot is on 27 October and the American midterms on 3 November, which gives this frame a hard expiry date.

7 The economic press prices what the political press narrates

Ta'adol leads on «ابهام», ambiguity, as the capital market's dominant condition and runs a column headed «روز صفر نفتی؛ اقتصاد ایران تا کجا دوام می‌آورد؟». Gold is quoted back near $4,000 after the collapse from a $5,400 peak and oil is unchanged at the figure carried a week ago. Vatan-e Emrooz, a hardline paper, carries a Kpler-based citation that regional exports are back at pre-war levels and that the price move may be temporary. Nobonyad reports Iran entering winter with a gas imbalance and no executable Russian contract. None of this is reconciled with a veto over the world's oil artery anywhere in the batch.

8 The second Iraqi crossing closes and the Iranian frame switches to the Iraqi street

Iran Daily reports Shalamcheh closed, the crossing Iranian officials recommended when al-Sheeb, Chazabeh in Iranian usage, closed on 21 October, with travellers stranded and Iraqi local authorities negotiating to reopen it. Kayhan and Jam-e Jam report protests in Maysan against the Chazabeh closure. One cycle ago the Iranian frame was armed factions boxing in the al-Zaidi government; today it is an Iraqi public said to be protesting in Iran's favour, which is a broader and more deniable claim of Iraqi support.

9 Capitulation reactivated as a frame from two directions at once

Jomhouri-ye Eslami boxes «آمریکا درصدد برقرار کردن کاپیتولاسیون جدید در ایران!», invoking the 1964 immunity law whose passage produced the founder's exile, on the same page that reports an E3 proposal reaching phased sanctions relief and frozen assets. Javan independently runs «مراقب کاپیتولاسیون دیجیتال باشیم». The founding grievance of the revolution is being applied simultaneously to an alleged American legal demand and to foreign technology platforms, which pre-frames both a negotiated settlement and a connectivity opening as surrender.

10 The Leader present as a name, a number and an audio file, and not as a face

No front page in this batch carries a photograph of the serving Leader. His appearances are a jurisprudence-lesson clip titled «شیطان را تحقیر کنید» pushed through three channels, a letter on reorganising the seminary referenced by Qods, the audience that Nobonyad says caused the parliament to reopen, and Jam-e Jam's count of «شب هم‌صدایی برای ایران ۲۴۰», nightly gatherings attributed to his instruction. Authority is being exercised and attributed; the person remains unseen for the second consecutive cycle in this record and no imagery or recording has been released since the succession.

Key Judgments

KJ-1 [HIGH] **Iran's media system has adopted an American former president's campaign line as its own chokepoint doctrine, across four institutional lanes within forty-eight hours, which indicates centrally guided message discipline rather than editorial convergence.** The evidence is one formula on five surfaces: Seda-ye Iran, the Leader's own outlet, with «حق وتویی به نام تنگه هرمز» under «تأملی بر اعتراف تاریخی اوباما»; Jam-e Jam, the state broadcaster's daily, with «اوباما: ایران قدرت وتو دارد» under the kicker «تنگه هرمز و بازار جهانی نفت»; Javan, Guard-affiliated, with «اوباما: حق وتوی هرمز را به ایران دادیم»; the government's Iran newspaper with «حق وتوی ایران بر شریان نفت جهان»; and Vatan-e Emrooz with «ایران قدرتمندتر شده است». The underlying remark is confirmed: at a Cleveland rally on 24 October for Sherrod Brown and Amy Acton, Obama said Iran now has veto power over the Strait of Hormuz, where oil goes through to get to the world, and that this is the reason the price of oil is up. The significance is that a claim this monitor watched migrate from ambiguous consequence to claimed Iranian policy over two cycles has now acquired an external warrant, which makes it a stronger negotiating position and a harder one to retract. Calibration: the Iranian rendering is accurate as to Obama's words and silently drops his premise, that the leverage is a product of American failure rather than Iranian design.

KJ-2 [HIGH] **Iran's parliament has resumed regular plenary business for the first time since the war's opening weeks, and the papers attribute the restoration to the Speaker's audience with a Leader no one has seen.** The evidence is Nobonyad's kicker, «پس از دیدار قالیباف با رهبر انقلاب، صحن علنی مجلس پس از ۸ ماه تعطیلی و مشکلات متعدد جلسات مجازی بازگشایی شد»; Jam-e Jam's «نخستین جلسه حضوری مجلس بعد از جنگ»; Sobh-e No's front-page headline «جلسه علنی در صحن»; Qods's chamber photograph; and Jomhouri-ye Eslami's report of the chamber's first legislation, penalties for unauthorised residence by foreign nationals. External reporting of 19 October had online sessions running no more than twice a week with 117 members petitioning for a return to in-person business, and of 21 October had the Speaker meeting the unseen Supreme Leader. The significance is dual: the regime is signalling institutional normalisation eight months into the war, and it is simultaneously recording that a legislature's own procedure turned on a private audience with an office-holder who has not appeared in public since the succession. Calibration: Nobonyad's eight-month count runs from 28 February and passes over the single in-person sitting of 12 July, so the correct description is the resumption of regular plenary business, not the first sitting since the war.

KJ-3 [HIGH] **Three American-aligned regional militaries sent their most senior security principals to Tehran in this cycle, and no Iranian front page carries it.** The evidence is the foreign ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei, reported by Defa Press and Fars News, saying the Saudi defence minister, Pakistan's army chief and Turkey's intelligence chief will attend a joint meeting in Tehran, with Fars adding that the Iranian principal is the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council; Reuters reporting the same meeting through the Etemad Online channel; and a photograph published by Fars and Nour News of a Saudi C-130 Hercules transport at Mehrabad airport. The significance is that this is a movement rather than a statement, and it is the cycle's only new strategic fact: Riyadh, Islamabad and Ankara coordinating security with Tehran at the level of defence minister, army chief and intelligence chief, while the Yemen front is closing Gulf airspace and Washington is tightening a maritime blockade. Calibration: participants are recorded by office because no Iranian surface named them, and a single military transport photograph is corroboration of an arrival rather than of an agenda.

KJ-4 [MODERATE-HIGH] **The public argument about how to end the war, which organised the entire previous edition, has been displaced rather than resolved.** The evidence is subtractive and specific. One cycle ago Pezeshkian's statement that the condition of «نه جنگ، نه صلح» must end appeared on five of nine front pages with five incompatible continuations, from negotiation from strength through reconstruction to the Guard daily's flat rejection of negotiation. Today it appears once, as a single line in a headline roundup on the President's own paper's channel. The President himself is on two front pages, Jomhouri-ye Eslami's lead and an Iran Daily side item, both on health policy. The significance is that a doctrine of standing leverage requires no exit and therefore no argument about one: the veto formula is not an answer to the exit question, it is a way of not asking it. Calibration: one cycle of displacement is not resolution, and the question will return the moment the price series or the diplomatic track moves.

KJ-5 [MODERATE-HIGH] **Kayhan has converted the economic-war claim from rhetoric into asserted machinery and an asserted transaction, both of which are checkable and neither of which is substantiated.** The evidence is the paper's lead, «تشکیل شورای جنگ اقتصادی، پاتک ایران به ترامپ», which presents an economic war council as the answer to American pressure, dates it against the expiry of what the paper calls the US Treasury Secretary's claimed deadline for Iran's economic collapse, and attributes remarks to Mohsen Rezaei as Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council; paired with «ایران با مصادره محموله نفتکش آمریکایی حق ۷۷۱ بیمار پروانه‌ای را از آمریکا گرفت» and with a claimed 1.5 billion litre diesel saving. The American campaign it answers is real: shadow-fleet designations through October and a Treasury announcement of 22 October that Iran's oil lifeline had been cut. The significance is that one cycle ago the same outlet's claim was theological and unfalsifiable; today it is institutional and specific, which is a sign of pressure to produce evidence of effect. Recorded throughout as unverified Iranian claims: no cargo seizure of this description appears in the open record.

KJ-6 [MODERATE-HIGH] **Four Iranian papers have substituted the electoral defeat of Iran's adversaries for a claim of military victory, and the substitution carries a hard expiry date.** The evidence is Nobonyad's front-page column by Mohsen Pourdadfar, «نتانیاهو میان آوار جنگ و خشم صهیونیست‌ها», on a crisis of public confidence, protests by bereaved families, a split in Netanyahu's camp and the charge of exploiting the Iran threat for votes; Qods's «فاتحان خیالی تهران، بازندگان احتمالی انتخابات»; Jam-e Jam's deck on the war freeing the hands of Trump's domestic critics before the congressional elections; and Nobonyad's page-seven «شورش دموکرات‌ها علیه ترامپ». The Israeli ballot is on 27 October, with Netanyahu and Gadi Eisenkot close in final-week polling and neither bloc near sixty-one seats, and the American midterms on 3 November. The significance is that Iranian expectations are now explicitly pinned to two foreign results Tehran does not control, and the Etemad channel's report that Trump has openly asked Israelis to vote for Netanyahu shows the other side treating the same ballot as a referendum on the war. Calibration: overreading this would turn editorial hope into assessed policy; underreading it would miss that this press has, for one cycle, stopped claiming to be winning.

KJ-7 [MODERATE] **The Iraq-Iran land corridor has narrowed again, and the Iranian frame has shifted from backing armed factions to claiming the Iraqi street.** The evidence is Iran Daily's exclusive interview reporting that Shalamcheh is now closed on stated technical grounds with travellers stranded and southern Iraqi authorities negotiating with Khuzestan to reopen it, which matters because Shalamcheh is the crossing Iranian officials recommended when al-Sheeb, known

in Iran as Chazabeh, closed on 21 October for a security review and the installation of smuggling-detection equipment; Kayhan's «تظاهرات مردم خشمگین عراق به نفع ایران و علیه بسته شدن مرز چذابه»; Jam-e Jam's report of price rises and spreading protests in Maysan; and Jam-e Jam's separate interview line that Iran-Iraq trade has stopped. Reporting attributes the closures to American pressure on Baghdad to reduce the number of operational crossings. The significance is that the frame has broadened from the factional endorsement this monitor recorded one cycle ago to a claim of popular Iraqi support, which is both harder to verify and harder to disown. Track the al-Zaidi file and the crossing count as named standing threads.

KJ-8 **[MODERATE]** **Negative evidence, filed as a finding: the security wire linked to the Supreme National Security Council has now been silent on imminence for a second consecutive cycle, and is silent on the meeting its own council is hosting.** The evidence is a measured absence. Two cycles ago Nour News carried the zero-hour warning of prepared American and Israeli plans against Iranian industrial infrastructure and the missile arsenal. One cycle ago it published no imminence material. Today its security output is the Hormuz cost argument, «تنگه هرمز و تحمیل هزینه به غرب», the Wall Street Journal on airlines rerouting around Saudi airspace, an Asian football dispute and a gold quotation, with nothing at all on the Saudi, Pakistani and Turkish delegation meeting its own secretary, which Fars and Defa Press both carried. The significance is that the channel that distributes centrally available security signalling has moved from warning to cost accounting, and has chosen not to put its own council's diplomacy on its own feed. Calibration: silence on a hosted meeting is more readily explained by protocol than by policy, which is why this is filed at moderate rather than higher.

KJ-9 **[MODERATE]** **Iran's economic press is now publishing the endurance question in terms its political press does not acknowledge, and a hardline paper has printed the datum that most undercuts the leverage argument.** The evidence is four items in one batch: Ta'adol's lead «سایه سنگین ابهام روی بازار سرمایه», naming ambiguity rather than loss as the market's condition; Ta'adol's signed column «روز صفر نفتی؛ اقتصاد ایران تا کجا دوام می‌آورد؟»; Nobonyad's page-five report that the gas imbalance again threatens industrial and power-station fuel on the edge of winter with no executable Russian contract; and Vatan-e Emrooz carrying a Middle East Eye citation of Kpler data showing regional exports back at pre-war levels and the price move possibly temporary. Gold is quoted near $4,000 on the security wire after last cycle's collapse from a $5,400 peak, and oil is unchanged at the $117 the Etemad channel carried a week ago. The significance is that the two price series that moved against Iran one cycle ago have now stopped moving at all, which is worse for the leverage argument than a fall: a veto that produces no further price response is not being exercised. Calibration: a flat week is not a trend, and the export-recovery figure is a single analyst citation in a hostile-to-the-argument direction, carried without comment.

KJ-10 **[MODERATE]** **Negative evidence, filed as a finding: the serving Leader has now gone a second consecutive cycle without appearing in any image, and the only message of his the batch records is institutional rather than strategic.** The evidence is the shape of his presence: no photograph on any of nine front pages; a jurisprudence-lesson excerpt titled «شیطان را تحقیر کنید», citing Qur'an 4:76 on the weakness of Satan's scheming, pushed as video through the Kayhan, Vatan-e Emrooz and Defa Press channels; a letter on the reorganisation of the seminary referenced by Qods and discussed at a researchers' session; the audience with the Speaker to which Nobonyad attributes the chamber's reopening; and Jam-e Jam's «شب هم‌صدایی برای ایران ۲۴۰», nightly

gatherings said to continue on his instruction. The significance is that the succession's authority is being exercised through instruction, attribution and a counter rather than through presence, and that on the edition's central strategic claim, the Hormuz veto, the warrant invoked is an American politician's and not the Leader's. Calibration: no page in the batch disparages him, and the inference is from placement and form, not from any statement about his standing.

KJ-11 [MODERATE] **Two de-escalatory signals surfaced in this batch and neither is owned by an Iranian official, which is how this press has handled every opening in this record.** The evidence is Jomhouri-ye Eslami's sub-lead, «ادعای منابع دیپلماتیک اروپایی: آلمان، فرانسه و انگلیس پیشنهادی را برای ارائه به ایران و آمریکا آماده کرده‌اند», describing a phased scheme reaching negotiation on a comprehensive nuclear agreement and settlement of sanctions and frozen assets, with a Chinese call for the Agency's examination of the Iranian file to be halted alongside it; and a commentary on the Sobh-e No channel raising a change in Iran's nuclear doctrine as a conditional in the event of an American tactical strike. The first is attributed to unnamed Europeans, the second to a commentator, and the same Jomhouri-ye Eslami page boxes a warning that America seeks a new capitulation in Iran. The significance is that both the exit and the escalation are being aired without anyone in Tehran having to stand behind either. Calibration: an unsourced European proposal on a single front page is a weak indicator of an actual track, and the doctrine item is commentary, not policy.

KJ-12 [LOW-MODERATE] **The outward-facing English surface refreshed after two stale cycles and conspicuously withholds the chokepoint doctrine, which indicates the Hormuz veto is written for domestic consumption.** The evidence is Iran Daily Vol 6248 of 26 October, after the kiosk album carried Vol 6246 twice: the banner is 'Qalibaf: Any new aggression will trigger response beyond imagination', the lead is 'Nothing will be same as before aggression against Iran: Araghchi' with the deck on American bases failing to bring security to their host countries, and the page's reported exclusive is on Iraq struggling to keep its borders with Iran closed. The veto formula that leads four Persian surfaces appears nowhere on the English page. The significance is that Iran is selling deterrence and a changed baseline abroad while selling a claimed veto over world oil at home, which is a meaningful split between the audiences. Calibration: a single refreshed issue is a thin basis for an editorial inference, and a kiosk album's refresh cycle is a distribution fact; the pattern of withholding the chokepoint claim from the English surface has now held for three cycles.

Named-Figure Tracker

Figure	Role / relevance	Today's framing	Flag
Barack Obama	Former US President, campaigning in Cleveland on 24 October	His line that Iran holds veto power over the Strait of Hormuz is printed by the Leader's own outlet as «اعتراف تاریخی», a historic confession, and carried on five Iranian surfaces	NEW NAMED FIGURE
Mohammad-Baqer Ghalibaf	Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly	Carried on five surfaces warning of a response beyond imagination; credited with reopening the chamber after an audience with the Leader; and attacked on Nobonyad's front page as the complainant who put a sitting member in prison	WATCH

Figure	Role / relevance	Today's framing	Flag
Mojtaba Khamenei	Supreme Leader	Named as «رهبر انقلاب» and «رهبر معظم انقلاب»; present through a jurisprudence clip, a seminary letter, an audience with the Speaker and a 240-night mobilisation counter; no photograph on any of nine front pages	absence noted
Abbas Araghchi	Foreign Minister	Lead of the English-language daily, that nothing will be the same as before the aggression against Iran, and on the platform at the Tehran commemoration of Kamal Kharrazi	WATCH
Esmaeil Baghaei	Foreign Ministry spokesman	Announces the Saudi, Pakistani and Turkish security delegation to Tehran; and answers American charges of attacks on shipping with the line that Washington accuses Iran of what it boasts of, piracy	COERCION SPOKESMAN
Masoud Pezeshkian	President	On two front pages, both on health policy; the war-termination sentence that led five front pages one cycle ago survives only as a line in a headline list on his own paper's channel	absence noted
Hamid Rasaei	Tehran member of parliament, serving a ten-month sentence since 27 September	Nobonyad's front-page box, that his plaintiff was the Speaker rather than the parliament, with a report that a member has raised supplying him a parliamentary tablet in prison	WATCH
Mohsen Rezaei	Identified by Kayhan as Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council	Quoted in Kayhan's lead on the formation of an economic war council; named by Fars as the Iranian principal at the Tehran security meeting	WATCH
Donald Trump	US President	Named as the target of Iran's economic counter-strike in Kayhan's lead; reported by the Etemad channel as asking Israelis to vote for Netanyahu and telling Fox News all Iranian nuclear sites are under watch; framed by four papers as facing electoral defeat	TARGET FRAMING
Benjamin Netanyahu	Israeli Prime Minister, facing the ballot of 27 October	Nobonyad's front-page column places him between the rubble of war and the anger of his own public; Qods calls him and Trump imaginary conquerors and probable election losers	TARGET FRAMING
Gadi Eisenkot	Retired Israeli chief of staff, leading Yashar	Not named on any page in this batch; the Iranian framing of the Israeli ballot is about Netanyahu's weakness rather than about his challenger	absence noted

Figure	Role / relevance	Today's framing	Flag
Lana Nusseibeh	UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, nominated for UN Secretary-General on 21-22 October	Ghalibaf's quip on Javan's banner that the fox is standing to guard the chickens; Sobh-e No frames the candidacy as part of a greater-Israel project	NEW NAMED FIGURE
Ali al-Zaidi	Prime Minister of Iraq	Jam-e Jam reports Iraqis demonstrating against his decisions over the Chazabeh closure; Iran Daily's interviewee says his government is closing the borders under American pressure	WATCH
Brad Cooper	Commander, US Central Command	Sobh-e No and Defa Press carry the IRGC spokesman's response to a CENTCOM account of his overflight of Strait of Hormuz operations on 25 October, headlined as his delusions	TARGET FRAMING
Yahya Saree	Yemeni armed forces spokesman	Claims ballistic strikes on King Khalid International Airport, Khamis Mushait and a naval base at Jizan, and drone strikes on east-west pipeline pumping stations; all recorded as claims	COERCION SPOKESMAN
Kamal Kharrazi	Foreign Minister 1997-2005, head of the Strategic Council on Foreign Relations, died April 2026 of wounds from a strike on his Tehran home	Commemorated as «شهید» at a 25 October session on consensus-building in foreign policy, photographed on the Iran Daily front page	WATCH
Emmanuel Macron	President of France	Qods ties the widened Saudi-Yemen exchange to his Gulf tour, which included an unannounced Riyadh stop on 21 October; Javan's lead gives his country over to hunger and looting	TARGET FRAMING
Lula da Silva	President of Brazil, re-elected in the runoff of 25 October	Carried by Kayhan and the Etemad channel as a defeat for a Trump-aligned candidate, with his UN criticism of Israel noted	NEW NAMED FIGURE
Elon Musk	Owner of Starlink	Hamshahri's boxed item asking whether Starlink is not a war system, noting that he denies military use while traces of the system appear in several wars	NEW NAMED FIGURE

Headline Summary Table

Outlet	Lead Headline (English)	Orientation	Theme	Threat signal
Seda-ye Iran	A right of veto by the name of the Strait of Hormuz	The Leader's office publication (KHAMENEI.IR)	Obama's campaign line printed as a historic	SEVERE: chokepoint veto published as

Outlet	Lead Headline (English)	Orientation	Theme	Threat signal
			confession and promoted to doctrine	doctrine by the Leader's own outlet
Jam-e Jam	Obama: Iran has veto power	Daily of the state broadcaster (IRIB)	The veto line as the lead, the Speaker's warning from the restored chamber, Iraqi protests against the border closures	HIGH: adversary's own words made the front-page strategic claim
Javan	The looting of the brands at the hands of Europe's hungry	Hardline, IRGC-affiliated	Europe framed as dissolving into hunger and looting, with Obama carried below as corroboration; the lead image is a synthetic composite	MODERATE-HIGH: enemy-collapse framing replaces cost imposition
Iran	Iran's right of veto over the world's oil artery	Official government daily (read from the paper's channel)	The veto doctrine on the government surface as the presidential exit question drops out of sight	HIGH: the chokepoint formula adopted on the government's own masthead
Vatan-e Emrooz	Iran has become stronger	Hardline / principlist (read from the paper's channel)	Obama carried a fifth time, alongside the one market datum in the batch that cuts against the leverage argument	MODERATE: counter-intelligence arrests in the Hormuz province; an unreconciled export-recovery datum
Sobh-e No	Open session in the chamber	Principlist (read from the paper's channel)	The restored chamber as the headline, with a conditional nuclear-doctrine scenario in the commentary	MODERATE-HIGH: a nuclear-doctrine change floated as a conditional
Nobonyad	The ifs and buts of reopening the chamber	Conservative / principlist	The chamber reopens after the Speaker's audience with the Leader, and the same page indicts him over a jailed member	MODERATE: an open principlist attack on the Speaker on the morning of his restoration
Qods	The question of the mobiles' attendance and absence at school	Conservative, Astan Quds Razavi, Mashhad	The restored chamber reported as a manufactured media controversy; the Leader's seminary letter as the cycle's only authoritative message	LOW-MODERATE: no war lead; Saudi-Yemen escalation read through Macron's Gulf tour
Kayhan	An economic war council is formed: Iran's counter-	Hardline, closest to the Leader's office (read from the paper's channel)	Economic war turned into standing machinery, with an unverified seizure of	HIGH: economic war declared as standing machinery

Outlet	Lead Headline (English)	Orientation	Theme	Threat signal
	strike against Trump		an American cargo as its first claimed return	
Etemad	Heavy explosions in the Strait of Hormuz on the eve of the global oil market's reopening	Reformist (read from the Etemad Online channel)	Tanker explosions in the southern corridor set against a regional security meeting convening in Tehran	HIGH: continued strikes on shipping with a regional security meeting in Tehran
Agency wires	Senior Saudi, Turkish and Pakistani officials travel to Tehran	Defa Press, Fars News, Nour News	Saudi, Pakistani and Turkish security chiefs arrive in Tehran as the Yemeni front keeps raising the aviation cost	HIGH: a tri-national security meeting convening in Tehran
Iran Daily (English)	Qalibaf: Any new aggression will trigger response 'beyond imagination'	English-language state daily	The English surface returns after two stale cycles with deterrence and Araghchi, and confirms a second Iraqi crossing closed	MODERATE-HIGH: deterrent warning abroad with the chokepoint doctrine withheld
Jomhouri-ye Eslami	We must put an end to injustice in education and health	Traditional establishment	An attributed European proposal on the nuclear file set against a new capitulation warning on the same page	MODERATE: a diplomatic exit printed as reportable news, pre-framed as surrender
Ta'adol	The heavy shadow of ambiguity over the capital market	Economic	Policy ambiguity priced into equities while a column asks how long Iran lasts at oil zero	MODERATE: oil-revenue endurance put in print
Hamshahri	Let the people's share of the savings not be forgotten	Tehran municipality, centrist	The fuel-saving dividend demanded back from the government, with three officials' dated promises printed as a ledger	LOW-MODERATE: no war content above the fold

Per-Paper Front-Page Analysis

Iran Daily (English)

English-language state daily, Islamic Republic News Agency group

MODERATE-HIGH: deterrent warning and a changed-baseline claim for the foreign audience, with the chokepoint doctrine withheld

“Qalibaf: Any new aggression will trigger response 'beyond imagination'”



- Banner: 'Qalibaf: Any new aggression will trigger response beyond imagination', the English rendering of the same remark that leads the Persian pages, made at the restored plenary session.
- Lead: 'Nothing will be same as before aggression against Iran: Araghchi', with the deck 'US military bases failed to bring security to their host countries'. Araghchi is the outward-facing voice of the edition and the formulation is deliberately open: a changed baseline is asserted without specifying what changed.
- Interview exclusive: 'Iraq will struggle to keep borders with Iran closed under public pressure', by staff writer Delaram Ahmadi. The interviewee, identified as a Middle East affairs expert, says the Shalamcheh crossing in Khuzestan has been closed on the stated grounds of technical problems, that many passengers from both countries are stranded, that local authorities in Iraq's southern provinces are negotiating with Khuzestan officials to reopen it, and that the government of Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi appears to be seeking to close Iraq's borders with Iran under American pressure.
- Photograph: a panel at the Institute for Political and International Studies in Tehran on 25 October, under the Persian banner «نشست تخصصی نقش شهید سید کمال خرازی در اجماع‌سازی سیاست خارجی» (specialist session on the role of the martyred Seyyed Kamal Kharrazi in building foreign-policy consensus), with the foreign minister on the platform. Kharrazi, foreign minister from 1997 to 2005 and head of the Strategic Council on Foreign Relations, died in April 2026 of wounds from a strike on his Tehran home.
- Side item: 'Iran approves five new national health strategies', with a photograph of Pezeshkian at the health council session that leads Jomhouri-ye Eslami.

> **ANALYST NOTE** The outward-facing English surface refreshed in this cycle after two editions in which it did not, which is itself the finding: the kiosk album carried Vol 6246 twice, and Vol 6248 now lands with the war restored to the lead. The content choice is conservative and consistent: the Speaker's deterrent line and the foreign minister's changed-baseline formula, with the chokepoint doctrine that dominates the Persian pages left off the English page entirely. Iran is still not selling the Hormuz veto abroad. The Iraqi border interview is the most useful item for tracking, because it confirms that Shalamcheh, the crossing Iranian officials recommended as the alternative when al-Sheeb/Chazabeh closed on 21 October, is now closed too.

Ta'adol

Economic daily, published by the Tehran Chamber of Commerce circle

MODERATE: oil-revenue endurance put in print; policy ambiguity priced as the market's dominant risk

"The heavy shadow of ambiguity over the capital market" «سایه سنگین ابهام روی بازار سرمایه»


تعادل

سایه سنگین ابهام روی بازار سرمایه

- Main: «سایه سنگین ابهام روی بازار سرمایه» (the heavy shadow of ambiguity over the capital market), under the kicker ««تعادل» روند معاملات بازار سهام را بررسی می‌کند» (Ta'adol examines the trend of equity trading). The chosen word is «ابهام», ambiguity, not loss: the paper is pricing the absence of a settled policy rather than the war itself.
- Banner right: «از تأمین دارو تا مدیریت بازار و مصرف / روایت دولت و مجلس از تاب‌آوری ایران در روزهای جنگ اقتصادی» (from securing medicines to managing the market and consumption: the government's and parliament's account of Iran's resilience in the days of economic war). The phrase «جنگ اقتصادی» is now the standing label for the current phase in the economic press.
- Banner left: «صورتحساب سنگین مدیریت شهری تهران / کارگران در انتظار حقوق، چیتگر در انتظار آب» (the heavy bill of Tehran's municipal management: workers waiting for wages, Chitgar waiting for water).
- Photo: a lorry queue at a frontier post under the caption «مرزهای ایران تحریم‌پذیر نیستند» (Iran's borders are not sanctionable), an editorial answer to the closure of the Iraqi crossings rather than a report of it.
- Note: «روز صفر نفتی؛ اقتصاد ایران تا کجا دوام می‌آورد؟» (oil zero day: how far can Iran's economy hold out), a signed column putting the economy's endurance against a halted oil revenue in explicit terms.
- Column: «این گره از کجا باز می‌شود؟!» (where does this knot get untied), by the economic commentator Hossein Haghgou.
- Market items: «پژو ۲۰۷ پنج میلیارد» on the car market; «پارادایم جدید در نظم اقتصادی انرژی» (a new paradigm in the energy economic order); and the page-two trail «از ارزندگی مطلق تا سایه ریسک‌های سیاسی» (from absolute value to the shadow of political risk).

> **ANALYST NOTE** The economic press continues to be the only surface in the batch that prices the war rather than narrating it, and today it does so with two words that do not appear anywhere on the political pages: «ابهام», ambiguity, as the market's dominant condition, and «روز صفر نفتی», oil zero day, as the question an Iranian daily is now willing to put in print. Set against the Obama veto doctrine carried on four other front pages, the juxtaposition is the edition's central tension: the political press is measuring leverage in dollars per barrel while the economic press is measuring how long the country lasts without the barrels. The border photograph is the tell: a declaration that Iran's frontiers cannot be sanctioned, printed on the morning the second Iraqi crossing closed.

Javan

Hardline, IRGC-affiliated daily

MODERATE-HIGH: enemy-collapse framing replaces cost imposition, with an adversary's own words carried as corroboration

"The looting of the brands at the hands of Europe's hungry" «غارت برندها به دست گرسنگان اروپا»



- Main: «غارت برندها به دست گرسنگان اروپا» (the looting of the brands at the hands of Europe's hungry), over a full-bleed composite image of a burning Paris with the Eiffel Tower behind a crowd carrying Dior, Louis Vuitton, Chanel, ZARA and BOSS goods. The image is a synthetic composite rather than a photograph, which is itself a finding: the Guard-affiliated daily is leading on an illustration of an event rather than on evidence of it. Deck: «فرانسه شبکه‌های اجتماعی را فیلتر می‌کند» (France is filtering the social networks). Body text puts 800,000 people on the streets of France on Saturday and claims the unrest is spreading to Spain, Italy and Belgium.
- Banner: «قالیباف: مردم شریک صرفه‌جویی گاز می‌شوند» (Ghalibaf: the people become partners in gas saving), with the deck «رئیس مجلس: پاسخی فراتر از تصور به متجاوزان می‌دهیم» (the Speaker of Parliament: we will give the aggressors a response beyond imagination).
- Banner, second line: «واکنش قالیباف به نامزدی لانا نسیبه برای دبیرکلی سازمان ملل: روباه کاندیدای نگهبانی از مرغ‌ها می‌شود!» (Ghalibaf's reaction to Lana Nusseibeh's candidacy for the UN Secretary-Generalship: the fox becomes a candidate to guard the chickens). The UAE formally nominated Nusseibeh, its minister of state for foreign affairs, on 21-22 October.
- Lower main: «اوباما: حق وتوی هرمز را به ایران دادیم» (Obama: we gave Iran the veto over Hormuz), with body text noting that nearly eight months have passed since the start of what it calls the American-Zionist assault on Iran.
- Right rail: «خبرگزاری صداوسیما مطرح کرد: اختلاف ونس و ترامپ دنبال چیست؟» (the state broadcaster's agency asks what is behind the Vance-Trump rift); «مراقب کاپیتولاسیون دیجیتال باشیم» (let us beware of digital capitulation); «آغاز دوران ظهور دولت‌های حداقلی در آمریکا» (the dawn of minimal governments in America); «بدهکاران کلان بانکی، زخمی بر اعتماد عمومی» (large bank debtors, a wound on public trust).
- Sport: «طلای ناب فرخی از دهان شیر» (Farrokhi's pure gold out of the lion's mouth), on Gholamreza Farrokhi's 82kg Greco-Roman world title, with a complaint about the officiating.

ANALYST NOTE Javan has moved its war coverage off the lead and replaced it with Western decomposition: the enemy is not being defeated at the Strait, it is dissolving at home. That is a different and more durable argument than cost imposition, and it lets the paper carry the Obama line in the lower half as corroboration rather than as the day's news. The second thing to note is method: the lead image is a composite, and a Guard-affiliated daily illustrating rather than documenting a foreign collapse is a reach that the paper did not need to make. Track «کاپیتولاسیون» as a returning frame: Javan applies it to

> digital platforms on the same morning Jomhouri-ye Eslami applies it to an alleged American legal demand, which is the foundational 1964 grievance being reactivated from two directions at once.

Jomhouri-ye Eslami

Traditional establishment daily, founded within the Islamic Republic Party

MODERATE: a European proposal printed as reportable news, offset by a capitulation warning on the same page

"We must put an end to injustice in education and health" «باید به بی‌عدالتی در آموزش و سلامت پایان دهیم»


جمهوری اسلامی

باید به بی‌عدالتی در آموزش و سلامت پایان دهیم

آلمان، فرانسه و انگلیس پیشنهادی را برای ارائه به ایران و آمریکا آماده کرده‌اند

- Main: «باید به بی‌عدالتی در آموزش و سلامت پایان دهیم» (we must put an end to injustice in education and health), under the kicker «رئیس جمهور در جلسه شورای عالی سلامت و امنیت غذایی کشور» (the President at the session of the Supreme Council for Health and Food Security), with a photograph of Pezeshkian among patients and families. Four marked bullets carry the President's remarks on the whole government being responsible for public health and on budget priority for the people's health.
- Sub-lead: «ادعای منابع دیپلماتیک اروپایی: آلمان، فرانسه و انگلیس پیشنهادی را برای ارائه به ایران و آمریکا آماده کرده‌اند» (European diplomatic sources claim: Germany, France and Britain have prepared a proposal to put to Iran and America). The bullets describe a step-by-step scheme reaching a stage of negotiation on a comprehensive nuclear agreement and the settlement of sanctions and frozen assets, and add «چین: بررسی موضوع هسته‌ای ایران در آژانس باید متوقف شود» (China: the examination of Iran's nuclear file at the Agency must be halted).
- Boxed item: «آمریکا درصدد برقرار کردن کاپیتولاسیون جدید در ایران!» (America is seeking to establish a new capitulation in Iran), with a standfirst referring back to the immunity law of 1343, the 1964 Status of Forces provision whose passage produced the founder's exile.
- Editorial: «این نقشه شیطانی را نقش بر آب کنیم» (let us bring this satanic plan to nothing), opening with the Basmala and arguing that Iran is being made to pay the cost of its own independence.
- Right rail: «هاآرتص: اسرائیل به بدترین جایگاه خود سقوط کرده است» (Haaretz: Israel has fallen to its worst position), carried as a second-hand rendering of an Israeli paper and not independently verified here; «جامعیت علمی آیت‌الله حاج‌آقا مصطفی خمینی»; and a column headed «تجزیه ملت در اوج جنگ ترکیبی» (fracturing the nation at the height of hybrid war).
- Top banners: «با تصویب مجلس، مجازات اقامت غیرمجاز اتباع خارجی در قلمرو ایران تعیین شد» (with parliament's approval, penalties were set for illegal residence by foreign nationals), a direct product of the reopened chamber; and «دستور عارف برای پذیرش دانش‌آموزان و دانشجویان محجبهٔ محروم از تحصیل جمهوری آذربایجان در ایران» (Aref's order to admit veiled students barred from education in the Republic of Azerbaijan).
- Photo box: «سد کرج با ۱۲۶ میلیون مترمکعب آب لبریز شد» (the Karaj dam has overflowed with 126 million cubic metres of water), with a before-and-after pair of reservoir photographs.

ANALYST NOTE This is the one page in the batch that prints a diplomatic exit as news rather than as a trap, and it does so at one remove: the E3 proposal is attributed to unnamed European diplomatic sources, not to Iranian officials, which lets the paper put phased sanctions relief and frozen assets on a front page without anyone in Tehran owning the position. The capitulation box on the same page is the counterweight, and the pairing is the point: a negotiated exit is printed beside the grievance that makes negotiation suspect. The parliamentary legislation banner is small but is the first visible legislative output of the reopened chamber, which gives the restoration a product rather than a ceremony.

Hamshahri

Tehran municipality daily, centrist

LOW-MODERATE: no war content above the fold; the fuel-savings promise logged against three named officials

"Let the people's share of the savings not be forgotten" «سهم مردم از صرفه‌جویی فراموش نشود»



- Main: «سهم مردم از صرفه‌جویی فراموش نشود» (let the people's share of the savings not be forgotten), over a full-page photograph of a hand drawing Iran-cheque notes from a wallet at a filling station, with a fuel card in the card slot. Deck: «قرار بود پول حاصل از صرفه‌جویی سوخت و انرژی به جیب مردم برگردد؛ حالا زمان تحقق این وعده است» (the money from fuel and energy saving was supposed to come back into the people's pockets; now is the time to deliver on that promise).
- Three dated quotation boxes used as an accountability ledger: Masoud Pezeshkian, that whatever revenue has come from the gasoline price rise is to be added to the kalabarg food-coupon allocation and the figure rises from this month; Mohammad-Baqer Ghalibaf, dated 3 Aban, that citizens must benefit directly as economic partners in the profit from saving; and the government spokesperson Fatemeh Mohajerani, that the resources from fuel savings will be allocated to the people's livelihood.
- Column: «چگونه پول صرفه‌جویی به جیب مردم می‌رود؟» (how does the saved money reach the people's pockets), setting out an energy-efficiency fund mechanism.
- Sport: «در آستانه فتح» (on the threshold of conquest), with the line that Farrokhi's gold and two more wrestlers reaching the final have brought Iran closer to the world team title.
- Science: «نجات ۱۰ بیمار از مرگ با هوش مصنوعی» (ten patients saved from death by artificial intelligence), on a $15,000 abdominal-bleeding detection package localised at Sina Hospital.
- Right-hand box: «آقای ماسک! استارلینک جنگی نیست؟!» (Mr Musk, is Starlink not a war system), with the line that Elon Musk denies military use while traces of the system appear in several wars.

ANALYST NOTE Hamshahri is running the only page in the batch that treats the war's domestic bill as a promise to be collected rather than a sacrifice to be borne, and it does so by printing three named officials' commitments with dates attached. That is a municipal paper building a paper trail on the fuel-price rise, which is the most politically combustible domestic file of the cycle; the previous edition recorded the same paper giving its whole front page to rainfall. The Starlink item is a smaller but trackable signal: the Iranian press is starting to name a commercial space operator as a war participant, which is the kind of framing that precedes a legal or targeting argument.

Jam-e Jam

Daily of the state broadcaster (IRIB)

HIGH: adversary's own words made the front-page strategic claim, alongside a parliamentary warning of a response beyond imagination

"Obama: Iran has veto power" «اوباما: ایران قدرت وتو دارد»



- Main: «اوباما: ایران قدرت وتو دارد» (Obama: Iran has veto power), under the kicker «تنگه هرمز و بازار جهانی نفت» (the Strait of Hormuz and the global oil market), over the same Cleveland rally photograph used by the Leader's own outlet. Deck: «جنگ علیه ایران، معادلات سیاسی در آمریکا را در آستانه انتخابات کنگره برهم‌زده و دست منتقدان داخلی ترامپ را باز کرده است» (the war against Iran has upset the political equations in America on the eve of the congressional elections and freed the hands of Trump's domestic critics).
- Main right: «پاسخ خارج از تصور به جسارت ارضی» (a response beyond imagination to territorial audacity), under the kicker «قالیباف در نخستین جلسه حضوری مجلس بعد از جنگ، نسبت به هرگونه تحرک جدید آمریکا علیه ایران هشدار داد» (Ghalibaf, at the first in-person session of parliament since the war, warned against any new American move against Iran). This is the paper's own confirmation that the plenary chamber has reopened.
- Red item: «تظاهرات عراقی‌ها علیه تصمیمات الزبیدی» (Iraqis demonstrate against al-Zaidi's decisions), with the line that the closure of the Chazabeh crossing, which Baghdad attributes to technical problems, has produced price rises and spreading protests in Maysan province.
- Right rail: «ایران دوباره بر قله جهان» (Iran again at the summit of the world), on the Greco-Roman team's world title confirmed at the end of the second day; and «۲۴۰ شب هم‌صدایی برای ایران» (240 nights of one voice for Iran), on nightly gatherings said to follow the Leader's emphasis on the nation's continued conscious and deterrent presence, now at their 240th night.
- Sub-items: «پس‌لرزه‌های جنگ در خیابان‌های اروپا» (the war's aftershocks in the streets of Europe); «چرخ سفر می‌چرخد» on the travel sector; «تاریخ، زیر بیل و کلنگ» on damage to archaeological heritage; a left rail interview headed «تجارت ایران و عراق متوقف شده است» (Iran-Iraq trade has stopped), attributed to the head of the Iran-Iraq chamber of commerce.

ANALYST NOTE The state broadcaster's daily is the clearest statement of the edition's architecture: the Obama remark on page one as the strategic claim, the Speaker's warning as the military claim, and the Iraqi border protests as the economic one, all three pointing at the same conclusion that pressure is now flowing outward rather than inward. The 240-night counter is the quieter signal: a mobilisation metric that is reported as continuing on the Leader's instruction, which keeps the unseen Leader present in print through a number rather than through a photograph. The Iraqi item matters most for tracking, because it reverses the direction of the al-Zaidi thread this monitor opened one cycle ago: the Iranian press is no longer only backing armed factions against Baghdad, it is now reporting an Iraqi street that is said to be doing the same.

Nobonyad

Conservative / principlist national morning daily

"The ifs and buts of reopening the chamber" «اما و اگرهای بازگشایی صحن»

MODERATE: no external threat content on the lead; the finding is an open principlist attack on the Speaker



- Main: «اما و اگرهای بازگشایی صحن» (the ifs and buts of reopening the chamber), over a photograph of the Majlis floor, under the kicker «پس از دیدار قالیباف با رهبر انقلاب، صحن علنی مجلس پس از ۸ ماه تعطیلی و مشکلات متعدد جلسات مجازی بازگشایی شد» (after Ghalibaf's meeting with the Leader of the Revolution, the public floor of parliament reopened after eight months of closure and the many problems of virtual sessions). The eight-month count runs from the 28 February suspension and passes over the single in-person sitting of 12 July.
- Lead box: «شاکی رسایی مجلس نبود؛ رئیس مجلس بود» (Rasaei's plaintiff was not the parliament, it was the Speaker of parliament). The text states that more than a month has passed since Hojjat al-Islam Hamid Rasaei, the third-placed Tehran member in the twelfth-term elections, began a ten-month prison sentence imposed after a complaint by Mohammad-Baqer Ghalibaf over a matter dating back several years; that criticism of the sentence, of Rasaei's legal standing and of Tehran voters' loss of their representation has not subsided; and that one member has reported the possibility of a parliamentary tablet being supplied to Rasaei in prison so he can perform his duties.
- Op-ed: «نتانیاهو میان آوار جنگ و خشم صهیونیست‌ها» (Netanyahu between the rubble of war and the anger of the Zionists), by the journalist Mohsen Pourdadfar, arguing that three years of multi-front war with full American backing was meant to restore the Israeli deterrent and make Netanyahu the architect of historic victories, and that instead he faces, on the eve of the ballot, a crisis of public confidence, protests by victims' families, a split in his own camp and the charge of exploiting the Iran threat for electoral gain; it cites thousands of protesters in Tel Aviv on the third anniversary of 7 October.
- Sub-item: «گزارش فارن افرز از «بیمه اتمی بقا»» (a Foreign Affairs report on the atomic insurance of survival), illustrated with a warhead in an open silo and framed around the lessons of Ukraine, Libya and the war against Iran.
- Economy, p5: «زمستان گرم ایران با شراکت راهبردی روس‌ها» (Iran's warm winter through strategic partnership with the Russians), reporting that the gas imbalance is again threatening industrial and power-station fuel on the edge of winter and that the Tehran-Moscow talks have still not produced an executable contract or a firm delivery schedule.
- International, p7: «شورش دموکرات‌ها علیه ترامپ» (the Democrats' revolt against Trump), reporting Obama turning the Iran war into a symbol of disorder, incompetence and the failure of Trump's foreign policy.
- Domestic: «انتقاد از مصوبه عجیب دولت در محدودسازی ساخت و سازهای تهران و البرز» (criticism of the government's strange resolution restricting

construction in Tehran and Alborz).

> **ANALYST NOTE** Nobonyad is where the edition's convergence breaks. On the morning four other front pages carry the Speaker's warning and the restored chamber as a success, this principlist daily leads on the chamber's reopening as a problem and runs, in the box above its own lead, the charge that the only sitting member of parliament ever jailed during his term was put there by the Speaker personally. Rasaei is a declared opponent of renewed talks with Washington and Ghalibaf is read by parts of the principlist camp as favouring them, so the item is not a court report: it is a factional objection filed on the day the Speaker collects the credit for reopening the chamber he is accused of emptying of a critic. The Russian gas item is the sober counterweight to the leverage argument elsewhere in the batch: Iran is entering winter short of gas and without a signed contract from its strategic partner.

Qods

Conservative daily of Astan Quds Razavi, Mashhad

LOW-MODERATE: no war lead; the external content is the Saudi-Yemen escalation read through Macron's Gulf tour

"The question of the mobiles' attendance and absence at school" «مسئله حضور و غیاب موبایل‌ها در مدرسه»



- Main: «مسئله حضور و غیاب موبایل‌ها در مدرسه», a roll-call pun, examining the Education Ministry's new ruling on digital devices in classrooms; the body reports the Supreme Council of Education barring phone use in schools and leaving custody and storage arrangements to individual school councils.
- Photo lead: a wide shot of the Majlis chamber under the caption «بازگشت جلسات مجلس به صحن علنی با حاشیه‌سازی یک رسانه خاص همراه شد» (the return of parliament's sessions to the public chamber was accompanied by one particular outlet manufacturing a controversy), with the headline «رسانه سیاست‌زده و نشاندن دعوای سیاسی به جای منافع ملی» (a politicised outlet, seating a political quarrel in place of the national interest).
- Regional: «روز پس از سفر مکرون به منطقه، عربستان سعودی دامنه تنش‌ها با ۲ یمن را افزایش داده است» over the headline «تلاش ریاض برای بازگشت به متن» (Riyadh's attempt to get back into the text), tying the widened Saudi-Yemen exchange to Macron's Gulf tour, which took in Qatar, the UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait and an unannounced Riyadh stop on 21 October.
- Analysis: «فاتحان خیالی تهران، بازندگان احتمالی انتخابات» (the imaginary conquerors of Tehran, the probable losers of the elections), arguing that Trump and Netanyahu expected the attack on Iran to leave a historic image of them and that both now face domestic ballots in which an achievement-less war could produce a historic defeat.
- Religion: «ساماندهی تبلیغ دین با پیوند آموزش حوزه به نیازهای جامعه», on the implications of «نامه رهبر معظم انقلاب درباره ساماندهی حوزه», the Leader's letter on reorganising the seminary, discussed at a session of researchers. This is the only Leader's message in the batch and it is entirely domestic and institutional.
- Economy: an interview with Faramarz Tofighi headed «نجات مزد از کلاف هزینه‌ها» (rescuing the wage from the tangle of costs); and a signed note, «عقب‌نشینی مصلحتی بانک مرکزی از بازار طلای برخط» (the Central Bank's expedient retreat from the online gold market).
- Local: «ابرپروژه ایرانی در مشهد», phase two of Mashhad metro line 3 from Shohada Square to Ferdowsi Square.

ANALYST NOTE Qods is the one page that treats the reopened chamber as a media story rather than a political one, and the complaint is revealing: it accuses an unnamed outlet of manufacturing a side-issue out of where the sessions are held, which is the argument Nobonyad is running on its own front page this morning. Reading the two together gives the shape of a live principlist quarrel about the Speaker that is being conducted in print on the day of his restoration. The Leader's letter on the seminary is the cycle's one authoritative message and it is about clerical training, not about the war, which continues the

> pattern this monitor has recorded of a serving Leader present in institutional instruction and absent from the war's framing.

Seda-ye Iran

Published by the office for the preservation and publication of the Leader's works (KHAMENEI.IR); the Leader's own media surface

SEVERE: chokepoint veto published as doctrine by the Leader's own outlet, with an adversary's words as the warrant

"A right of veto by the name of the Strait of Hormuz" «حق وتویی به نام تنگه هرمز»



- Main: «حق وتویی به نام تنگه هرمز» (a right of veto by the name of the Strait of Hormuz), run across the full width of the page over a photograph of Barack Obama at a Democratic rally, under the kicker «تأملی بر اعتراف تاریخی اوباما» (a reflection on Obama's historic confession). The placard in frame reads FIGHTING FOR OHIO / VOTE by NOVEMBER 3, dating the image to the Cleveland rally of Saturday 24 October at which Obama campaigned for Sherrod Brown and Amy Acton and said that Iran now has veto power over the Strait of Hormuz, where oil goes through to get to the world, and that this is the reason the price of oil is up.
- Banner: the issue is dedicated «به خلبان شهید مجتبی حسینوند باقری», to the martyred pilot Mojtaba Hosseinvand Bagheri, described as an air force pilot killed in the Zionist attack that opened what the page calls «جنگ تحمیلی دوم», the Second Imposed War. The naming is the significant part: the 2026 conflict is being given the same doctrinal label as the 1980-1988 war with Iraq.
- Sermaqaleh (lead editorial): a full-page column built on the Obama remark, running beneath the rally photograph. The page is reproduced at kiosk resolution and the body text is not legible in the retrieved scan; the argument is taken from the headline, the kicker and the section furniture only.
- Right rail: «صدای ایران شنیدنی شد» (the Voice of Iran became audible), announcing that the paper's lead editorial is now distributed as audio on messaging platforms and social networks and can be heard on radio, with a QR code and a waveform player graphic.
- Economy box: «قیمت سوخت اروپایی‌ها را از خواب بیدار کرد!» (the fuel price woke the Europeans from sleep), tying European energy anxiety and the Istanbul track to the chokepoint.
- Frame: «به برکت نام علی» (by the blessing of the name of Ali), Gholamreza Farrokhi with the flag after the 82kg Greco-Roman world title.

ANALYST NOTE This is the single most consequential placement of the cycle. The outlet closest to the Leader's office has taken a US former president's domestic campaign attack on the sitting administration and promoted it to the status of doctrine: not a claim Iran makes about its own leverage, but a confession extracted from the adversary. One cycle ago this monitor recorded Kayhan's managing editor claiming the closure of the Strait as Iran's own policy instrument and calling it a divine gift; today the same claim is published with an American warrant attached, which is a materially stronger rhetorical position and a harder one to walk back. The dedication to a dead air force pilot under the label «جنگ تحمیلی دوم» is the

> second finding: the regime is fixing the war's name in the vocabulary that carries eight years of sacralized attrition.

Agency wires

Defa Press (defence, IRGC-aligned), Fars News (IRGC-affiliated), Nour News (linked to the Supreme National Security Council)

HIGH: a tri-national regional security meeting convening in Tehran while the Yemen-Saudi exchange keeps closing Gulf airspace

"Senior Saudi, Turkish and Pakistani officials travel to Tehran" «سفر مقام‌های ارشد عربستان، ترکیه و پاکستان به تهران»

- Defa Press: «سفر مقام‌های ارشد عربستان، ترکیه و پاکستان به تهران», reporting the foreign ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei as saying the Saudi defence minister, Pakistan's army chief and Turkey's intelligence chief will attend a joint meeting in Tehran, with Iran's wartime security experience offered as the basis for regional security cooperation. Fars adds that the meeting is with the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council.
- Fars News and Nour News: a photograph of a Saudi C-130 Hercules transport aircraft at Mehrabad airport in Tehran, which is the only physical corroboration of the delegation's arrival available in this cycle.
- Defa Press: the Yemeni military spokesman Yahya Saree claiming ballistic strikes on King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, the Khamis Mushait air base and a Saudi border-guard naval base at Jizan, described as an answer to Saudi strikes on Sanaa; a second claim of drone strikes on crude pumping stations of the east-west pipeline; and a further claim of ballistic strikes in Aden and Lahj. All recorded as Yemeni claims.
- Fars News and Nour News: Wall Street Journal reporting that foreign carriers including British and Indian airlines are rerouting around Saudi airspace, adding flight time, fuel and insurance cost; and an Emirati club's refusal to play an Asian club fixture in Riyadh on security grounds, with the continental federation's emergency session leaving the Asian Cup hosting question open to a decision expected around 25 November.
- Nour News: «تنگه هرمز و تحمیل هزینه به غرب» (the Strait of Hormuz and the imposition of cost on the West), arguing that American attempts to restrict civilian shipping through the Strait have left the United States, its allies and states following Washington's instructions in serious difficulty.
- Nour News: gold quoted near $4,000 an ounce, against the collapse from a $5,400 peak to below $4,000 that led the economic press one cycle ago.
- Defa Press and Fars: Jordan's interior ministry reporting arrests over the Karak church shooting, and the Brazilian electoral court confirming Lula da Silva's runoff win with Bolsonaro seeking annulment.

> **ANALYST NOTE** The wires carry the cycle's one genuinely new strategic fact and the front pages do not: three American-aligned regional militaries, Saudi, Pakistani and Turkish, sending their defence minister, army chief and intelligence chief to Tehran on the same day, with a Saudi military transport photographed at Mehrabad. That is not a press line, it is a movement, and it is the most consequential item in the batch. Against it, the security-council-linked wire that distributed the imminence warning two cycles ago has now been silent on imminence for a second consecutive cycle and publishes the chokepoint argument instead; it also carries no item at all on the meeting its own council is hosting. The Saudi-Yemen front meanwhile continues to generate aviation and insurance consequences rather than territorial ones.

Etemad

Reformist daily (read from the Etemad Online channel; the paper's own front page did not reach the kiosk album)

HIGH: continued strikes on shipping in the southern Hormuz corridor, with a regional security meeting convening in Tehran

“Heavy explosions in the Strait of Hormuz on the eve of the global oil market's reopening”
«انفجارهای سنگین تنگهٔ هرمز در آستانهٔ بازگشایی بازار جهانی نفت»

- Lead: «انفجارهای سنگین تنگهٔ هرمز در آستانهٔ بازگشایی بازار جهانی نفت» (heavy explosions in the Strait of Hormuz on the eve of the global oil market's reopening), reporting multiple strikes on tankers in the southern Hormuz corridor before markets reopen and giving oil at $117 a barrel last week. Recorded with the standing caveat that independent monitoring has not substantiated the preceding claims in this series.
- Diplomacy: «نشست مهم امنیتی در تهران؛ مقامات ارشد عربستان، ترکیه و پاکستان با مسئولان ایرانی دیدار می‌کنند» (an important security meeting in Tehran: senior Saudi, Turkish and Pakistani officials meet Iranian officials), attributed to Reuters and dated to today.
- Israel: «ترامپ از اسرائیلی‌ها خواست به نتانیاهو رای دهند» (Trump asked Israelis to vote for Netanyahu), reporting a Truth Social post that cites the American-Israeli strikes on Iran's nuclear programme and calls for an end to the 'death to America' chants, published on the eve of the 27 October ballot.
- United States: a video item reporting Trump telling Fox News that all of Iran's nuclear sites are under watch and that Washington would know how to answer any move.
- Foreign ministry: «بقائی: وزیر خارجه آمریکا ایران را به چیزی متهم می‌کند که خود بدان افتخار می‌کنند: دزدی دریایی!» (Baghaei: the American Secretary of State accuses Iran of the very thing they boast of, piracy), the spokesman's answer to American charges that Iran is attacking shipping.
- Yemen: «حمله موشکی یمن به فرودگاه بین‌المللی خالد در ریاض», and a Wall Street Journal citation on Saudi officers and soldiers killed or wounded in Yemeni strikes on positions in Aden and Shabwa.
- Domestic: «دادستانی تهران علیه عوامل و دست‌اندرکاران برگزاری نمایشگاه آرت فیر تهران اعلام جرم کرد» (the Tehran prosecutor has filed charges over the Tehran Art Fair), carried on four separate Iranian surfaces in the same cycle.

> **ANALYST NOTE** The reformist channel is the only Iranian surface in this batch that prints both halves of the Hormuz picture in the same cycle: tankers exploding in the southern corridor and an oil price that has not moved past the figure carried a week ago. It is also where the two pieces of hard diplomatic news land first, the Tehran security meeting and Trump's open endorsement of Netanyahu, and the pairing is the cycle's central ambiguity: Washington is campaigning for the Israeli incumbent on the eve of a ballot while three American-aligned regional militaries send their senior officials to Tehran. The Art Fair prosecution, appearing on four separate surfaces within hours, is the standing marker of coordinated domestic distribution.

Iran

Official government daily (read from the paper's own channel; it did not reach the kiosk album)

“Iran's right of veto over the world's oil artery” «حق وتوی ایران بر شریان نفت جهان»

HIGH: the chokepoint veto formula adopted on the government's own masthead

- Print edition: «حق وتوی ایران بر شریان نفت جهان» (Iran's right of veto over the world's oil artery), the government daily's rendering of the Obama remark, and «صهیونیست‌ها در برزخ انتخاب» (the Zionists in the limbo of the ballot).
- Roundup: «قالیباف: آماده‌ایم پاسخی خارج از تصور به دشمن بدهیم» (Ghalibaf: we are ready to give the enemy a response beyond imagination).
- Roundup: «پزشکیان: باید از وضعیت «نه جنگ، نه صلح» خارج شویم» (Pezeshkian: we must leave the condition of neither war nor peace), the sentence that organised the whole of the previous edition, now reduced to one line in a headline list.
- Roundup: «دریادار ایرانی: رشادت نیروهای مسلح در حراست از تنگه هرمز نماد اقتدار کشور است» (an Iranian admiral: the valour of the armed forces in guarding the Strait of Hormuz is a symbol of the country's standing), which places the Strait under Iranian guardianship rather than Iranian closure.
- Roundup: «بقایی: ایرانیان درس گرفته‌اند که به حرف آمریکایی‌ها اعتماد نکنند» (Baghaei: Iranians have learned not to trust what the Americans say).

> **ANALYST NOTE** The government's own daily adopting «حق وتو» puts the chokepoint doctrine on the official surface, which closes the gap between the Leader's outlet, the Guard daily, the state broadcaster and the executive: four institutional lanes printing the same borrowed formula within one news cycle is message discipline, not editorial coincidence. The second finding is subtractive. The presidential sentence that five front pages fought over one cycle ago, that the condition of neither war nor peace must end, survives today only as a single line in a headline list on the President's own paper. The argument about the exit has not been resolved; it has been displaced by a doctrine that does not require one.

Kayhan

Hardline daily closest to the Leader's office, managing editor Hossein Shariatmadari (read from the paper's own channel listing; it did not reach the kiosk album)

HIGH: economic war declared as standing machinery, with an unverified seizure of an American cargo presented as its first return

"An economic war council is formed: Iran's counter-strike against Trump" «تشکیل شورای جنگ اقتصادی، پاتک ایران به ترامپ»

- Main: «تشکیل شورای جنگ اقتصادی، پاتک ایران به ترامپ» (the formation of an economic war council, Iran's counter-strike against Trump). The article presents the council as a response to American economic threats and dates it against the expiry of what it calls the US Treasury Secretary's claimed deadline for Iran's economic collapse; the US campaign in question is the shadow-fleet sanctions programme announced through October. Remarks are attributed to Mohsen Rezaei, whom the paper identifies as Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, alongside economists, with criticism directed at officials the paper holds responsible for earlier policy.
- Main sub: «ایران با مصادره محموله نفتکش آمریکایی حق ۷۷۱ بیمار پروانه‌ای را از آمریکا گرفت» (Iran, by confiscating the cargo of an American tanker, took from America the due of 771 butterfly-disease patients). Recorded as an Iranian claim: no independent confirmation of a cargo seizure of this description is available, and the framing attaches the seizure to the sanctions-blocked dressings for epidermolysis bullosa patients, the regime's most reliable humanitarian grievance.
- Banner: «قالیباف: مقابل هرگونه جسارت، پاسخی خارج از تصور می‌دهیم» (Ghalibaf: in the face of any audacity we will give a response beyond imagination), the same remark carried by four other surfaces.
- Regional: «یمن، عربستان را شخم زد» (Yemen ploughed Saudi Arabia), and «بلومبرگ: ارتش‌های عربی توخالی‌اند» (Bloomberg: the Arab armies are hollow), a second-hand rendering flagged as such.
- Energy: «کشور از واردکننده گازوئیل به صرفه‌جویی ۱.۵ میلیارد لیتری رسید» (the country has gone from a diesel importer to saving 1.5 billion litres), an unverified production claim offered as proof that the blockade is being absorbed.
- Iraq: «تظاهرات مردم خشمگین عراق به نفع ایران و علیه بسته شدن مرز چذابه» (demonstrations by angry Iraqis in Iran's favour and against the closure of the Chazabeh border).
- International: two posts on Lula da Silva's fourth-term runoff win in Brazil against a Trump-aligned candidate, with the paper noting his repeated UN condemnations of Israel's conduct toward Palestine.

> **ANALYST NOTE** Kayhan has switched registers between cycles. One edition ago its managing editor claimed the closure of the Strait as a divine gift and measured seven months of Iranian pressure against forty-seven years of American sanctions; today the paper institutionalises that argument into machinery, an economic war council with a named secretary attached to it, and supplies a transaction, a seized cargo converted into medicine for named patients. Claimed machinery and a claimed transaction are a different kind of assertion from a claimed gift: they are falsifiable, and nothing in the open record substantiates either. The Brazil coverage is the quieter signal, and it belongs with Javan's European lead and Nobonyad's Democratic-revolt item: the hardline press is assembling a picture of a Western order losing its own elections.

Sobh-e No

Principlist daily (read from the paper's own channel; it did not reach the kiosk album)

MODERATE-HIGH: a nuclear-doctrine change floated as a conditional scenario on a principlist surface

"Open session in the chamber" «جلسه علنی در صحن»

- Front page: «جلسه علنی در صحن» (open session in the chamber), the plainest statement of the cycle's domestic event; the remainder of the page is carried as an image and is not recoverable as text.
- Hormuz: «توییت معنادار سخنگوی سپاه در مقابل توهمات کوپر» (the pointed tweet of the Guard spokesman against Cooper's delusions), responding to a US Central Command account of its commander, Brad Cooper, overflying Strait of Hormuz operations in a CH-47 on 25 October.
- Majlis / UAE: «واکنش قالیباف به اعلام نامزدی دیپلمات اماراتی برای دبیرکلی سازمان ملل» (the Speaker's reaction to the Emirati diplomat's UN Secretary-General candidacy), framing the nomination as part of a greater-Israel project and recirculating the candidate's earlier defence of UAE-Israel normalisation.
- Iraq: «حمایت مقاومت عراق از ایران» (the Iraqi resistance's support for Iran), carrying a statement by Iraqi armed factions that charges the Iraqi government with acting for Washington and claims 171 violations of Iraqi airspace by American aircraft between 30 September and 23 October. Recorded as the factions' claim.
- Yemen: «حمله موشکی و پهپادی یمن به فرودگاه ریاض و تأسیسات نفتی عربستان», carrying the Yemeni military spokesman's claim of a ballistic strike on King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh and drone strikes on pumping stations of the east-west pipeline.
- Commentary: a piece on possible Iranian responses that raises, as a scenario, a change in Iran's nuclear doctrine in the event of an American tactical strike. Recorded as commentary on a principlist surface and not as a statement of policy.

> **ANALYST NOTE** Sobh-e No is the only outlet that names the restored chamber as its front-page headline without qualification, which places it on the Speaker's side of the quarrel Nobonyad and Qods are conducting. The nuclear-doctrine scenario is the item to track: this monitor has recorded Iranian officials declining to reopen the doctrine question since the ceasefire memorandum, and a principlist paper publishing the scenario as a conditional is the softest possible way of putting it back on the page. The airspace-violation count attributed to the Iraqi factions is specific enough to be checkable and has not been checked here.

Vatan-e Emrooz

Hardline / principlist daily (read from the paper's own channel; the front page posted as an image without recoverable text)

MODERATE: counter-intelligence arrests in the Hormuz province; an unreconciled export-recovery datum carried without comment

"Iran has become stronger (kiosk item on Obama's remarks)" «ایران قدرتمندتر شده است»

- Kiosk item: a summary of Obama's criticism of Trump's Iran policy as unnecessary, damaging to American military capacity and costly to American households, printed under the headline «ایران قدرتمندتر شده است» (Iran has become stronger). This is the fifth Iranian surface in the cycle to carry the Obama material.
- Israel: a claim by the Handala group of having breached an Israeli firm's system and published 150 gigabytes including court-session, police-interrogation and security recordings. Recorded as the group's claim; no independent confirmation.
- Israel: a video report of Druze protests in Tel Aviv following an Israeli attack on a Druze man, sourced to the Kan network.
- United States and Russia: the Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov saying a Putin-Trump bilateral may take place on the APEC margins on 18-19 November, with a trilateral including Xi Jinping also under consideration.
- Oil: a Middle East Eye piece quoting the analyst Gregory Brew that Iran and Trump both watch the oil market and read it differently, with Kpler data showing regional exports back at pre-war levels and some analysts treating the move as a temporary spike. This is the one item in the batch that cuts against the leverage argument, and it is carried by a hardline paper.
- Domestic security: the IRGC Intelligence Organisation reporting the arrest in Hormozgan of several people it describes as virtual mercenaries of the Iran International network, accused of sending footage of missile impact sites and defensive positions. Recorded as the organisation's claim.
- Leader: a forwarded excerpt from the Leader's jurisprudence lesson under the title «شیطان را تحقیر کنید» (belittle Satan), citing Qur'an 4:76 on the weakness of Satan's scheming. The same clip was circulated by Kayhan and Defa Press.

> **ANALYST NOTE** Vatan-e Emrooz supplies the cycle's one piece of negative evidence on the leverage argument from inside the hardline camp: an analyst citation that regional exports are back at pre-war levels and that the price move may be temporary. That it runs on a hardline surface without comment, on the same morning four papers print the chokepoint veto as doctrine, is the sort of unreconciled contradiction worth tracking rather than resolving. The arrests in Hormozgan are the counter-intelligence signal of the cycle and point at the same province that faces the Strait. The Leader's fiqh clip, pushed through three channels, is again audio and text with no imagery: the serving Leader remains a voice and a name rather than a face.

Appendix A - The Leader's message in this cycle: the jurisprudence-lesson excerpt and the seminary letter

Excerpt from the Leader's fiqh lesson circulated as video on the Kayhan, Vatan-e Emrooz and Defa Press channels on 25-26 October, titled «شیطان را تحقیر کنید»; the seminary letter referenced on the front page of Qods, issue 11056

PARTIAL TRANSLATION, FLAGGED. The Leader's office published no full text in this cycle that this monitor was able to retrieve. khamenei.ir was not reachable at the time of compilation, and the Leader's own Persian channel served no dated posts. What follows is reconstructed from the forwarded excerpt as it was distributed on three separate channels, two of them the papers closest to the Leader's office and one a defence wire, and from the front-page reference in Qods.

Title as circulated: «شیطان را تحقیر کنید», belittle Satan. The excerpt, taken from the Leader's jurisprudence lesson, turns on the Qur'anic verse cited within it: «إِنَّ كَيْدَ الشَّيْطَانِ كَانَ ضَعِيفًا» (Qur'an, al-Nisa 4:76), indeed the scheming of Satan is weak. The instruction carried with it is that the believer should stand upright before Satan rather than before him in fear, and should hold his scheming in contempt rather than in awe.

Analyst flag: the material point is not the content, which is conventional homiletic instruction, but the channel and the form. For a second consecutive cycle the serving Leader reaches the public as audio and as text and not as an image: no front page in this batch carries a photograph of him, and the one message of substance referenced anywhere in the batch is institutional rather than strategic. Qods reports «نامه رهبر معظم انقلاب درباره ساماندهی حوزه», the Leader's letter on the reorganisation of the seminary, discussed at a session of researchers, with the operative theme given as binding seminary training to the needs of society. The text of that letter was not available at the time of compilation and is recorded here as a reference, not as a translation. Treat the themes as reported by Qods, not as verified quotation.

Source line: Qods, year 39, issue 11056, 4 Aban 1405, front page; fiqh-lesson excerpt as circulated on the Kayhan Online, Vatan-e Emrooz and Defa Press channels, 25-26 October 2026.

Appendix B - The day's flagged editorial: 'Netanyahu between the rubble of war and the anger of the Zionists'

Nobonyad, year 1, issue 169, 4 Aban 1405, front page; signed Mohsen Pourdadfar, journalist (author verified against the printed byline «محسن پوردادفر / روزنامه‌نگار»)

PARTIAL TRANSLATION, FLAGGED. The full column runs on page six, which is not in the batch; the front page carries the title, the byline and the opening standfirst, which is translated here in full from the printed text. The body is not reproduced because it was not retrieved, and nothing below is a reconstruction.

Title: «نتانیاهو میان آوار جنگ و خشم صهیونیست‌ها», Netanyahu between the rubble of war and the anger of the Zionists.

Standfirst, translated in full: 'Three years of war on several fronts, with all-round American support, was supposed to restore the deterrent power of the Zionist regime and turn Benjamin Netanyahu into the architect of historic victories. But now, on the eve of the elections, the occupying regime's criminal prime minister faces a crisis of public confidence, the protest of the victims' families, a split in his own political camp, and the charge of exploiting the Iranian threat for electoral gain. The gathering of thousands of protesters in Tel Aviv, and that on the third anniversary of the regime's heavy defeat of the seventh of October, is a sign of the depth of the governmental crisis that it believed war to be its way out of.' The front page closes with the note «متن کامل در صفحه ۶», the full text on page six.

Verification note: the loaded regime vocabulary is retained as printed. «رژیم اشغالگر» renders as the occupying regime and «نخست‌وزیر جنایتکار» as the criminal prime minister; both are the paper's characterisations and are reproduced here as evidence of register, not adopted. The factual claims inside the standfirst are mixed. The Israeli ballot of 27 October, the split in Netanyahu's camp and the protests by bereaved families are matters of public record; polling through the final week showed Netanyahu and the retired chief of staff Gadi Eisenkot close, with Eisenkot's Yashar party at or just ahead of Likud and neither bloc reaching a sixty-one seat majority. The characterisation of 7 October 2023 as a heavy defeat and of the war's three years as yielding nothing are the paper's judgments. The specific attendance claim at the Tel Aviv gathering is not independently confirmed here and is not to be reproduced as authentic without primary-source confirmation.

Analyst flag: the column is the clearest statement of a frame that runs across four papers in this batch, from the Guard daily to the Mashhad conservative paper, which is that Iran's adversaries are about to be judged by their own electorates. Qods prints it as «فاتحان خیالی تهران، بازندگان احتمالی انتخابات», the imaginary conquerors of Tehran and the probable losers of the elections; Jam-e Jam prints it as the war having freed the hands of Trump's domestic critics; Nobonyad prints it on page seven as the Democrats' revolt. This is the edition's substitute for a claim of military victory, and it has a short expiry: the Israeli ballot falls on 27 October and the American midterms on 3 November.

Source line: Nobonyad, sal-e avval, shomareh 169, dushanbe 4 Aban 1405.

Appendix C - Methodology and sourcing notes

Compilation record for the edition of 26 October 2026

Scope and retrieval. Nine front pages were pulled from the kiosk albums of 4 Aban 1405, eight Persian and one English, and each was read in full as an image. The batch's own printed Jalali date matched the target date, so the stale-batch guard did not trip and no fallback sources were needed. Six newspaper channels and three agency wires were read as text, together with the English-language daily. Tehran Times was not available at the time of compilation, and the Leader's official site was likewise not reachable; both absences are recorded rather than filled.

Resolution limits. The kiosk scans are distributed at a resolution that supports mastheads, lead headlines, decks, standfirsts and captions but not continuous body text. Where a page's body matter is cited in this edition it is cited from a crop that was legible at that magnification, or from the paper's own channel, and nothing has been inferred from an illegible block. Two front-page editorials in this batch, the lead column of Seda-ye Iran and the editorial of Jomhouri-ye Eslami, were legible only as far as their titles and are reported at that depth.

Papers read from channels rather than scans. Kayhan, Sobh-e No, Etemad, the Iran newspaper and Vatan-e Emrooz did not reach the kiosk album in a readable form and were read from their own Telegram channels. For Kayhan this is the third consecutive cycle in which the paper has been read from its channel listing. Where a channel posts the front page as an image without recoverable text, as Vatan-e Emrooz and Etemad did, only the channel's separate text items are used and the paper's own lead headline is recorded as not established.

Attribution firewall. Every Iranian military, interdiction and battle-damage claim in this edition is attributed to the outlet or official that made it and is not adopted as fact. That applies specifically to: Kayhan's claim that Iran confiscated the cargo of an American tanker and converted it into the entitlement of 771 epidermolysis bullosa patients; Kayhan's claim of a 1.5 billion litre diesel saving; Etemad's report of heavy explosions in the southern Hormuz corridor; the Yemeni military spokesman's claims of strikes on King Khalid International Airport, Khamis Mushait, Jizan, Aden and Lahj; the Iraqi factions' claim of 171 American airspace violations; and the Handala group's claim of a 150-gigabyte breach of an Israeli system. Second-hand renderings of Western outlets, including Kayhan on Bloomberg, Jomhouri-ye Eslami on Haaretz and Vatan-e Emrooz on Middle East Eye and the Wall Street Journal, remain flagged: quoting a rendering does not verify it.

Verifications performed. Obama's Strait of Hormuz remark was checked against independent reporting of the Cleveland rally of 24 October, where he campaigned for Sherrod Brown and Amy Acton and said Iran now has veto power over the Strait of Hormuz and that this is the reason the price of oil is up; the Iranian papers' rendering of the remark is accurate as to substance. Lana Nusseibeh's candidacy for the UN Secretary-Generalship, formally submitted by the UAE on 21-22 October, was confirmed. Kamal Kharrazi, named as a martyr on the Iran Daily photograph, was confirmed as having died in April 2026 of wounds from a strike on his Tehran home; the commemorative session is new, the death is not. Hamid Rasaei's ten-month sentence, begun on 27 September after a complaint by the Speaker, was confirmed, as was his status as the first sitting member imprisoned during his term. The closure of the al-Sheeb crossing, known in Iran as Chazabeh, was confirmed as dating from 21 October, with Iranian officials at the time directing traffic to Shalamcheh; Iran Daily's report that Shalamcheh is now closed

as well is this cycle's new element. Macron's Gulf tour, including the unannounced Riyadh stop of 21 October, was confirmed. The Israeli ballot of 27 October and the polling picture were confirmed.

Corrections and open questions carried forward. The parliamentary closure is dated by Nobonyad at eight months, which counts from the suspension of 28 February and passes over the single in-person sitting of 12 July; readers should treat the restoration as the resumption of regular plenary business rather than the first sitting since the war began. The attribution of the Supreme National Security Council secretaryship to Mohsen Rezaei is Kayhan's, carried here as the outlet's attribution. The identity of the cleric photographed on the Nobonyad front page is not stated in the caption and is not asserted here. The composition of the Tehran security meeting, given by the foreign ministry spokesman as the Saudi defence minister, Pakistan's army chief and Turkey's intelligence chief, is recorded by office and not by name, because no Iranian surface in this batch named the individuals.

Succession evidence. The serving Leader is identified throughout as Mojtaba Khamenei, following the single-source position this monitor has flagged since the succession: the name is printed in Iranian papers, most fully by Sobh-e No one cycle ago as «حضرت آیت‌الله سیدمجتبی حسینی خامنه‌ای», and reported by external outlets as the unseen Supreme Leader whom the Speaker met on 21 October. No photograph, recording or public appearance has been released. Where a page in this batch writes «رهبر انقلاب» or «رهبر معظم انقلاب», it refers to him; «رهبر شهید» and «شهید سیدعلی» refer to his assassinated predecessor.

Handling. This product documents and analyses hostile foreign-press rhetoric for defensive assessment only. Nothing herein endorses, amplifies or operationalises it.

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.