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READER EDITION

June 16, 2026

ISRAEL BRIEF

Tuesday, June 16

The IDF keeps working its missions, the coalition trades the draft law for an arrest-freeze, and Europe boards up the booths.

◇ URIEL ZEHAVI

THE BOTTOM LINE A congregation an ocean from the Negev kept a chair warm for a man most of its members had never met — *Am Yisrael* deciding, week after week, that the seat stayed reserved until its owner came home. The same Manchester that buried two Jews in last autumn's terror attack supplied this homecoming.

CLASSIFICATION

Reader Edition

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THE signing the diplomats plan for Friday is supposed to end the war. And this morning the war is running in at least three directions the paper cannot reach. The IDF is still doing the disarming work in Lebanon and Gaza while the memorandum's authors argue over which front it covers. The coalition has given up passing the exemption law and is engineering a way to stop arresting the men who refuse to serve. [Nothing says a functional rule of law like "rules for thee and not for me".] And Europe is closing Jewish booths at an arms fair and Jewish prosecutions back open, on the same week a mob stood at a London shul door with a hundred MPs behind it. The deal? It might be loud, but it certainly doesn't fix things.

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Flash Brief

- **Strike halted at the runway:** The IAF stood down an hour from a broad Iran sortie on June 8 under Trump's pressure, the chief now tells his pilots. *See The War Today.*
- **Lebanon contradiction:** A drone kills a driver in Kfar Tibnit as Iran, Washington, and Hezbollah describe the deal's Lebanon clause three incompatible ways. *See The War Today.*
- **Disarmament by elimination:** Two Hamas commanders down and lathes destroyed in Samaria as Cairo reconvenes and Hamas again refuses to give up its arms. *See The War Today.*
- **Arrest-freeze swap:** The coalition shelves the exemption law for an emergency order barring arrest of long-evading yeshiva students, and the Haredi parties fight over credit. *See Inside Israel.*
- **Netanyahu edits the goalposts:** He denies ever setting removal of the Iranian threat as a war aim, and the opposition treats the walk-back as the campaign's opening gun. *See Inside Israel.*
- **Comptroller fight:** Justice Elron joins the petition to annul Rabello's election as State Comptroller, with a June 18 hearing days before dissolution. *See Inside Israel.*
- **France boards the booths:** Paris closed twelve Israeli stands at Eurosatory after the French PM admits Israel is a top competitor of its defense industry. *See Israel and the World.*
- **Palestine Action ban restored:** A UK appeals court reinstated the terror proscription and reactivated more than seven hundred paused prosecutions. *See Israel and the World.*
- **Mob at a shul door:** A crowd descended on an Edgware synagogue property fair; the Met arrested as many Jews as protesters. *See Israel and the World.*
- **BBC's two tiers:** The corporation sacked a presenter for calling Hamas terrorists and disciplined none of the Arabic staff who cheered October 7. *See Israel and the World.*
- **Hormuz stays shut in fact:** Minesweeping runs forty to fifty days, and Tehran confirms transit tolls the week the deal was sold to reopen the strait. *See Developments to Watch.*

WHAT ties the day together is not the deal but the gap underneath it — between what a piece of paper says and what the people holding the guns are actually doing. Tehran writes Hezbollah into the memorandum as a co-signatory whose fire is covered. Washington tries to write Lebanon out to keep the signing clean. The argument is settled with a drone over Kfar Tibnit. At home the coalition reaches past a law it cannot pass to an order it can issue, and the courts and the coalition race each other to lock in the seats they hold before the voters get the question.

The War Today

THE AIR FORCE STOOD DOWN AN HOUR FROM STRIKING IRAN

Air Force chief Maj. Gen. Omer Tischler told his pilots this morning what the permission layer looks like from inside a squadron briefing room. On the afternoon of June 8, with the entire air force armed and the alert window already shortened, the IAF was one hour from departure on a broad sortie against hundreds of targets in the heart of Iran. The strike was halted mid-brief, after Netanyahu pulled it under Trump's pressure not to escalate. It followed the smaller wave Israel did fly that week — dozens of targets, the Iranian air defense system significantly damaged — in answer to the missiles Tehran fired after the Dahieh strike. The cancellation tracked the same hours the US-Iran memorandum was coming together, and Tischler dated the stand-down to it without naming who gave the final word.

ASSESSMENT

The capability was complete and the order to use it sat in Washington — an entire air force fueled, armed, and briefed, turned back an hour from the runway because the president running Iran's exit did not want the war making noise when he was trying sleight of hand to close it. This is the migration we have watched all spring made concrete on the tarmac: Israel builds total reach against the program, and the decision to fire it keeps moving off Jerusalem's desk. The page-and-a-half the stand-down bought reads as a ledger of the red lines Trump set and then crossed. Frozen Iranian assets released on signing. No language anywhere that dismantles the proxies. And the zero-enrichment demand? No, let's let Iran keep enrichment. "A low level." As if that weren't a problem too.

THE STRIKES KEEP KILLING IN LEBANON AS THE PAPER ARGUES WITH ITSELF

A drone strike killed the driver of a car in Kfar Tibnit yesterday, on the same ground the 36th Division cleared and then paused short of Nabatieh. The MOU's Lebanon status stayed openly contradictory across the day. Iran's foreign ministry says Lebanon is integral to the agreement and named three times in the agreement. Araghchi calls any Israeli strike there a violation. And a senior US official told the BBC the deal does not include Lebanon at all. Hezbollah praised Tehran's deal as a great achievement, called on Beirut to confront the Israeli enemy, and held its price as a complete IDF withdrawal from southern Lebanon and no Israeli freedom of movement on Lebanese soil. This even as US officials countered that Israel holds its current lines, far forward of where they sat on the eve of the war, and keeps the right to answer fire. Trump said he plans to talk to Hezbollah. Katz held the line in the open — security zones in Lebanon, Syria, and Gaza with no time limit, the linkage rejected, full force promised if Iran fires over events in Lebanon.

ASSESSMENT

A US-designated terror army calls the deal a great achievement and in the same breath promises to keep killing Israelis, and the president says he wants to call them. I have some thoughts as to a better way to send a message to them. Whether Israel keeps the right to hit an emerging threat — a depot going up, rockets moving between villages — or whether the "deal" walks it back to watching the enemy rearm in plain sight, the posture that produced October 7 [the whole war was the argument against ever going back to it].

TWO HAMAS COMMANDERS DOWN AS THE DISARMAMENT CLAUSE GOES UNANSWERED

The IDF eliminated two Hamas cell commanders yesterday — Saleh Khalifa of the Nuseirat Battalion in central Gaza and Muhammad al-Habil of the Western Jabalia Battalion in the north — in strikes the army tied to imminent attack planning against troops holding the security zone. Separate fire killed four more in Gaza as mediators reconvened in Cairo and Hamas again refused to give up its weapons. In Samaria, reservists and combat engineers destroyed eighteen lathes built to manufacture firearms and explosive devices inside a civilian area near Shechem, days after the Jordan Valley rifle-smuggling interdiction.

ASSESSMENT

Enforcement-by-elimination runs straight through the truce because the disarmament clause was never going to be honored. The lathes in Shechem are the same machine the brief has tracked further south — northern Samaria building the buried-IED capability that turned Gaza into Gaza while every senior eye is on Iran and Lebanon. Two cell commanders this morning, three executed Gazans over the weekend, a base rising on the fence with no stated purpose.

Inside Israel

THE COALITION TRADES THE EXEMPTION LAW FOR AN ARREST-FREEZE AND THE HAREDI PARTIES FIGHT OVER THE CREDIT

The coalition's draft outline shifted overnight: the Dormitories Law is shelved, and in its place a fast-track measure would bar the arrest of yeshiva students who have ignored their call-up for more than 500 days. The initiative came out of the Belz Rebbe and Rav Moshe Hillel Hirsch, was discussed at Netanyahu's residence with Cabinet Secretary Fuchs, and Netanyahu is said to back it — an emergency-order freeze on the arrest warrants that have turned every traffic stop into a flashpoint and put roadblocks across central Israel into the weekly routine. Within hours the haredi parties were fighting over who owned it: Shas's Malkieli accused United Torah Judaism of being willing to risk 80,000 yeshiva students "over ego and credit," after Goldknopf dismissed the whole effort as "tricks and gimmicks" and vowed to bring a Knesset-dissolution bill to the floor this Wednesday. Defense Minister Katz told Ponevezh's Rav Poversky the crisis "will be solved soon" and called himself a *shaliach mitzvah*, while Chief of Staff Zamir's warnings about a manpower shortfall now past 17,000 combat soldiers went unanswered. The mega-protest of tens of thousands planned to choke the roads toward the military prison was called off at the last moment on Rav Dov Landau's instruction.

ASSESSMENT

Strip the credit war and the move underneath is the coalition abandoning the exemption statute but reaching for something it can do without a law [and it truly feels lawless] — telling the police to stop making the arrests. Goldknopf reading the arrest-freeze as another four-year stall and going straight for dissolution is the haredi parties pricing Netanyahu's delays correctly for once. Landau pulling the mega-protest is the leadership keeping the street in reserve — the shutdown capability is intact and waiting for the next arrest.

NETANYAHU DENIES HIS OWN WAR AIM AS THE OPPOSITION TREATS THE PRESSER AS THE ELECTION GUN

A day after the US-Iran memorandum landed, Netanyahu told a press conference he had never defined removing the existential threat from Iran as a war goal — “I defined the objectives differently than you said” — a denial his own February 28 opening-day statement, which named ending “the threat from the ayatollah regime,” directly contradicts. He has since shifted to softer language, saying Israel pushed the danger “away” and bought itself “years.” The opposition treated the walk-back as the campaign's opening. Eisenkot said Netanyahu would have earned more respect admitting “I was wrong, I inflated false goals I was not prepared to achieve.” Lapid offered that a country can claim it is a regional power or claim it stands a step from annihilation, but not both a minute apart. Golan and Bennett called the Iran handling a historic failure. Bennett, holding his press conference half an hour ahead of Netanyahu's, announced he will keep the union with Lapid, will work to widen it, and is “the most suitable person” to lead it. The Reservists' Party ran its list primary the same day, losing Shavut Raanan on the way in.

ASSESSMENT

At least Bibi has brought the opposition into an agreement on something. And Netanyahu just handed every one of them the same line by claiming victory while editing the goalposts on the record. A surprisingly rookie move. The IDF and Mossad opposing the deal in “private” forums, the people who spent the blood and treasure judge it insufficient, is the more damaging verdict than anything the opposition floor can produce, because it cannot be dismissed as a leadership grab. Bennett going early and loud, claiming the premiership before his party is the bloc's largest, is the same crowding move Eisenkot's rise already forced into the open [the lane only fits one, and all of them know it].

ELRON JOINS THE PETITION AGAINST NETANYAHU'S COMPTROLLER AS THE GOTLIV IMMUNITY CLEARS COMMITTEE

Retired Supreme Court justice Yosef Elron — the candidate the Knesset passed over — joined the High Court petitions to annul the election of Michael Rabello, Netanyahu's personal lawyer, as State Comptroller, telling the court the vote that installed Rabello over him was conducted unlawfully and asking that the appointment be frozen. The hearing is set for June 18. The House Committee voted 11-3, on unanimous coalition support, to grant Likud MK Tally Gotliv immunity from the indictment Baharav-Miara filed for repeatedly publishing the identity of a covert Shin Bet officer. In the committee

Gotliv screened a video splicing a wartime IDF directive — issued over anti-tank-missile threats near the fence — to dramatized footage built to imply the army let October 7 happen. The measure now goes to the plenum.

ASSESSMENT

Both moves are the same fight from opposite ends: the legal guild reaching for the Court to reverse a seat the elected branch filled, and the coalition using its majority to lift a member out from under an indictment the Attorney General timed to the calendar [right move, wrong time]. Elron petitioning on his own behalf is the guild's clearest tell yet — the losing candidate asking the Court to undo the vote is the office describing its own loss as an illegality, and the June 18 hearing is its last swing before the election settles who holds the pen. The Gotliv vote is the same contest from the coalition's side, and immunizing the exposure of a covert officer's identity is a precedent that will not check the badge of whoever reaches for it next. Both are racing the same clock, guild and coalition alike, to lock in the seats they hold before the voters get the question.

Israel and the World

FRANCE BOARDS UP ISRAEL'S BOOTHS AT ITS ARMS FAIR — BUT NOT FOR THE REASON YOU'D THINK

France barred Israeli firms from showing offensive systems at Eurosatory, the Paris defense fair that opened Monday, then closed twelve Israeli booths outright — including ones that had already stripped their displays down to the air-defense and missile-defense gear the French rules permitted. Israel Aerospace Industries and Rafael kept their stands but showed no weapons, while exhibitors from every other country displayed theirs in the open. Sa'ar answered with a clip of French Prime Minister Lecornu conceding weeks earlier that “Israel is one of the biggest competitors of the French defense industry,” and the defense ministry charged Paris with trying to hide Israeli technological superiority from buyers in the room. This is the second straight year French organizers walled off the Israeli pavilions.

ASSESSMENT

Strip the human-rights varnish and a French prime minister has already told you what the booths are about — a French defense industry that loses the head-to-head on capability reaching for the one tool that works when the product doesn't, which is keeping the competition off the floor. The Palestinian-statehood recognition and the Smotrich and Ben-Gvir entry bans gave Paris the cover story. Lecornu supplied the actual motive on the record. Every government walking a buyer past the boarded-up stands now knows which Israeli systems France would rather it not see [free marketing no Israeli sales team could have bought].

BRITAIN'S APPEALS COURT RESTORES THE TERROR BAN ON PALESTINE ACTION, AND SEVEN HUNDRED PROSECUTIONS WITH IT

A five-judge Court of Appeal panel upheld the 2025 proscription of Palestine Action, reversing a February High Court ruling that had voided the ban as a disproportionate hit on speech and assembly. Chief Justice Carr held that violence was integral to a group running “secret cells to avoid the detection

and prosecution of those using violence,” rejected its claim to stand with the suffragettes, and let stand the parallel that puts it in legal company with al-Qaeda and Hezbollah. The ruling reactivates more than seven hundred paused prosecutions under the Terrorism Act, with a June 30 review hearing to decide whether they proceed. Palestine Action’s targets have included an Israeli weapons firm’s UK plant, Jewish communal institutions, and Jewish-owned businesses, and four of its activists drew five-to-seven-year terms last week for an Elbit break-in one of them ended by striking a police officer with a sledgehammer. The group will appeal to the UK Supreme Court and, failing that, to Strasbourg.

ASSESSMENT

A British court looked at a network that breaks into airbases and weapons plants (and worse) under cover of placards reading “I oppose genocide” and rightly declined to mistake the placard for the program. The ruling lands as Starmer seeks the statutory power to proscribe state-backed groups like the IRGC, which British law still cannot touch because the terror statute was written for non-state actors — and the precedent that violence “integral to activities” defeats a free-expression defense is the harder half of the case Tehran’s apologists will have to answer. Whether the Crown Prosecution Service actually carries seven hundred files to verdict or quietly lets them lapse the way last year’s encampment charges did is the part worth watching [a ban that proscribes on paper and declines to prosecute in fact is a press release with a court seal].

THE BBC FIRED THE PRESENTER WHO CALLED HAMAS TERRORISTS AND KEPT THE ONES WHO CHEERED OCTOBER 7

A former BBC Radio Lancashire presenter put the corporation’s two-tier discipline on the record this weekend. Sean McGinty was sacked for gross misconduct in 2024 after he criticized the BBC’s refusal to call Hamas “terrorists” and posted that the group was a terrorist organization guilty of “sadistic killings.” Six BBC Arabic journalists who liked and shared posts celebrating or justifying the October 7 massacre were investigated over the same period and none were disciplined. McGinty lost his unfair-dismissal tribunal this year, and a December internal review cleared the corporation of any “toxic culture.” World Affairs Editor John Simpson again defended the house line that “terrorist” is too “loaded” a word — the corporation’s business, he wrote, is to “present our audiences with the facts, and let them make up their own minds.”

ASSESSMENT

The standard the BBC enforced against McGinty is the one it suspended for its own Arabic desk. A presenter who named a proscribed terror army a terror army crossed an impartiality line that journalists amplifying the massacre that terror group committed somehow did not. Simpson’s “loaded” defense is the cordon-sanitaire we’ve watched collapse. The “journalists” who cannot bring themselves to write “terrorist” about Hamas run Hamas-Ministry casualty figures as the count and then bills the result as letting the audience make up its own mind. A tribunal upholding the dismissal and an internal review finding nothing wrong is the institution grading its own paper.

A LONDON SYNAGOGUE PROPERTY FAIR DRAWS A MOB AND A HUNDRED MPS CHEERING IT ON

A pro-Palestinian crowd descended on Edgware yesterday, the multi-ethnic north London suburb that holds one of Britain's largest Jewish communities, to protest a real-estate fair held inside Edgware United Synagogue. Fourteen were arrested as the two sides faced off — seven from the pro-Israel side, six pro-Palestinian, by the Met's count. The pretext was a claim, pushed by more than a hundred MPs and peers and amplified by Mayor Sadiq Khan, that the "Great Israeli Real Estate Event" was selling homes beyond the Green Line. The organiser denied it. Middle East Eye ran its "exclusive" anyway. Khan had spent Friday discussing the synagogue event with the police.

ASSESSMENT

Britain, apparently, wants to turn back the clock a few centuries. This is the British political class lending its letterhead to a mob at a shul door, on a property claim its own backers could not stand up. A hundred parliamentarians and a sitting mayor manufactured the grievance, the activists supplied the bodies, and the Met arrested as many Jews defending the event as protesters besieging it [a "city for all Londoners" that polices the congregation and the crowd at parity]. Britain has spent two and a half years deciding that policing the marches costs less than banning them, and Edgware is where that decision lands — at the threshold of the synagogue, with the state's name on the agitation. The community reads the message every European Jewish community already knows by now, and the Jewish Agency's referral numbers out of Britain are the receipt.

A MANCHESTER SHUL FILLS THE SEAT IT HELD EMPTY SINCE OCTOBER 7

Shaare Hayim, a Sephardi congregation in Hale, south Manchester, had reserved an empty seat in its men's section since October 7 for Almog Meir Jan, one of the forty-four taken from the Nova festival. The community had prayed for him by name for the better part of two years. He came to sit in it.

ASSESSMENT

A congregation an ocean from the Negev kept a chair warm for a man most of its members had never met — Am Yisrael deciding, week after week, that the seat stayed reserved until its owner came home. The same Manchester that buried two Jews in last autumn's terror attack supplied this homecoming.

Briefly Noted

Diplomacy & Geopolitics

- *[Jewish Insider]*: Majority Leader Thune said he does not know enough about the Iran deal Trump calls finished to judge whether it stops a bomb. Thune needs to crack open a book. The sixty-day memorandum may be structured to skip the INARA review that hands the Senate the text in the first place.
- *[JNS]*: The Georgian master of a ghost-fleet tanker that ran roughly 1.8 million barrels of Iranian oil to Asia pleaded guilty after a weeks-long Coast

Guard chase across the Atlantic. The enforcement lands the same week the signing reopens Hormuz and the oil revenue the sanctions were built to choke.

Public Diplomacy & Media

- *[Jerusalem Post]*: FIFA is proposing an Israel-Palestine match to open its under-15s festival in September, the same congress where the Palestinian federation's Rajoub refused to shake the Israeli vice-president's hand on stage.
- *[JNS]*: Smith College's trustee committee declined to advance the SJP chapter's divestment proposal, citing mission alignment, community consensus, and fiduciary duty rather than the "genocide" the petition asserted.
- *[The JC]*: Israeli researchers found that ChatGPT, DeepSeek, and Mistral consistently rate "Jewish" profiles as more competent and privileged but colder and less likeable, the old myth surfacing in the machine despite the companies' explicit bias-mitigation. The study runs in *American Psychologist*.

Economy, Tech & Infrastructure

- *[Globes]*: Canada's 1Password acquired Israeli just-in-time access startup Apono for more than \$250 million and is standing up an Israeli development center of fifty-plus on the back of it — the founders out of the Prime Minister's Office cyber division and the IAF's Ofek unit, which is where most of these exits trace back.
- *[Globes]*: Israel's May CPI fell 0.3% against a forecast rise, dropping annual inflation to 1.9% and putting a Bank of Israel rate cut on the table as early as next month, with the oil-price collapse off the Iran framework doing most of the work.
- *[JNS]*: Weizmann Institute researchers published a method in *Nature Astronomy* that detects biological material by the statistical spread of molecules rather than any single compound, built for the degraded samples real space missions return and tied to Eureka, Israel's proposed probe of Jupiter's and Saturn's icy moons.

Culture, Religion & Society

- *[Israel Hayom]*: Three Israelis hijacked to Entebbe as children returned to the old terminal for the first time, fifty years on, and Tzipi Cohen lit candles where her father was killed in front of her — the operation that defined Israeli rescue doctrine turns fifty this month.
- *[Times of Israel]*: A 2,750-year-old cultic stone from an Israelite mansion at Tel Eton, destroyed by the Assyrians, may carry physical evidence of King Hezekiah's centralization of worship in the Jerusalem Temple — the archaeological floor under the biblical text is, as ever, closer than people assume.

Developments to Watch

Northern Front (Lebanon / Syria)

- **Hezbollah fires another salvo** — The IAF intercepted a volley of rockets Hezbollah launched at IDF troops operating in southern Lebanon, no sirens sounded, the day after the deal was announced.

Gaza & Southern Theater

- **Cairo reconvenes with the disarmament clause dead on arrival** — Mediators met again in Cairo as Hamas repeated it will not surrender its weapons, the same refusal that has kept every framework on ice since forever.

Regional Axis (Iran, Houthis, Militias)

- **The strait Trump reopens Friday cannot be cleared for weeks** — Western shipping and maritime-security sources put the minesweeping in Hormuz at forty to fifty days before carriers sail it with confidence, holding back tens of millions of barrels behind the “toll-free” opening the president promised for the signing. Some deal.
- **Iran confirms Hormuz tolls and Europe answers with a carrier** — Tehran’s foreign ministry confirmed it will charge transit fees through the strait, a red line for the European leaders whose economies the reopening was meant to relieve, and France and Britain readied a joint naval mission with the Charles de Gaulle staged to reach the zone in two to three days. The “deal” sold as the end of the blockade produces a tollgate, and a NATO carrier sailing to contest it is the kinetic answer no clause in the memorandum addresses.
- **Trump’s own cabinet splits on the deal** — CIA Director Ratcliffe told the President and senior officials that US intelligence raises serious doubts about Iran’s willingness to make the nuclear concessions the deal seeks, with Secretary of State Rubio and Defense Secretary Hegseth voicing the same concern while Vance, Witkoff, and Kushner pushed the memorandum through. A signing staged over the objections of the President’s own intelligence and defense chiefs, defended in public by the one principal willing to put his name to it, is an administration that has not convinced itself.
- **The sixty days open a breakout no one is watching** — Israeli analysts read the interim term beginning Friday as a stretch with no inspections and no permitted Israeli action, the exact conditions under which Tehran could push for a weapon while the paper says talks are underway. The stockpile is downblended at an “appropriate” time that never arrives and the inspectors stay locked out, leaving these two months the regime’s safest approach to the line since the war began.
- **Tehran sells the deal to a population that wanted the regime gone** — Iranians emerged from the war into a wrecked economy and split openly over an agreement that ends the fighting and leaves the clerics in place, with regime supporters protesting the terms and the leadership freeing death-row prisoners to buy quiet.

Diplomatic & Legal

- **The Gulf reads itself as the deal's biggest loser** — Reuters and Israeli analysts converge on the Gulf capitals as the parties left worse off than before the war, their trust in American protection shaken by a settlement that hands Tehran political standing and reopens its oil revenue. The states Israel spent two years courting toward normalization now watch Washington reward the regime that fired on them.
- **Slovenia reverses and blesses the communities Europe is sanctioning** — Ljubljana's new prime minister met the Samaria Regional Council head, reversed his predecessor's import and arms restrictions, and said "God bless the residents of Judea and Samaria." One capital breaking from the bloc on Judea and Samaria as Brussels stalls its own package.

Home Front & Politics

- **US tankers start leaving Ben Gurion as the strike option recedes** — The American military began pulling out the refueling aircraft that made up a fifth of the US fleet staged in Israel, the support layer behind the broad Iran sortie the IAF stood down from an hour before departure. A physical confirmation that the strike Israel built is not flying again soon, with the decision to refuel it leaving the country before the planes do.

The week is being sold as a closing. The war wound down. The strait reopened. The threat pushed "away" for "years." What is actually closing is the distance between Jerusalem's reach and Jerusalem's freedom to use it. The IDF is still the actor finishing the job the diplomats are billing as finished, in Lebanon and Gaza both. Wall Street read the signing as peace and rallied three percent — the Tel Aviv exchange read the same paper and fell, banks and insurers hardest, the home market correctly pricing a memorandum of Iranian concessions as more likely to reopen the war than to close it. Everything else this morning — the arrest-freeze, the comptroller fight, the boarded-up booths, the shul door in Edgware — is what a country and a people look like when the kinetic question gets answered and the political one opens behind it.

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