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READER EDITION

June 15, 2026

ISRAEL BRIEF

Monday, June 15

Trump dates the Iran signing to Friday and folds in a Lebanon clause, and the PM who staked everything on his American friend now has to distance himself.

◇ URIEL ZEHAVI

THE BOTTOM LINE The network we tracked into a dead Toronto constable was, at the same moment, shopping the American contract to a cartel, and the man at the center of it is now in a U.S. cell facing the prosecution the diaspora has been asking whether anyone would actually bring. Iran outsourcing Jew-killing to organized crime is the soft-rear-base logic taken to its endpoint: the regime supplies the target list and the ideology, and lets American street criminals supply the trigger finger and the deniability [a prisoner of war who somehow kept meeting the supreme leader before flying out to firebomb children's schools]. Synagogues in Rotterdam and Golders Green, a Jewish school in Amsterdam, and a cartel pitch in the United States are the IRGC running one campaign across a dozen jurisdictions that still mostly file it as eighteen separate local crimes. The deterrent is an extradition that ends in a conviction. A prisoner-of-war plea in a Manhattan courtroom is the regime testing whether the West will agree to call this a war and then decline to fight it.

CLASSIFICATION

Reader Edition

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JERUSALEM is learning this morning that political expediency is more important than “shared values” (or even just values) for some of it’s partners. Trump has dated a signing for Friday in Geneva and has written in the Lebanon clause Tehran asked for — and promised a strait that reopens “toll-free” the moment Iran banks twelve billion dollars for opening it. Netanyahu told the president to his face that the army holds the ridge on no one else’s timeline. The deal is the smaller trap. The larger one is that the prime minister who built the whole campaign on Trump as the indispensable friend has to fight him now.

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Flash Brief

- **Iran deal dated:** Trump declares the deal complete and sets a Friday signing in Geneva, with the enrichment “cap” still contested (yes, they still get to enrich nuclear material—great victory you have there, Mr. President.). *See The War Today.*
- **Twelve billion first:** Tehran and its mediators put an early release of frozen funds in the text. *See The War Today.*
- **Israel won’t be bound:** Netanyahu tells Trump the IDF holds Lebanon, Syria, and Gaza indefinitely and refuses the deal’s Lebanon clause. *See The War Today.*
- **The advance pauses:** The 36th Division stops short of Nabatieh to spare the deal, while refusing to give up the ground it cleared. *See The War Today.*
- **Dahieh again:** Israel hits a Hezbollah command center after Sunday drones cross into the Western Galilee, drawing a second furious Trump call. *See The War Today.*
- **Daqduq killed:** The IDF eliminates the Hezbollah commander who ran the 2007 Karbala kidnapping and murder of five US soldiers. *See The War Today.*
- **Iran loads and waits:** Tehran threatens a response, then pockets the strike again, fires drones at Hormuz shipping, and mines its own Isfahan tunnels. *See The War Today.*
- **Daycare bill pulled:** The coalition shelves the haredi subsidy bill and Degel HaTorah threatens to freeze the plenum as the army counts some 17,000 short. *See Inside Israel.*
- **Somaliland in Jerusalem:** A republic almost no one recognizes opens the eighth embassy in the capital. *See Israel and the World.*
- **Cartel contract:** Iran’s synagogue-firebombing operative tried to hire a Mexican cartel to hit American Jews, and now faces a US court. *See Israel and the World.*

T EHRAN wrote a Lebanon clause into the deal precisely because Lebanon is the one front Israel will not stop fighting, which is why the Sunday drones and the Dahieh fire are Tehran’s move and not Hezbollah’s. Corner Israel into the strike that turns the president against it. The Lebanese soldiers pulling out of Kfar Tibnit ahead of the column are the premise in one frame. The same outsourcing runs through the home front, where the men who refuse to serve still get their funding and the reservists still carry a 17,000-soldier hole.

The War Today

Trump Dates the Iran Surrender to Friday and Leaves Bibi in the Box

Trump declared the deal with Iran “complete” on Truth Social last night, authorized the toll-free opening of the Strait of Hormuz, lifted the US naval blockade, and put a date on the signing: Friday, June 19, in Geneva, Vance signing for Washington and parliament speaker Ghalibaf for Tehran. The

memorandum runs an immediate multi-front ceasefire, reopens the strait, and starts a sixty-day clock on talks over enrichment, sanctions relief, and Iran's reconstruction. Tehran has not finalized it. Iran's own Tasnim calls the framework a "tactical pause," Baghaei says the regime still holds "deep mistrust" of Washington, and the terms move against the early US position. Trump told the New York Times Iran will keep low-level enrichment, zero enrichment is off the table, and Tehran is countering the demanded twenty-year ban with a five-year pause. The enriched stockpile is "downblended and destroyed at an 'appropriate' time," the inspectors stay locked out, and the missile arsenal is absent from the document entirely. What could possibly go wrong? Iranian and Pakistani sources put an early release of frozen funds in the deal — twelve billion dollars, with more to follow — which Vance has denied is any upfront cash and which a parallel Reuters report on a UAE transfer the Emirates flatly denied. The figure is a regime-and-mediator claim until the text surfaces. Netanyahu, who was not in the room and was caught off guard by the pace, sent Trump birthday wishes on his eightieth, and more than one senior official calls the deal bad for Israel. Lapid used the morning to declare Netanyahu "lost the war."

ASSESSMENT

This is the Hormuz-only outcome we flagged in April, now wearing a signature and a Swiss venue. The strikes set the program back years and ruined the missile lines, and the paper hands back the strait, the oil revenue, and the fear of an energy-core counterstrike that kept the IRGC's hands off Israel for two weeks, against a promise to keep talking while the centrifuges spin. So, we can all do this again sometime in the foreseeable future. The frozen-asset figures and the toll-free strait are the regime's preferred version. And Tehran nodding at a "tactical pause" confirms it. Netanyahu's bind is the sharper story: he hitched the campaign to Trump expecting a victory lap, and the man driving now wants to be a decisive factor the other way.

Israel Tells Trump the Lebanon Clause Does Not Bind It and Halts the Advance Without Withdrawing

Netanyahu told Trump directly that Israel does not consider itself bound by the Lebanon clause folded into the Iran memorandum, that the IDF will hold the positions it occupies, and that it will keep striking Hezbollah and answering any attack — and the security cabinet backed him. Katz put the policy in the open: the army stays in the security zones in Lebanon, Syria, and Gaza "indefinitely," clearing residents, dismantling terror infrastructure above and below ground, and demolishing border-village houses used as outposts. Ben-Gvir said the memorandum does not bind a sovereign state answerable only to its citizens and soldiers. Underneath the politics, the maneuver paused (giving Trump the ability to say Israel complied). The 36th Division had driven to the edge of Nabatieh, the Lebanese army withdrew from Kfar Tibnit ahead of it, and the IDF is now reported to be stopping its deeper push to avoid derailing the deal while refusing to give up the security zone, with the full-withdrawal question shoved to the Washington round later this month. The army struck more than seventy Hezbollah sites over the weekend and killed Ali Musa Daqduq, the commander who ran Nasrallah's security detail and

orchestrated the 2007 kidnapping and murder of five American soldiers at Karbala. Then Hezbollah sent three drones into the Western Galilee on Sunday morning, and the IDF answered with a strike on a Hezbollah command center in Beirut's Dahieh — drawing a second “what the f— are you doing” call from Trump in as many weeks, and an Iranian threat that the attack “will not go unanswered” that Tehran then chose not to act on.

ASSESSMENT

The Sunday drones into a Western Galilee waking up for school, the engineered strike-or-be-cornered choice on the Dahieh, and the Trump call that followed are one move, and it is Tehran's, not Hezbollah's — the point is to write the October 6 lines back into the agreement, where Israel either eats the rockets to keep Beirut quiet or strikes Beirut and gets blamed for sabotaging the deal. Halting the advance to protect a paper Israel did not write is the dangerous half of the order, and refusing to withdraw is the load it carries. Iran is Trump's arena and the deal is his to make [Lebanon is ours, as the senior minister put it — and a sixty-day ceiling on Hezbollah's reconstitution is sixty days the strip the IDF cleared spends rebuilding behind a line the army agreed to stop at].

Iran Stands Down the Counterstrike but Keeps the War Loaded While the Ink Waits

Iran spent the same forty-eight hours rehearsing the war it says it is ending. Khatam al-Anbiya warned of a response after the Dahieh strike, the foreign ministry held Washington responsible, and regime figures pushed messaging that the launchers were being readied — then Tehran “closed the incident” and skipped the retaliation under US pressure for the second time this week. Overnight, Iran launched one-way attack drones at commercial shipping in Hormuz, all intercepted by CENTCOM with traffic unaffected, and a projectile hit a tanker off Oman. The regime's outlets reported a cyberattack that briefly downed services at four state banks. The Wall Street Journal named IRGC commander Ahmad Vahidi as the figure who overruled Iran's foreign minister and president to order last week's barrage on Israel and who tied Lebanon to the nuclear file in the talks. Tehran freed 139 death-row prisoners ahead of a Shia holiday in a move of legitimacy theater against rising unrest, and is reported to have mined and collapsed the tunnel entrances at the bombed Isfahan complex — which lets it claim the enriched uranium can no longer be retrieved. The ground option to seize that stockpile, which Trump blocked over casualty and economic risk, sits parked with the 82nd Airborne reported staged behind it.

ASSESSMENT

A regime that fires drones at Hormuz shipping the same night it agrees to “open” the strait, and mines its own uranium so the inspectors it is promising to readmit cannot reach the material, is negotiating the way it has fought — violence and diplomacy as one instrument, each pointed at a better price. Trump is calling the stand-down restraint, when the political echelon is simply weighing a contained barrage against the energy-core retaliation it still fears, and Vahidi winning the internal argument to fire last week and then winning the deal anyway is the answer on whether the missile gamble paid.

Inside Israel

Eisenkot Pulls Even With Bennett as Netanyahu Stalls the Likud Primary

The opposition's two anchor parties polled level for the first time. Two surveys put Gadi Eisenkot's Yashar and the Bennett-Lapid Together slate at 21 seats each, both trailing Likud's 24, with the anti-Bibi bloc at 59 to 60 and the coalition in the low 50s. The stalemate has held for months, the two Arab lists sitting on the balance neither side will touch. Gantz called Sunday for a Zionist unity government "from Right and Left," and Eisenkot dared Netanyahu into a televised debate the prime minister has no reason to accept. Inside Likud the fight is over the slots Netanyahu wants to reserve personally — with party figures charging the list is being built around names his son Yair is pushing. The primary is due by July 28, and Netanyahu has not convened the party's institutions to fix the date, which leaves him room to enlarge the reserved column.

ASSESSMENT

The bloc arithmetic has not moved either way for a season — neither camp reaches 61 without the Arab parties both sides have ruled out, so the live contest is over who emerges as the single challenger to Netanyahu. There is no governing majority waiting on the far side of this vote for either bloc to claim. Eisenkot tying Bennett is the first crack in the assumption that the merged Together slate had locked the anti-Netanyahu lane. The reserved-slot fight is the same prime minister managing the same constraint he manages everywhere — stretching a process he controls until the calendar forces his hand.

The Coalition Pulls the Daycare Bill and Degel HaTorah Threatens to Walk

The coalition told the haredi parties Monday morning that the daycare-subsidy bill would not reach its first-reading vote, citing the public criticism it drew. The bill rebases childcare-subsidy eligibility on the mother's income alone — the mechanism that routes state-funded daycare to the households of yeshiva students who do not serve, drafted to bypass the freeze on those subsidies. Degel HaTorah chairman Moshe Gafni answered that if the bill does not reach the floor, nothing does: "If there's no majority for this, there's no majority for anything else. You can close the plenum. We will not vote with the coalition." Agudat Yisrael figures accused Netanyahu of "making a joke of Degel HaTorah" [which is rich, considering they do it to themselves]. Deputy Foreign Minister Sharren Haskel, still inside the coalition, rightly called the subsidy push "backstabbing those who serve" and put the gap in the army's own words — its representatives in committee counting almost 17,000 combat soldiers short.

ASSESSMENT

Gafni priced the coalition's entire legislative calendar against one childcare line item, and the threat carries because the haredi votes are the only thing keeping the floor functional this close to dissolution. This is the same trade the government has run for two years, surfacing where it costs the most — subsidizing the lack of economic participation or service from the men the army needs, while the reservists who carry the war absorb the costs. The coalition shelved the bill the moment public criticism bit, which tells the haredi parties exactly what their leverage is worth when the cameras are on, and is why Gafni reached for the plenum instead of a press release.

Netanyahu Skips the Required Opposition Briefing as Rivals Float a Stolen Election

Netanyahu has not given Yair Lapid the security briefing a 2000 statute requires the prime minister to hold with the opposition leader at least once a month. The last one was April 15, and Lapid's office says repeated requests to schedule the next — pressed as the US-Iran framework took shape — have gone unanswered. The opposition leader holds clearance for the raw intelligence the briefings cover. In parallel, opposition figures spent the weekend baselessly raising the prospect that Netanyahu will engineer a reason to delay the vote: MK Naama Lazimi warned of a “January 6” scenario in which he contests a loss, Ehud Barak said a prime minister who tries to “sabotage the election” should be driven out “with sticks and stones,” and Eisenkot framed his debate challenge as a dare Netanyahu will dodge. The election is expected around mid-October.

ASSESSMENT

The briefing breach is the cleanest item here — a statutory obligation the Prime Minister's Office is simply not meeting, with the Iran framework the live subject Lapid is entitled to be read into. The stolen-election warnings run the other way, and they earn the skepticism: an opposition polling a 59-seat bloc it cannot convert into 61 has every incentive to pre-litigate a defeat as theft before a ballot is cast [the “sticks and stones” line is a campaign slogan wearing a constitutional warning's clothes]. The exits are open and in use — the parties are merging, polling, and daring each other to debates, which is the texture of a contested election. Treat the coup talk as the opposition doing what an opposition trailing in the structural math does.

Israel and the World

Somaliland's President a Jerusalem Embassy While Europe Argues Over Whose Israelis to Ban

Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi arrived yesterday on the first foreign state visit any Somaliland president has made since the territory declared independence in 1991, and the embassy he opens tonight at Malha makes Somaliland the eighth country to plant its mission in Jerusalem. The sequence ran fast once it started: recognition in December as the first UN member to do so, a Herzog meeting at Davos in January, ambassadors exchanged by May. Abdullahi addresses the Knesset tomorrow evening, meets Netanyahu and

Sa'ar today, lays a wreath at Herzl's grave, and stays through Thursday (primarily discussing water and energy contracts). Hargeisa controls the southern shore of the Gulf of Aden and the Berbera approach to Bab al-Mandab, the chokepoint the Houthis have spent two years menacing, and Israel is reportedly weighing a base there. Fourteen governments condemned the recognition as illegal. Abdullahi's answer, given to a British paper in May, was that anyone who dislikes the alliance "can mind their own business."

ASSESSMENT

A breakaway republic of six million Muslims that spent thirty-five years asking to be seen made Israel the first country it recognizes back, and it did so at the exact gate the Iranian axis has been trying to close — a foothold on the Red Sea's southern jaw while Tehran reopens Hormuz at the northern one. The Arab and Muslim world had three decades to answer Hargeisa and chose to ignore it. What the visit actually exposes is the asymmetry: the same European foreign ministries spending this week deciding which Israeli ministers to deny entry cannot locate a single state to recognize. Israel found one, opened relations, and will seat its president in the Knesset inside six months [one map adds sovereigns who hold terrain, the other adds sovereigns who hold press conferences].

Paris Convenes Year Two of a Palestinian State Whose Own President Just Postponed His Election Again

France gathered 150 Israelis and Palestinians from eighty organizations at the Arab World Institute on Friday to mark a year since the "Paris Call," fifteen foreign ministers in the room, twenty million euros pledged, and a communique bound for the G7 at Vichy demanding a Gaza ceasefire, an end to Jewish construction in Judea and Samaria, and Palestinian Authority reform. Israel and the United States stayed away. Jerusalem's ambassador declined the invitation and noted the Palestinians have refused a state on multiple occasions. The same weekend, Mahmoud Abbas — twenty years in office, fifteen past his mandate, with 80 percent of his own public wanting him gone — decreed presidential elections for 2027, having promised them for 2026, having canceled them in 2021, with no date and no political-parties law attached.

ASSESSMENT

A conference convened to will a Palestinian state into being met the same week its designated head of state announced he would hold the election he has spent two decades not holding. The recognition machine does not run on anything Palestinians do — it runs on its own European constituency, which is how it can demand PA reform and ignore that the ninety-year-old running the PA has just rescheduled democracy to a year he is statistically unlikely to reach [the one Palestinian a clean vote would produce, Marwan Barghouti, is serving five life terms for three murders, and the governments funding the peace process want him at the table]. Barrot told the room France refuses to let "the side of war prevail over the side of peace." The side he is funding pays salaries to the families of Jew-killers and cannot name an heir who is not serving prison time for terrorism or murder.

The Lancet Routes a Boycott Petition Through Its Own Masthead

The Lancet published a call to suspend the Israeli Medical Association from the World Medical Association, the founding body the IMA has belonged to since the WMA's creation in 1947. The petition — some 1,150 signatures gathered by the People's Health Movement, the Dutch group Doctors for Gaza, and the Health Advisory Council of Jewish Voice for Peace — charges the IMA with failing to “speak out against the genocide of Palestinians,” the destruction of Gaza's health infrastructure, and the torture and killing of health workers. The petition's authors want the suspension on the agenda of the WMA's general assembly, which opens in Rotterdam on October 7. The WMA declined, saying it does not expel members for the actions of their governments and calling the IMA a “strong advocate” of its ethics code. The IMA, founded in 1912, called the charges libelous and a cynical politicization of medicine, and noted the petition assigns Hamas no role in a health system the group ran for command posts and ammunition storage. The British Medical Association cut ties with the IMA a year ago.

ASSESSMENT

This is the wash cycle we have tracked at the UN letterhead, run through a medical masthead instead — a Jewish Voice for Peace advisory council and a clutch of activist NGOs draft the charge, The Lancet prints it under a “world report” banner that lends it the journal's authority, and the citation is now available to every ministry and licensing board that wants to treat a national medical guild as a war-crimes defendant. The journal has form: its 2024 letter projecting up to 186,000 dead in Gaza was disowned by one of its own authors as “purely illustrative” only after the figure had entered the record. Of course, Iran executes physicians and jails doctors for treating protesters, and there is no petition and no “world report,” because this was never about medical ethics, and an assembly scheduled to open on the October 7 anniversary is not hiding it.

New York Hides a 150% Jump in Anti-Jewish Crime Behind a Reporting Change

Anti-Jewish hate crimes in New York City rose 150 percent year-on-year last month once the actual count is restored, against the 70.8 percent the NYPD chose to publish. The department reported 41 “confirmed” incidents for May, up from 24 a year earlier, and stopped there. It did not tell the public that the 24 it now calls “confirmed” were in fact last May's “reported” total, or that adding this May's 60 reported cases to the confirmed ones puts the real figure at 101 against 24. The city changed its hate-crime accounting twice this year after recording a 182 percent spike in Mamdani's first month, first dropping reported incidents from public view, then splitting them from confirmed ones after the backlash. Jews are roughly a tenth of the city and absorbed more than 60 percent of all confirmed hate crimes in May. Mamdani spent his first hours in office rescinding his predecessor's orders adopting the IHRA definition and barring city agencies from boycotting Israel, and a former deputy mayor and an investigative journalist are now suing the administration for slow-walking the records behind those rollbacks to November.

ASSESSMENT

The mayor whose spokeswoman says synagogues hosting pro-Israel events violate international law now runs the police department that decides which assaults on Jews count, and the count keeps shrinking on paper while the city it describes does not. This is the hostile-administration-with-the-security-apparatus problem we flagged before the election arriving on schedule: an antizionist mayor does not need to order anyone to undercount Jew-hate when the reporting format can be revised twice in five months until the number behaves [stonewall the FOIL request to November and nobody can show their work]. A count Jewish New Yorkers cannot trust is worse than no count, because it tells them the city has stopped looking. The deterrent the diaspora needs is an honest number and a prosecution that follows it, and New York is producing neither.

Tehran's Synagogue-Bombing Operative Tried to Hire a Cartel to Hit American Jews

The Iranian operative behind the wave of European synagogue firebombings tried this spring to recruit a Mexican drug cartel to attack Jewish targets inside the United States. Mohammad al-Saadi, 33, approached a man he believed was a cartel affiliate. The man was an undercover FBI agent. Arrested in Istanbul on May 1 and flown into FBI custody two weeks later, al-Saadi faces eight terrorism charges in a federal court, with trial expected next year and life on the table. U.S. prosecutors tie him to at least 18 attacks across Europe for the IRGC, including the firebombings of synagogues in Liege and Rotterdam, a Jewish school and an American bank branch in Amsterdam, and the Golders Green attack in London, run under a front group called HAYI that he allegedly helped stand up. He told the FBI he had met Khamenei shortly before the war opened on February 28, and at his Manhattan arraignment he pleaded not guilty and called himself a “prisoner of war.”

ASSESSMENT

The network we tracked into a dead Toronto constable was, at the same moment, shopping the American contract to a cartel, and the man at the center of it is now in a U.S. cell facing the prosecution the diaspora has been asking whether anyone would actually bring. Iran outsourcing Jew-killing to organized crime is the soft-rear-base logic taken to its endpoint: the regime supplies the target list and the ideology, and lets American street criminals supply the trigger finger and the deniability [a prisoner of war who somehow kept meeting the supreme leader before flying out to firebomb children's schools]. Synagogues in Rotterdam and Golders Green, a Jewish school in Amsterdam, and a cartel pitch in the United States are the IRGC running one campaign across a dozen jurisdictions that still mostly file it as eighteen separate local crimes. The deterrent is an extradition that ends in a conviction. A prisoner-of-war plea in a Manhattan courtroom is the regime testing whether the West will agree to call this a war and then decline to fight it.

✘ **Dossier:** *Field Dossier: The Wrong Geography — The al-Saadi case is the soft-rear-base argument this Dossier builds in full — one IRGC campaign run across a dozen jurisdictions, from Liege and Rotterdam synagogues to a cartel pitch in the United States, that Western capitals still mostly file as separate local crimes rather than as a single diaspora battlespace.*

Briefly Noted

Frontline & Security

- *JNS*: Greek and Cypriot services rolled up a seven-man Hamas cell preparing attacks on Israeli targets in Europe and on IDF soldiers at the Anatot base near Jerusalem, the operative arrested in Crete trained in bomb-making at a Hamas camp in Malaysia. Hamas now runs attack planning out of the EU under asylum cover, through a handler in Kuala Lumpur — the second front opening behind the kinetic one.

Diplomacy & Geopolitics

- *JNS*: Eurosatory's organizers boarded up the Israeli pavilions at the Paris defense show for the second year running, this time even after the companies stripped their displays down to defensive systems alone to satisfy France's demands. Controp's team chalked the verdict on the plywood themselves — their kit beats Iranian ballistic missiles and loses to French short-sightedness.
- *Ynet*: US Ambassador Mike Huckabee made a quiet solidarity visit to Ancient Shiloh in Binyamin over the weekend, climbing down into the dig opposite the Tabernacle site to help uncover millennia-old vessels as the strikes on the Dahiyeh ran in the background. An American envoy putting his hands in the soil of Judea and Samaria mid-war is the kind of recognition no joint statement delivers.
- *JNS*: The Trump administration denied a World Cup visa to Jibril Rajoub, the Fatah official and Palestinian Authority football chief who has spent years working to expel Israel from FIFA. Rajoub praised Putin's open-door 2018 tournament in the same breath, which tells you which hosts he prefers.
- *Times of Israel*: Hungary's Fidesz re-elected Viktor Orban as party leader, 729 delegates to a handful, after April's defeat dropped him into opposition. The Netanyahu ally now leads from the back bench while Magyar's government has already halted the ICC withdrawal Orban set in motion over the Netanyahu warrant.

Public Diplomacy & Media

- *Jerusalem Post*: A Tech Transparency Project report found YouTube still hosting channels tied to US-sanctioned Iranian figures, among them officials linked to the 1994 AMIA bombing and the regime's kidnap-and-assassination units, and the platform pulled 63 of them only after the report named them. The enforcement runs on press exposure, not the sanctions list Google says it complies with.
- *The JC*: Apple News is carrying columns by Abdel Bari Atwan that call the Bondi Beach attacker a Mossad false-flag, the October 7 commanders "martyrs," and Netanyahu responsible for "every drop of Jewish blood shed," some of them exclusive to the platform. The Campaign Against Antisemitism and CAMERA want it pulled — Apple's masthead lends the conspiracy reach Atwan's own site cannot.

- *Times of Israel*: Masked activists in Spain's Navarre region smashed and repainted six rail cars the Spanish firm CAF is building for the Tel Aviv light rail, after a BDS coalition's complaint to the National Court accusing CAF of aiding "the occupation" was accepted by prosecutors. The vandalism and the lawfare are the same campaign working two altitudes against a contractor for the crime of selling Israel trams.
- *Jerusalem Post*: An anti-Israel influencer cornered Jerry Seinfeld outside Madison Square Garden and asked him to say "Free Palestine," and Seinfeld answered "it doesn't exist" and walked off.

Domestic & Law

- *Walla*: A freedom-of-information request put 1.1 million open cases in Israel's courts, with more than 17,000 stuck past five years and four of the High Court's fifteen seats empty because Levin has not convened the selection committee. The appointments fight shows up here as a number most coverage of it never reaches.
- *JNS*: Katz named Brig. Gen. Hisham Ibrahim, a Druze officer who has run the Civil Administration and commanded two armored brigades, as his military secretary on Zamir's recommendation.
- *Ynet News*: A 17-year-old will be charged in Lod with murdering an Israeli couple over an ancient coin, with two residents of Judea and Samaria charged as accessories after investigators found they had access to the murder weapon. Police ruled out a nationalist motive, and the district commander still named what troubled him about the case, which is how far the criminal underworld now reaches into military-grade weapons.
- *Jerusalem Post*: A Haifa court found reasonable suspicion that a 37-year-old's social-media post calling for harm to Tel Aviv Pride marchers crossed into incitement, then released him to house arrest under a thirty-day social-media and Tel Aviv ban.

Economy, Tech & Infrastructure

- *Globes*: Elbit Systems and Anduril signed a teaming agreement to bid the SIGMA NG mobile 155mm cannon — nearly identical to the system the IDF already fields — into the US Army's program to replace the M-109 howitzer.
- *Globes*: Seventy-two US refueling planes are parked at Ben Gurion and another 26 at Ramon, taking half the slots at one and ninety percent at the other, and Regev has warned that without relief by tomorrow the airlines start canceling a summer schedule worth millions of tickets. The war's logistics tail is now landing on civilian aviation, with the Uman pilgrimage among the first flights at risk.
- *Israel Hayom*: The first four Purple Line light-rail cars reached Haifa port overnight after pro-Palestinian activists sprayed hate slogans on them at the CAF plant in Spain, with 94 more to follow toward a 2028 opening across Gush Dan. The vandalism abroad did not slow the milestone — the cars are already moving to the depot for test runs.
- *Israel Hayom*: The Tel Aviv exchange opened braced for sharp gains on the Iran deal, with falling oil prices easing inflation and clearing a path for a

Bank of Israel rate cut. Dealers warn the shekel's run toward 2.8 to the dollar squeezes the high-tech exporters Washington wants kept competitive, the sector the same traders call the economy's engine.

- *Times of Israel*: Weizmann researchers published a statistical method for telling biological molecules from non-biological ones, slated to fly on Eureka, the low-cost Israeli Aerospace Industries probe planned to reach Jupiter's moon Europa in the 2030s.

Culture, Religion & Society

- *Arutz Sheva*: Salvage crews doubling the coastal rail line near Binyamina pulled two 1,700-year-old marble busts from a Roman-Byzantine winepress, one inscribed in Greek with the name Lycurgus and buried face-down for safekeeping. The country's archaeological floor is, as ever, closer than the next infrastructure project assumes, with the public unveiling set for June 18 at the Eretz Israel Museum.
- *Israel Hayom*: Hagit Yasso, who won "A Star Is Born" in 2011, says keeping Shabbat is what kept her off the running-group car that drove into the October 7 killing on the Gaza periphery, and she releases an album of faith songs next month.
- *Israel Hayom*: Hebrew Book Week marked its 100th year with the Bernstein Prize for young authors going to Shoshan Haran for her account of fifty days in Hamas captivity after she was taken from Kibbutz Be'eri, her husband and more than a hundred neighbors murdered that morning.
- *JNS*: Agudath Israel opened a permanent Washington office overlooking the Capitol and named Rabbi A.D. Motzen to run it, with Trump-administration officials and members of both parties in the room.
- *The JC*: A mock trial at the London School of Jewish Studies put ChatGPT in the dock over its place in Torah study and acquitted it 57 to 47, after the prosecution warned that it invents authentic-sounding sources and tempts students past the hard graft of chavruta. [The invented sources are the part the verdict waved through.]
- *Forward*: The Knicks broke a 53-year title drought on 6/13, and Jewish fans clocked the date against the 613 mitzvot and the 613-win banner already hanging at the Garden for Jewish coach Red Holzman.

Developments to Watch

Northern Front (Lebanon / Syria)

South Lebanon repopulates ahead of the signing — Residents have begun moving back into the abandoned border villages on a Hezbollah promise to hold fire if Israel stops. Metula's council head calls the situation worse than before October 7. Civilians refill the strip the IDF cleared, and the buffer Washington wants vacated repopulates before the army has agreed to leave it.

The Hormuz-bypass corridor race sidelines Israel — Two rival land routes to move oil around Hormuz are advancing at once, a Turkey-Saudi line through Syria and Jordan against the Israel-backed Gulf-Jordan-Haifa plan. Ankara and Riyadh moving first locks Israel out of the post-deal energy map the reopened strait was supposed to make moot.

Gaza & Southern Theater

Hamas circulates a 14-clause exit offer — The terror factions have put out a fourteen-point document professing willingness to give up governing Gaza, conditioned on Israeli obligations, Palestinian oversight of the weapons, and guaranteed security on the ground. The conditions are the refusal: give up the title to Gaza on paper, keep the arms and the veto that make the handover meaningless.

Regional Axis (Iran, Houthis, Militias)

Iran plays the World Cup inside a host it is at war with — Iran's national team takes the field this week in the United States, and an Iran-linked group calling itself Handala published purported FBI-drone footage warning it "might end up right in your team's bus." A regime that just shopped a synagogue contract to a cartel now has a fixture, a crowd, and a stated interest in the diaspora venues around it. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**

The Houthis hold the strait the deal does not reopen — Hormuz reopens on the signing, but the Bab al-Mandab bypass stays shut under what one read calls a standing Houthi maritime siege. The deal frees one chokepoint and leaves the southern one to the axis member nobody is asking to sign anything.

Barrack lands in Baghdad on the militia question — The US envoy is due in Baghdad to press Iraq's new prime minister on pulling the Iran-backed Shiite militias under state control and disarming them. The regional-security half of the framework runs through Iraq, and the militias are the one axis arm the Geneva text does not name.

The Kurdish lever moves from talk to arms — Reporting now puts the Mossad funneling captured weapons to Kurdish opposition groups to keep the pressure on Tehran from inside. An armed internal front is the contingency the regime fears most in the week it is selling the public a deal.

Diplomatic & Legal

Europe stages the sanctions lift for a text nobody has read — Britain, France, Germany, and Italy declared themselves ready to lift Iran sanctions in exchange for verifiable nuclear curbs, the relief tied to Friday's signature. The European money is what makes the deal irreversible for Tehran, and it is being pre-committed to a framework whose terms only Washington and Iran have seen.

The card that kept the IRGC's hands off Israel for two weeks was the fear of a strike reaching the energy core, and Friday's paper hands that core back. The harder problem no signature reaches sits a layer down: a prime minister who

staked the campaign on the American friend now has to become his most stubborn opponent, with the congressional escape hatch of 2015 bolted shut and a Republican House that will not cross its own leader. The IDF still holds the ridge, and the next projectile north tests whether anything signed across an ocean changed the answer.

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