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READER EDITION

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ISRAEL BRIEF

Tuesday, June 9

Israel and Iran stop firing on Trump's word, the prime minister ends a loaded strike on a phone call, and the question is who decides.

◇ URIEL ZEHAVI

THE BOTTOM LINE When a foreign government's consul has to tell the host country that condemnation without enforcement is theater, the host country has already told its Jews where they rank. Ottawa's answer to gunfire at Jewish schools and now arson and broken glass at two shuls in a day was an advisory council to study the problem [the seven-member kind that seats one Jewish member alongside a figure with documented Hezbollah-lobbying ties]. Shamir is naming the gap every European Jewish community already learned to read — the distance between a prime minister conceding the country is failing its Jews and the country doing one thing that costs an attacker something.

CLASSIFICATION

Reader Edition

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“Our future depends not on what the gentiles say, but on what the Jews do,” Ben-Gurion told the Independence Day crowd in 1955 — and the read of this round is his rule running in reverse. The exchange with Iran stopped overnight because Washington said stop, the prime minister waved off a strike already loaded for takeoff after a phone call, and Trump alone is dating the deal, naming “total victory,” and deciding when Hormuz reopens.

IN THIS EDITION

Flash Brief	3
The War Today	3
Iran and Israel Stop Firing as Trump Sells a Deal Tehran Denies . . .	4
Israel Strikes Tyre and Empties Its Christian Quarter for the First Time	4
The IDF Keeps Working the Gaza Bench Through the Ceasefire	5
Inside Israel	5
Netanyahu Halts the Iran Strike on Trump’s Call Over Cabinet Objections	5
Religious Zionism Strips the Soldier-Equivalence Clause Out of the Torah-Study Basic Law	6
The Coalition Moves to Shield Gotliv as the AG Urges Denial	6
Israel and the World	7
The Hague Suspends the Prosecutor Who Wrote the Netanyahu Warrants	7
Massie Takes the USS Liberty False-Flag Theory to the House Floor .	8
A Second Canadian Synagogue Hit Pulls Israel’s Toronto Consul Into the Open	8
Briefly Noted	9
Frontline & Security	9
Diplomacy & Geopolitics	9
Public Diplomacy & Media	9
Domestic & Law	10
Economy, Tech & Infrastructure	10
Culture, Religion & Society	10
Developments to Watch	11

Judea & Samaria	11
Northern Front (Lebanon / Syria)	11
Regional Axis (Iran, Houthis, Militias)	11
Diplomatic & Legal	12
Home Front & Politics	12

Flash Brief

- **Iran halt:** The direct exchange stops overnight on Trump's word, and Tehran denies any deal exists. *See The War Today.*
- **The cabinet room:** Netanyahu ends a loaded Iran strike after Trump warns he will be "on your own." *See Inside Israel.*
- **Tyre:** Israel empties the ancient city and strikes Hezbollah, ordering out the Christian quarter for the first time. *See The War Today.*
- **Gaza bench:** The IDF hits a Hamas naval-police headquarters and three PIJ operatives through the truce. *See The War Today.*
- **Torah-study law:** Religious Zionism forces the soldier-equivalence clause out before the Basic Law reaches the floor. *See Inside Israel.*
- **Gotliv:** The coalition moves to shield her from indictment as Baharav-Miara appears in person to urge denial. *See Inside Israel.*
- **The Hague:** The ICC suspends Karim Khan, who wrote the Netanyahu warrants, over sexual-misconduct findings. *See Israel and the World.*
- **Massie:** He takes the USS Liberty "false flag" theory to the House floor on the anniversary. *See Israel and the World.*
- **Toronto:** A second synagogue is hit in a day, and Israel's consul-general demands action over condolences. *See Israel and the World.*
- **IAEA:** The Board sits this week as Washington pushes a censure Tehran can use to formalize the inspector lockout. *See Developments to Watch.*

☒ *Four days ago, we called this play. Field Dossier: The Permission Layer argued the real product of this war is a permission layer — total capability for Israel, and the steady migration of the decision to use it away from Jerusalem. It opened on a Beirut strike Israel ordered and Washington cancelled on a website. This morning the same machine reached the Iran file itself. Read it before the next call comes in.*

THE halt covers exactly one front of four, and Tehran tied its quiet to the one Israel is not truly able to freeze. Iran conditions its pause on southern Lebanon, and Israel struck Tyre under an hour after the announcement, because ceding the Lebanon front to buy an Iran pause hands the proxy the sanctuary the patron could not win at the table. Underneath the diplomacy, the IDF keeps working the Gaza bench one commander at a time, reading the truce as the window it can enforce inside. The constant across the war front and the cabinet is that the most consequential calls are being made outside Jerusalem.

The War Today

IRAN AND ISRAEL STOP FIRING AS TRUMP SELLS A DEAL TEHRAN DENIES

The direct exchange stopped overnight, the first quiet since the barrage opened two days ago, with no new launches after both governments suspended operations under Washington's pressure. Netanyahu called it a halt and refused the word ceasefire, framing the pause as the product of Israeli deterrence and vowing overwhelming force if Iran fires again. Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya command announced an end to its offensive while warning of "much more severe and crushing measures" if Israel keeps striking, and conditioned the suspension on Israel stopping its operations in southern Lebanon. Trump told reporters both sides agreed "through me" to stop, that a US-Iran deal could be signed "in two or three days," that "total victory" would arrive within two weeks, and that Hormuz would reopen on signature. Tehran disputed that any deal exists, an Iranian parliamentary official telling CNN, "we don't think that he's honest," and a senior official insisting Washington's behavior "must change" first. A US Army Apache went down off Oman near the Strait of Hormuz late yesterday and both crew were pulled from the water by a naval drone, the cause still under investigation. Iranian state outlets boasted that the regime had "broken the ceasefire equation."

ASSESSMENT

Tehran fired enough to claim it answered Beirut, took the strikes inside Iran, and stopped on Trump's word — and the halt arrives on terms Jerusalem did not set, with Trump brokering the stop, dating the deal, and alone deciding what "total victory" means. A pause Netanyahu cannot call a ceasefire is the permission problem we have watched all spring, now applied to the Iran file itself. Tehran ties its quiet to Lebanon precisely because that is the front Israel will not freeze, which loads the next pretext before the first one cools. As for "two or three days" [the count is now somewhere past three dozen such promises], the regime sitting on a record enriched-uranium stockpile with the inspectors locked out has every reason to keep talking while the centrifuges spin.

ISRAEL STRIKES TYRE AND EMPTIES ITS CHRISTIAN QUARTER FOR THE FIRST TIME

The IDF ordered the evacuation of the entire ancient city of Tyre and then struck Hezbollah targets across it, the first directive in the campaign to explicitly include the portside Christian quarter that earlier orders had spared. Arabic-language spokesman Col. Avichay Adraee told residents to move north of the Zahrani River, some twenty miles up the coast, citing Hezbollah's violation of the ceasefire and its fire on the home front and warning that any building the group uses militarily may be hit. Correspondents watched the Christian quarter empty out into heavy northbound traffic. The IDF had said a week earlier that dozens of Hezbollah operatives were sheltering in the neighborhood. Hostile sources put the day's dead at eight, with a separate strike near a Red Cross station the day before killing five. Hezbollah claimed sixteen attacks on Israeli forces across the south. Israel struck Lebanon under an hour after Iran announced its halt, and overnight the IDF downed a Houthi drone over Eilat, holding the fourth front open alongside Iran, Hezbollah, and Gaza.

ASSESSMENT

Tehran named Lebanon as the condition for its quiet, and Israel answered by widening the one front it has never agreed to freeze — Tyre is the standing argument that the IDF, not any Lebanese institution, is the only thing clearing Hezbollah off the ground it reoccupies. Katz categorically rejects the linkage, and the logic underneath the rejection is that ceding the Lebanon front to buy an Iran pause hands the proxy the sanctuary the patron could not win at the table.

THE IDF KEEPS WORKING THE GAZA BENCH THROUGH THE CEASEFIRE

The IDF confirmed it struck the main headquarters of Hamas's naval forces (a group they call "police" but in reality are anything but) in the Khan Yunis area, killing several operatives including Ismail al-Lahham, named as a cell commander in the military wing. The military said the naval police operates under the military wing's authority and that the headquarters was being used to rebuild and reconstitute capabilities in violation of the ceasefire, run out of facilities presented as civilian. A separate strike eliminated three senior Palestinian Islamic Jihad operatives the IDF said were still planning attacks on troops despite the truce. The army said it had also dismantled three weapons-storage sites across southern Gaza over the past week, secondary explosions confirming the munitions inside. No independent casualty count surfaced beyond "several."

ASSESSMENT

This is the disarmament clause answered with target folders, the same enforcement-by-elimination we have tracked since Netanyahu pushed control past seventy percent — Hamas's "naval police" is the rebuilding arm operating under a civilian letterhead, which is why it shelters in facilities the army has to photograph before it strikes. Hamas reads the ceasefire as a financing and reconstitution window, and the IDF reads it as a license to keep degrading the bench one commander at a time. The strikes land in the same hours Egypt works to fold Gaza into the wider Iran settlement, which is how Hamas would convert a battered field position into a bargaining line. Whether Washington lets the Doha table absorb the disarmament question is the open one [Cairo is counting on it].

Inside Israel

NETANYAHU HALTS THE IRAN STRIKE ON TRUMP'S CALL OVER CABINET OBJECTIONS

Netanyahu ordered the Iran operation stopped with aircraft already loaded for takeoff, ending the largest planned strike wave since April after Trump warned him by phone, "Bibi, you better be careful, or you will be on your own very soon." He convened the security cabinet, and the closed-door account that leaked has him telling ministers why he folded: "We're on the same page with Trump. He's not releasing Iran's frozen money and he's determined to get the nuclear material out. Why pick a fight with him?" Ben-Gvir reportedly pressed to keep going, arguing Israel had to make clear to Washington "there are red lines." Netanyahu waved it off — "Well, elections in three months" — and Ben-Gvir answered that he says it with elections or without. Smotrich

argued against striking Iran at all and for the Beirut model instead, hitting Hezbollah hard enough in the Dahiyeh that it begs for the fire to stop. Deri, brought into the room though he holds no cabinet seat, told the table to be realistic and drop the talk of striking Iran and Beirut both. By 6 a.m. the Home Front Command had flipped the country back to full activity, eight northern communities aside, with the cabinet conceding among itself that this was not the last round.

ASSESSMENT

The fight inside the room was over who decides whether Israel hits Iran, and the prime minister answered it by ending an operation already in motion on a phone call from Washington. The most consequential decision of the round turned on what Trump would tolerate, with the IDF's read of the target a second-order input.

RELIGIOUS ZIONISM STRIPS THE SOLDIER-EQUIVALENCE CLAUSE OUT OF THE TORAH-STUDY BASIC LAW

Smotrich's Religious Zionism forced the coalition to gut the core of the haredi Basic Law before it reaches the floor, declaring it will not advance any text that equates the status and conditions of men who do not serve with those of IDF soldiers. The Ministerial Committee for Legislation agreed to carry a revised version that recognizes Torah study as a foundational value without comparing yeshiva students to servicemembers, and Cabinet Secretary Yossi Fuchs confirmed the equivalence clause comes out and the bill returns to committee before its first reading. The retreat followed Deri's Monday ultimatum that the Basic Law reach a preliminary reading this week or Shas withholds its support from every other coalition bill, the whole package tied to a reported deal pushing the election to October 20 in exchange for the Torah-study law, a haredi daycare-subsidy law, and a kashrut law. Likud's Dan Illouz called a vote for any version, softened or not, "a spit in the face of the public that serves."

ASSESSMENT

Writing Torah study into the constitutional core as the equal of army service was the move that would have made the exemption permanent and unreachable, and the coalition could not hold its own benches on it — Religious Zionism and two Likud ministers walked it back before the opposition got a vote. The burden question has stopped sorting along the coalition line we've watched it hold for two years, with the sharpest objections coming from inside Likud. What survives is a softened text that anchors Torah study as a value while the IDF runs roughly 12,000 short and the evader roll passes 39,000 — the same gap the law was supposed to paper over, now with the paper even thinner.

THE COALITION MOVES TO SHIELD GOTLIV AS THE AG URGES DENIAL

The Knesset House Committee resumed the immunity hearing for Likud MK Tally Gotliv as the sirens were still sounding, and the coalition is expected to grant her the protection that keeps her indictment from going to trial this term. Gotliv used the chamber to call Baharav-Miara's office "a crime organization" that "destroyed the legal advice to the government in order to bring down the right-wing government and whitewash the top of the Shin Bet,"

screened a video pushing the claim that October 7 was an act of “treason and rebellion in the army,” and accused the deputy attorney general of visiting the former military advocate general after her arrest to keep her quiet. Baharav-Miara made a rare personal appearance, sat across from Gotliv through the assault, and urged the committee to deny immunity, warning that granting it would endanger state security — the indictment she filed charges Gotliv with publishing the identity of a Shin Bet employee, the partner of protest leader Shikma Bressler. If the committee grants it, the request moves to the plenum, where the coalition has the votes.

ASSESSMENT

The substance of the case is narrow — an MK named a Shin Bet officer she was not entitled to name — and the coalition is going to protect her anyway, because the immunity vote is a proxy for the larger fight over an attorney general who has spent three years filing against this government and timing the filings to its calendar. Gotliv’s “crime organization” performance is the cost of that proxy. She gets her cover, and the price is a sitting MK using a protected room during a missile barrage to relitigate October 7 as a security-establishment plot [the opposition shouting “are you insane?” at the video was the rare moment everyone in the room agreed on something]. Baharav-Miara appearing in person to lose a vote she knows is lost is the same legal posture worn over a political fight we’ve tracked at the Comptroller seat and the Mossad appointment, run one more time before the election settles who holds the pen.

Israel and the World

THE HAGUE SUSPENDS THE PROSECUTOR WHO WROTE THE NETANYAHU WARRANTS

The International Criminal Court suspended chief prosecutor Karim Khan and its governing body recommended his removal, closing an eighteen-month probe that found he committed serious sexual misconduct against a female lawyer in his own office. The court’s executive bureau referred the matter to the Assembly of States Parties, where all 125 member states will vote in a secret ballot, sixty-three needed to remove him. Khan’s lawyers called the decision “unlawful, procedurally unfair, and unsupported by evidence” and said he denies any wrongdoing. He is the man who sought the November 2024 arrest warrants for Netanyahu and Gallant. The suspension landed the same day a delegation of senior US administration legal advisers met Netanyahu and Sa’ar in Jerusalem to coordinate against what Sa’ar called the distorted legal and economic warfare aimed at Israel and the United States.

ASSESSMENT

The office that built a war-crimes case on evidentiary standards no Western court would accept has now been told by its own member states that its prosecutor cannot meet the standard for keeping his job. We have tracked the corruption problem under the warrants for months, when an FBI affidavit on alleged Qatari payments first turned the prosecutor into the case's weakest link. A warrant survives a disgraced prosecutor on paper, but the political authority to enforce one across a wary European bloc does not, and a removal vote among 125 states is a referendum on the whole instrument. Watch whether the successor inherits the Israel docket or quietly lets it expire with the man who wrote it.

MASSIE TAKES THE USS LIBERTY FALSE-FLAG THEORY TO THE HOUSE FLOOR

Thomas Massie used the floor of the House of Representatives on Monday to call for a fresh investigation into Israel's 1967 attack on the USS Liberty, dropping the friendly-fire conclusion that five decades of American inquiries — the CIA's among them — settled, and reaching for “intentional murder” and “false flag” instead. Thirty-four American sailors died and 171 were wounded off Sinai during the Six-Day War when Israeli aircraft and torpedo boats struck the intelligence ship. Israel took responsibility within hours, apologized, and paid restitution to the families and the wounded. Massie, who lost his primary last month and blames pro-Israel groups for the defeat, cited former officials including ex-CIA director Richard Helms to insist the dead were the target: “There was no intention of taking prisoners.” He timed the speech to the anniversary and folded it into a resolution honoring the survivors, which seats the conspiracy inside a procedural vehicle the chamber finds harder to refuse.

ASSESSMENT

The Maine nominee accused of wearing a Nazi symbol and the Kentucky Republican reviving a sixty-year-old blood libel against the Israeli air force are the same sort across opposite flanks — the partisan gap we have tracked at the vocabulary layer now reaches a congressman willing to enter “Israel murders Americans on purpose” into the Congressional Record. Massie's tell is the resolution. He wrapped the conspiracy in a vote to honor the fallen and the survivors, which lets a colleague back the false-flag claim without ever having to defend it [the same drafted-on-trigger logic his AIPAC-Act foreign-agent framework ran on].

A SECOND CANADIAN SYNAGOGUE HIT PULLS ISRAEL'S TORONTO CONSUL INTO THE OPEN

A thrown object shattered a window at Congregation Mishkan Avraham in Toronto over the weekend, the second Canadian synagogue struck inside roughly twenty-four hours after an overnight arson attempt at Montreal's Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, where a 38-year-old was arrested at the scene. Idit Shamir, Israel's Consul-General in Toronto and Western Canada, said the expressions of concern Canadian officials keep offering “must now be accompanied by decisive action,” and that those responsible must be prosecuted and held fully accountable. Ambassador Iddo Moed called the wave “appalling, alarming, disgusting and shameful beyond words.” No one was hurt in either attack. Both landed days after Prime Minister Mark Carney

stood at a Toronto synagogue and named a new advisory council to address the worst antisemitism the country has seen since the Second World War.

ASSESSMENT

When a foreign government's consul has to tell the host country that condemnation without enforcement is theater, the host country has already told its Jews where they rank. Ottawa's answer to gunfire at Jewish schools and now arson and broken glass at two shuls in a day was an advisory council to study the problem [the seven-member kind that seats one Jewish member alongside a figure with documented Hezbollah-lobbying ties]. Shamir is naming the gap every European Jewish community already learned to read — the distance between a prime minister conceding the country is failing its Jews and the country doing one thing that costs an attacker something.

Briefly Noted

Frontline & Security

- *JNS*: A Lebanese gunman crossed in disguise toward the fence at Ramim Ridge near Margaliot, opened fire, and was shot dead with a rifle and a knife on him, no soldiers hurt.
- *Walla*: Greek intelligence arrested a 37-year-old Gaza-born Hamas member in Crete with explosives chemicals in his Athens flat, said to have been far into planning an attack on the Crown Iris. It is Israel's only cruise ship and the only one still sailing from Haifa after the rest stopped calling on Israeli ports.

Diplomacy & Geopolitics

- *JNS*: The State Department formally served Tehran with a federal default judgment finding Iran liable for materially supporting al-Qaeda in the September 11 attacks, certified under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act's terrorism exception. The certification clears 9/11 families to chase Iranian assets through the courts — the same frozen assets Washington is now weighing handing to Gulf states for war damages.
- *Jewish Insider*: House Democrats are seating two pro-Israel members, Wesley Bell and Debbie Wasserman Schultz, alongside Block-the-Bombs sponsor Mark Pocan on the Foreign Affairs Committee, the partisan sort peppering the influential committee's roster.
- *Jewish News UK*: Leaked minutes show executives at Penny Appeal, one of Britain's largest Islamic charities, conceded internally that its £350,000 in Gaza relief could "very likely" be fronting "extreme and terror-related activity" after requests to trace the money were ignored.

Public Diplomacy & Media

- *The JC*: A 22-year BBC Radio Lancashire presenter who was fired for calling Hamas a terrorist organization after October 7 lost his unfair-dismissal claim, the tribunal ruling the corporation was within its rights to discipline him over a word it still refuses to use itself.

- *Jewish Insider*: The Congressional Dads Caucus is featuring children's influencer Ms. Rachel at a Washington reception, months after she liked an Instagram comment reading "Free america from the Jews" and platformed a pro-Hamas journalist.
- *JTA*: Dave Matthews used a North Carolina concert to insist his Israel criticism is not antisemitic, days after fans at his West Palm Beach show answered his Gaza remarks by chanting "f*** the Jews" — the crowd supplying the gloss the artist now says he never intended.

Domestic & Law

- *Israel Hayom*: Religious Services Ministry director-general Yehuda Avidan was questioned under caution by Lahav 433 on suspicion of fraud, breach of trust, and threats. His ministry has gone more than a year without naming a permanent head for the body that runs Rashbi's tomb at Meron, the site of the 2021 crush that killed 45.
- *Jerusalem Post*: The Knesset gave Israeli Sign Language official state recognition in its second and third readings, a Likud-and-opposition bill that passed with no votes against.

Economy, Tech & Infrastructure

- *Israel Hayom*: The Knesset passed the national cyber-defense law in first reading without opposition, finally forcing banks, the power grid and the water system onto a single mandatory protection standard a decade after comparable democracies did it. The vote landed mid-barrage, with the cyber directorate naming Iranian-linked intrusions as the reason the gap could no longer wait.
- *Jerusalem Post*: Elbit ran one of the largest live field demonstrations ever held in Europe of its export Digital Ground Army system, with NATO militaries and European defense firms attending in Sweden even as official hostility toward Israel runs at a peak. The IDF's two-decade-old battlefield network has already sold past \$1 billion to the Dutch and Australian forces — the buying continues where the boycotting is loudest.
- *Globes*: Edge-AI chipmaker Hailo, founded by Intelligence Corps veterans and once treated as the great promise of Israeli silicon, cut half its workforce as Delek Automotive wrote off most of its NIS 197 million stake. The SPAC merger collapsed and no buyer materialized.

Culture, Religion & Society

- *Times of Israel*: A boy idly punctured Magritte's "The Castle of the Pyrenees" with a pinecone from the sculpture garden during a family visit to the Israel Museum, and the canvas is now under weeks-long restoration. The painting hung unglazed and without an alarm by the museum's own choice, to let visitors get close — and one did.
- *Israel Hayom*: The National Library's Book Week report counts 7,029 titles published in Israel in 2025, 511 of them on October 7 — with more than 2,000 written about the war here and abroad since it began. Arabic-language

publishing inside Israel jumped about 80 percent over the prior year, a quieter line in the same report.

- **JNS:** Haifa University researchers logged only the second confirmed visual sighting of humpback whales in Israeli waters since 2022, off Ashdod, then turned back after 24 hours of a planned six-day survey when Iranian missile fire resumed.

Developments to Watch

Judea & Samaria

- **Samaria sits in the ballistic fall-zone** — An Iranian missile hit four homes outside a Samaria community on Monday, and the regional council head called the absence of casualties “a great miracle.” The interceptor belt thins east of the coastal plain. Every renewed barrage drops the debris and the rare leaker on the communities furthest from the priority shield.

Northern Front (Lebanon / Syria)

- **A gunman walked the Lebanon border** — A gunman crossed from Lebanon into the Ramim Ridge area on Tuesday morning, fired on troops, and was shot dead before causing casualties. Ground infiltration on the day Israel emptied Tyre is Hezbollah testing whether the fence still holds while the IDF is fixed on the strike map.

Regional Axis (Iran, Houthis, Militias)

- **The IAEA board sits this week** — Grossi asked Tehran on Monday to let inspectors back in, and Washington is circulating a resolution at the 35-state Board of Governors demanding Iran account for its enriched-uranium stockpile “without delay.” A censure vote this week hands Tehran the pretext to formalize the lockdown. That strips the only outside read on the material a “two or three days” deal claims to resolve.
- **The Red Sea ban looks for a target** — The Houthis declared a total ban on Israeli-linked shipping and called every such vessel a military target, while Quds Force chief Qaani announced a “security belt” running from Hormuz to Bab el-Mandeb. The ban is rhetoric until the first hull is hit, and a strike on a tanker reopens the maritime front Israel spent a year pushing closed.
- **Tehran sets the Hormuz reopening terms** — Iran’s ambassador to Moscow said the strait will reopen only under new conditions set by Tehran and Oman, including a transit fee. That undercuts Trump’s claim that Hormuz opens the moment a deal is signed, and a tolled strait keeps the chokepoint in Iran’s hand after the war is declared over.
- **The Iraqi route reopens the militia pretext** — An Iranian hardline outlet claimed Israel ran its strikes through Azerbaijani and Iraqi airspace, and Baghdad denied the transit. The claim is the standing invitation for the Iraqi Shia militias to enter on Tehran’s behalf, which is how the axis manufactures a front it can disown.

Diplomatic & Legal

- **The House war-powers vote is a lever** — The House passed an Iran war-powers resolution 215-208, four Republicans crossing over, the first such measure to clear a chamber on a final vote. The White House says it will not reach Trump's desk. The vote binds nothing, but it tells Tehran's negotiators that American patience for the war is finite and worth waiting out.
- **Europe's Hamas plot arrests keep landing** — Greek authorities arrested a Palestinian suspected of planning an attack on Israeli targets, the latest in a run of European roll-ups against a threat services now read as elevated. The same IRGC fronts ran the spring's London arson-and-stabbing wave. Renewed barrages raise the odds the next plot clears the net before the arrest does.

Home Front & Politics

- **The offshore-gas fields go dark next** — Leviathan and Karish stayed online through the two-day exchange, but the wartime playbook is a precautionary shutdown. The Finance Ministry already puts the war's running cost near three billion dollars a week under full restrictions. A second round that takes the rigs offline turns a contained barrage into an export and revenue loss that compounds every day they stay shut.

Israel ended this round the way Ben-Gurion warned it never should — by waiting on what someone else would say before deciding what it would do. The field belongs to the IDF: it cleared Tyre, worked the Gaza bench, and put down a gunman on the Lebanon fence before breakfast. What it no longer fully holds is the decision over when to use that edge, and a “two or three days” deal floated by the only man who can call off a strike already in the air is a thin thing to stand on.

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