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READER EDITION

June 30, 2026

ISRAEL BRIEF

Tuesday, June 30

A drone fortress demolished eighteen months late, Katz ordering a solo Iran option while Doha denies the meeting, and the bribery count dying as the coalition cheers.

◇ URIEL ZEHAVI

THE BOTTOM LINE The model is the same wherever the plot surfaces — a courier or a handler one border away, local muscle on the ground, and the trail engineered to end two arrests short of the desk that drafted the contract. Russia caught this one early, which is the part that almost never holds: as we've tracked, these arrests tend to come only after a synagogue has already burned, and they tend to stall at the local cell long before they reach the patron. A foiled plot in Yaroslavl is worth more as a warning than as a prosecution [the question is never whether the state can name the arsonist — it's whether any of these governments will carry a case the whole way to the patron who drafted it].

CLASSIFICATION

Reader Edition

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THE 551st blew a complex the air force had judged empty and waved off two years ago, Katz told the IDF to ready a solo Iran strike while Tehran banks six billion dollars on a meeting it denies, and the bench killed a bribery count the prosecution was warned in 2023 it could not prove (and the legal guild plodded on anyway). The disposition is contained but loaded — a state clearing what it can reach, deferring what costs a fight, and racing three Knesset weeks against a recess that swallows the rest.

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Flash Brief

- **Lebanon:** Engineers blow Hezbollah's Iranian-built "drone fortress" the IDF waved off two years ago. *See The War Today.*
 - **Hormuz:** Trump says Iran requested a Doha meeting Tehran denies, even as it banks six billion dollars on the way in. *See The War Today.*
 - **Iran option:** Katz discloses the IDF is ordered to ready an independent strike if Tehran fires on Israel. *See The War Today.*
 - **Case 4000:** The bench reaffirms its 2023 view that bribery is unprovable, and the coalition reads vindication. *See Inside Israel.*
 - **October 7:** The High Court pulls Englman's pen off half the invasion audits, four for jurisdiction, four for process. *See Inside Israel.*
 - **Draft fight:** A Bnei Brak rally curses the chief of staff as the Red
- Cross-ban bill falls when Shas walks. *See Inside Israel.*
 - **Memorandum:** Congress finds the sixty-day window "fluid" and the sanctioned money already moving. *See Israel and the World.*
 - **Map:** Israel works the rim — Caracas, Banja Luka, Milei's bloc — as a corridor routes trade around it. *See Israel and the World.*
 - **CPJ:** The journalist watchdog continues deleting combatants its own killers identified from the casualty list. *See Israel and the World.*
 - **Mamdani:** New York's mayor will not call Israel a Jewish state, filing it beside Saudi Arabia. *See Israel and the World.*
 - **Venezuela:** Israel flies a Home Front brigade into a Caracas that severed ties in 2009 to dig for its Jews. *See Israel and the World.*

THE thread running through today is enforcement and who controls it. Israel holds total freedom to strike and a patron who decides when the striking stops, a bench that has twice declined to carry a charge the prosecution would not drop, and a comptroller whose pen the Court just pulled off the failure the Court itself is implicated in. The brief moves from the northern and Iranian fronts through the domestic accountability fights to the two maps being drawn abroad — the one Israel is winning because no Gulf capital can veto it, and the one running against it on Arab publics.

The War Today

THE DRONE FORTRESS COMES OUT OF THE GROUND EIGHTEEN MONTHS LATE

The 551st Brigade and Yahalom engineers blew Hezbollah's "drone fortress" at Majdal Zoun on Sunday — a complex more than two hundred meters long and twenty-five deep, hundreds of weapons, rocket silos, four launch shafts aimed at Israeli territory, built with Iranian technology five miles inside the security zone. Air Force intelligence had looked at the same site nearly two years ago during Operation Northern Arrows, judged it inactive and empty, and waved off a 36th Division recommendation to take it then — which is

how the most significant strategic asset Iran built for Hezbollah near the fence sat untouched while it likely launched drones at Israel the whole time. The air force struck three command centers near Nabatieh and Mayfadoun, and a reservist from the Commando Brigade was seriously wounded Monday afternoon in an explosion at Kfar Arnoun. The IDF eliminated the Hezbollah operative who killed Capt. David Hazutt ז"ל near Deir Siryan, the first soldier Hezbollah has killed since the framework was signed, with the toll of fallen now at 964. Katz declared Israel has "no territorial ambitions in Lebanon" and will not withdraw "a millimeter" until Hezbollah is disarmed, conceded that American pressure had spared the group from collapse, and warned Iran could strike in its proxy's defense. Berri called the deal something that "won't be implemented" and told al-Akhbar the only realistic path to an Israeli pull-out runs through Tehran's talks with Washington. The CENTCOM chief met Lebanon's president and army chief the same day, with the LAF set to pilot two southern zones under American supervision.

ASSESSMENT

A drone fortress sitting full for eighteen months after the staff that found it recommended taking it is the price of the instinct now governing the whole northern file. Clear what you can reach, leave what costs a fight, call the gap procedure. The framework is the enforcement license we've read it as since the signing, and Katz conceding that Washington kept the IDF from finishing Hezbollah while the army demolishes one complex a week names the contradiction the deal was built to hold — total freedom to strike, paired with a patron who decides when the striking stops. Berri routing the only real withdrawal trigger through Tehran's Hormuz table is the honest version of the clause — the pullout was always tied to a disarmament no rifle in Beirut will deliver and no court in Beirut will order [the recognition Beirut's own speaker rejects being worth what Beirut can enforce, which is the tunnel in pieces]. The receipt arrived three days after the page, and it will keep arriving, one shaft at a time, until someone in Washington decides the army has cleared enough.

IRAN REQUESTS A MEETING IT SAYS IS NOT HAPPENING

Trump posted that "IRAN HAS REQUESTED A MEETING" in Doha on Tuesday and threatened again to "finish the job," sending Witkoff and Kushner to Qatar to negotiate the strait after a weekend in which CENTCOM struck ten Iranian sites and the IRGC fired missiles and drones at Kuwait and Bahrain. Tehran denied the talks within hours. Deputy Foreign Minister Gharibabadi said no technical working-group meetings are scheduled this week, Baghaei said an "expert delegation" would travel to Doha only to discuss implementing the existing memorandum and that Iran had "not yet entered the stage of negotiating a final agreement," and the regime kept a separate Hormuz channel open with Oman, whose foreign minister said Muscat will not back transit fees on the strait. Pezeshkian announced that Qatar is bound to release six billion of the twelve billion dollars in frozen Iranian assets as the de-escalation proceeds. Maritime traffic through Hormuz collapsed over the weekend — analysts read the instability itself as Iran's leverage, sustained on purpose until a final deal is signed. Katz said Israel could be at war with Iran "tomorrow" if Tehran fires on Israeli territory, and disclosed the IDF has

already been ordered to prepare an independent operation against Iran if it comes to that.

ASSESSMENT

Tehran requesting a meeting it publicly denies, banking six billion dollars on the way in, is the whole shape of what Washington signed — the regime collects the economic clause on the headline and ratifies nothing underneath it. Putting the strait ahead of the postponed nuclear talks confirms again which asset has American weight behind it: Hormuz, the chokepoint Iran can actually close and toll, is on the table, while the enriched uranium on Iranian soil is not, and the slowed traffic is Tehran pricing its one live lever for the Doha room. Katz ordering the IDF to ready a solo strike is the tell that the permission layer migration has a floor — Jerusalem will read the page it was never shown and act if the missiles come, deal or no deal [war “tomorrow” being the register of a defense minister who has watched his own war’s terms negotiated three capitals away]. The halt Washington announced was Tehran’s to confirm, and Tehran has spent the calm and confirmed nothing.

Inside Israel

THE BRIBERY COUNT DIES IN CASE 4000 AND THE COALITION READS IT AS VINDICATION

The three-judge panel in Netanyahu’s trial reaffirmed the position it first stated three years ago — that the prosecution should drop the bribery charge in Case 4000 — and this time the reaffirmation is terminal. The judges had flagged in June 2023 that the bribery offense was difficult to prove and recommended withdrawal. Baharav-Miara and the State Attorney’s Office refused, betting they could establish bribery during the defense stage, in Netanyahu’s cross-examination. The panel returned from a recess during a scheduling hearing to say its 2023 view stands, which means the cross-examination gambit failed and there is no remaining avenue to prove the count. Smotrich called the investigation and prosecution systems corrupt and promised accountability for those behind the indictment. Defense Minister Katz joined him, naming the “fabricated indictment” and demanding the same.

ASSESSMENT

The prosecution was told the bribery count was unprovable in 2023, declined to drop it, gambled the case on breaking the Prime Minister under cross-examination, and lost the bet — and the office that spent the spring insisting its filings were law and not politics now owns a charge the bench has twice declined to let it carry. The coalition’s “fabricated indictment” framing overreads a narrow evidentiary verdict on one count of a three-case file [the other two counts are still live, which the celebration is careful not to mention]. The legal guild built a bribery prosecution it could not sustain and held it open for three years after it knew it was untenable as part of a decade long political trial. And, frankly, a count kept alive past the bench’s own warning is the clearest argument the reform side has for the case the AG’s tenure is supposed to refute.

THE HIGH COURT PULLS ENGLMAN'S PEN OFF HALF THE OCTOBER 7 AUDITS

The High Court ruled that State Comptroller Matanyahu Englman cannot complete or publish his examinations of eight key failures behind the October 7 invasion. The justices held that Englman lacked jurisdiction over four specific areas of the catastrophe outright, and ordered four other probes redone because he failed to interview key officials before reaching his findings. The ruling lands while the petitions to annul Rabilio's election as State Comptroller still sit before an expanded panel, and while the coalition's own statutory inquiry track remains the contested alternative to a state commission a High Court president's appointee would chair.

ASSESSMENT

The one accountability instrument the coalition's side actually held — a comptroller it credentialed, auditing the October 7 failure the executive and the legal guild share — is the instrument the Court has now narrowed by half, four probes voided for want of jurisdiction and four sent back for want of process. October 7 was a failure the High Court and the broader guild are implicated in across a decade of deferred warnings, which makes the question of who gets to audit it a question of who gets to write themselves out of it. The Court reaching to bound the comptroller in the same fortnight the guild petitions to unseat him reads as one move at two doors [whoever holds the pen decides which failures stay on the page].

✘ Dossier: *Field Dossier: The Unfinished State* — The Court narrowing the one comptroller the coalition credentialed to audit the failure the bench is itself implicated in is the High-Court-self-empowerment argument this Dossier builds in full — the unwritten-constitution vacuum that lets the institution decide which of its own failures stay on the page.

THE ANTI-DRAFT RALLY TURNS TO CURSES AS THE AG AND COURT MOVE AGAINST THE FREEZE

The new beat under the haredi street fight is institutional. In an expected development, the Attorney General and the High Court have come out against the arrest-freeze measure, holding that it builds a bypass around the Draft Law and lends legitimacy to evasion — the legal opposition arriving before the temporary order has even passed. At a Bnei Brak rally led by former Sephardi chief rabbi Yitzhak Yosef, Rabbi Aryeh Yazdi cursed Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir, saying “may his name and memory be erased.” Netanyahu condemned the incitement. Shas issued a statement distancing its rabbis from the remarks — though four of its MKs sat through the rally without condemning anything. In the Education Committee, UTJ's Pindrus answered a question about police shooting protesters in the legs by suggesting they “start with” Democrats MK Naama Lazimi. UTJ resumed its plenum boycott, killing the agenda. Again. And the coalition's own bill to bar Red Cross visits to Nukhba terrorists fell 41-36 when Shas walked.

ASSESSMENT

The community demanding the state stop arresting its draft evaders spent the evening cursing the officer left holding the seventeen-thousand-soldier shortfall those evasions create. The AG and the Court opposing the freeze before it passes is the same guild posture we have tracked all spring, and for once it points the coalition's own way — the legal establishment is right that a registration-and-declaration order with no statute behind it is a bypass dressed as a pause, even if it is right for the wrong reasons. A coalition that cannot pass a Red Cross-ban its own whip calls a security necessity, because its haredi partners would rather burn the floor than vote without their exemption, is a coalition discovering that the parties it shields no longer share a floor with the security agenda it claims [the Nukhba terrorists keep their Red Cross visits as the price of the draft fight—which, if you'll remember, were tied to operational information being passed out to other terror operatives].

Israel and the World

CONGRESS PRIES OPEN THE IRAN MEMORANDUM AND FINDS THE MONEY ALREADY MOVING

House members emerged from back-to-back briefings to report that the sixty-day window written into the US-Iran memorandum is no longer sixty days. Foreign Affairs chair Brian Mast called the timeline “more of a fluid thing” and the deal itself “a work in progress,” predicting the talks reach “some” of their goals and not all. Underneath the calendar, the sanctions accounting came apart on the call: Witkoff told members no waivers had been issued and no Iranian oil sales permitted since signing, then could not answer when Wasserman Schultz pointed to the Treasury license issued last week authorizing exactly that, and the officials cut the line. Rubio told lawmakers no money was going to Iran; Meeks read back the memorandum's own text releasing funds at implementation, with Tehran already claiming receipt. The first technical round opens in Switzerland today, Hormuz ahead of the nuclear file, while Iran's deputy foreign minister insists demining is Iran's alone and waves off the France-Oman clearance Macron announced from the Elysee.

ASSESSMENT

The deal is becoming the status quo it was sold to prevent, and the men running it cannot keep their own concessions straight in front of Congress [a Special Envoy “taken aback” by his own Treasury's license is not the reassurance the briefing was called to deliver]. Mast's “fluid” sixty days is what we have been reading since the tarmac — the window has no enforcement behind it but the strike-restart threat, so it stretches to whatever length keeps the oil flowing and the enriched stockpile off the table. Iran banks the economic clauses on signature and denies the rest, and Washington answers a deputy minister's flat refusal on Hormuz by sending negotiators to a strait the regime has already announced it will toll alone.

ISRAEL WORKS THE EDGES OF THE MAP WHILE THE CENTER STAYS FROZEN

Milei told a Buenos Aires audience that neutrality “is not an option” and urged Latin America into the Isaac Accords, the conviction-bloc normalization Argentina anchors and a Bolsonaro win would extend to Brazil. The same week, Jerusalem moved at the rim: a Foreign Ministry, IDF and Home Front Command delegation departs for Venezuela despite ties severed since 2009, Republika Srpska’s Serb presidency member flew its own flag beside Netanyahu’s in Jerusalem over Sarajevo’s formal protest, and Serbia’s drone-coproduction and 140-percent arms-export surge deepened. Against the rim, the center: Transport Minister Regev warned Netanyahu in writing of a Saudi-Turkey-Egypt-Syria rail and energy corridor — the Development Road, the “Moses Bridge” — routing global trade around Israel with US and Emirati money funding Syrian ports, and Israel pulled its defense attaché from Ottawa, leaving the post empty.

ASSESSMENT

Two maps are being drawn at once, and Israel is winning the one nobody can veto and losing the one that runs on Arab publics. Milei and a breakaway Balkan entity and an earthquake delegation to Caracas all share the property that made Somaliland work — they ask nothing of Riyadh or Cairo, so no Gulf capital pricing Israel against a war-strengthened Tehran can stop them. The cost is that conviction wiring reverses on the wiring that built it: an embassy that moves on Milei’s word moves back on the next Kirchnerist, and a flag raised in Banja Luka answers to Banja Luka. The corridor Regev is warning about is the durable threat, because a rail line through Amman and a port at Latakia do not care who holds the chair in Buenos Aires.

THE COMMITTEE TO PROTECT JOURNALISTS CONTINUES EDITING ITS OWN CASUALTY LIST

The Committee to Protect Journalists is “reviewing” the database that built the “deadliest war for journalists on record” claim, after Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad published obituaries naming as their own combatants men the watchdog had listed as journalists. Eight names came off as confirmed Hamas or PIJ operatives, twelve more for other reasons, against a running total of 209 — and the full review does not finish until July. The Meir Amit center reached this conclusion in December, name by name, off Arabic-language mourning notices, funeral footage, and the groups’ own martyr claims: roughly 60 percent of the 266 it examined were members of or affiliated with terror organizations, 47 in Hamas’s military wing, 45 tied to PIJ. Danny Danon ran the same audit live at the Security Council, replacing his Resolution 2334 remarks with enlarged photographs and a single question — “Terrorist or journalist? UNRWA worker or Nukhba commander?” — and naming Zohran Mamdani as a Western politician who had repeated the Gaza version verbatim, presenting a military-wing operative as an “innocent journalist.”

ASSESSMENT

The watchdog moved only when the killers themselves filed the correction it had declined to file for two years, which tells you the real verification standard all along was whether the number served. A press-freedom tally exists to generate a figure that travels faster than anyone will ever check its provenance, and “deadliest war for journalists on record” cleared three news cycles for every quiet deletion that will clear none. The same machine ran again that morning in B’Tselem’s “highest rate since 1967” child-death release, laundered through the usual hostile outlets and built on the identical refusal to ask who was a combatant [the audit and the fresh deployment, eight feet apart on the same conveyor]. Israel barred independent correspondents from Gaza and the activists call that the reason the list could not be checked, which is the one thing they have right and the last thing they want examined.

NEW YORK’S MAYOR WILL NOT CALL ISRAEL A JEWISH STATE

Zohran Mamdani told ABC he cannot endorse states that “privilege one religion over another,” placing Israel beside Saudi Arabia and declining to say he supports Israel as a Jewish state — the sitting mayor of the city that holds the largest Jewish population outside Israel, speaking the week his own slate ran the table in the Democratic primaries. Israel’s consul general in New York, Ofir Akunis, answered that the mayor was “inciting and spreading hatred” and told him to brush up on his history. In cased you missed it: the Democratic Socialists of America, the apparatus that carried Mamdani into office, has formally abandoned the two-state framework.

ASSESSMENT

The position is coherent on its own terms and that is exactly the problem. A man who files every Jewish-majority arrangement under privilege-to-be-dismantled is being entirely consistent about Israel, and the consul general’s history lecture answers a literacy gap nobody was suffering from. The office that decides which assaults on Jews get counted in this city now belongs to a figure who places the one Jewish state in a category he wants abolished, and the warning we logged before the election is arriving on the schedule we set for it [the mayor runs the department that does the counting]. Antizionism is antisemitism, and it does not soften into something else because the man holding it won an election.

ISRAEL FLIES A HOME FRONT TEAM TO A CARACAS IT HAS NO EMBASSY IN

Twin earthquakes that have killed roughly 1,500 Venezuelans tore through a Jewish community of about 5,000, and the count there is now three dead, four missing, fifteen families’ homes destroyed and another thirty-five left uninhabitable. Around a hundred people are still sleeping in the Caracas Jewish Community Center, down from three hundred the first night. Israel ordered a joint Foreign Ministry-IDF delegation in regardless — engineering teams from Home Front Command under Brig. Gen. Elad Edri, the diplomatic side under Ambassador Yoed Magen, who grew up in Venezuela — into a country that has refused Jerusalem an embassy since Chavez cut ties over Cast Lead in 2009. World Jewish Relief opened an emergency appeal. The Israeli group SmartAid is flying in power, water and connectivity gear for hospitals that have none.

ASSESSMENT

Caracas severed relations with Jerusalem seventeen years ago and Jerusalem sent its disaster engineers anyway, into a hostile capital, to dig for a Jewish community the regime that broke ties never lifted a finger to protect [there is one Jewish people, and Israel is the address when the building comes down]. The Western share of aliyah jumped to 38 percent this year because Jews abroad are doing the same math from the other direction: the diaspora and the state are one body, and the body's distributed organs lean on the center when the ground gives way. That the center can mobilize a Home Front brigade across a planet and into a country that won't grant it a consulate is the standing answer to whether the connection is sentiment or infrastructure.

RUSSIA FOILS A SYRIA-LINKED FIRE-BOMB PLOT ON A JEWISH SITE

The FSB says it broke up a planned fire-bomb attack on a Jewish religious institution in the Yaroslavl region, detaining a Russian citizen it ties to a handler based in Syria and to a banned international terrorist organization. The arrest lands the same week European and Australian services keep working their own roster of Iran- and jihadist-linked synagogue plots — the Liege bombing arrests, the Hamburg IRGC-intelligence trial, the Met's counter-terror searches — and adds Russia to the list of states that interdicted the round before it left the envelope this time.

ASSESSMENT

The model is the same wherever the plot surfaces — a courier or a handler one border away, local muscle on the ground, and the trail engineered to end two arrests short of the desk that drafted the contract. Russia caught this one early, which is the part that almost never holds: as we've tracked, these arrests tend to come only after a synagogue has already burned, and they tend to stall at the local cell long before they reach the patron. A foiled plot in Yaroslavl is worth more as a warning than as a prosecution [the question is never whether the state can name the arsonist — it's whether any of these governments will carry a case the whole way to the patron who drafted it].

Briefly Noted

Frontline & Security

- *JNS*: Gunmen killed two IRGC members and wounded two more outside their home in Kermanshah, the Kurdish-majority west where the regime has fought armed Kurdish factions before, and no one has claimed it. The men Tehran spent the war shielding from the targeting deck are now being shot on their own doorsteps.

Diplomacy & Geopolitics

- *Jerusalem Post*: Tehran indicted exiled Crown Prince Reza Pahlavi and journalists from the shuttered Manoto and Iran International over January's protests, charging them with "creating the conditions" for the unrest. A regime that cannot reach the diaspora with a rifle reaches it with a docket.

- *JNS*: Israel will not replace its departing defense attaché in Ottawa, folding the post into a Washington-run slot as its ambassador calls the relationship the worst it has been since Carney recognized a Palestinian state.
- *JNS*: Herzog, on a Romania visit marking 85 years since the Jassy pogrom, pressed European leaders to reject boycotts of Israel and back the Lebanon framework.

Public Diplomacy & Media

- *JTA*: The New York Times hired The Atlantic's Yair Rosenberg to launch a national beat covering Jewish American life, the paper creating the role the same season its Israel and antisemitism coverage drew the sharpest communal criticism in years.
- *The JC*: At the Conservative Friends of Israel lunch, with Badenoch on the stage, Nick Timothy pressed Andy Burnham for refusing to say Israel is not committing genocide — the genocide-libel litmus test now reaching the British Conservative front bench.

Domestic & Law

- *JNS*: The Health Ministry ran a nationwide headquarters drill simulating a major earthquake, rehearsing mass casualties, infrastructure collapse, and power outages across the health system, the one mass-casualty scenario no interceptor stops.
- *Walla News*: The rights group Btzalmo asked Ben-Gurion University to suspend Dr. Maha Karkabi Sabbah, a sociology lecturer running third on the anti-Zionist Balad list, for the length of the campaign.

Economy, Tech & Infrastructure

- *Globes*: Element Labs raised at a \$4 billion valuation, the second Israeli chip startup in Avigdor Willenz's portfolio to pull in hundreds of millions this month.
- *Globes*: Wix's Base44 launched its own large language model after Washington moved to block foreign nationals from accessing Anthropic's, cutting its dependence on outside providers. The export control meant to leash buys the leashed party a reason to build the thing itself.
- *Jerusalem Post*: The Palestinian Monetary Authority is pushing a shift to electronic payments as shekel cash piles past the NIS 18 billion annual cap on physical-currency returns through Israeli banks. The squeeze runs on a lever Jerusalem holds and the Finance Ministry's indemnity letters keep idle.

Culture, Religion & Society

- *JNS*: The Israel Antiquities Authority joined a five-year, €2.5 million European project that will run AI, handwriting analysis, and chemical signatures across 250 parchment, papyrus, and ink samples to settle where the Dead Sea Scrolls were actually copied. For the first time Egyptian papyri get compared against Qumran's, turning the Second Temple library back into evidence.

- *Jerusalem Post*: The Free Secular Movement opened a “Secular House” directly across from the Chabad House on Ko Pha Ngan, billing Spinoza readings and Friday dinners on secular identity as the antidote to Chabad’s outreach to backpacking Israelis.

Developments to Watch

Northern Front (Lebanon / Syria)

- **Daraa clashes pull the IDF into a second southern front** — Residents fired on an IDF post at Tel Qudna in the Daraa buffer zone, the army answered with artillery, mortars, and an attack helicopter, and a reservist lost a classified phone that locals now hold. The contact with the population is daily and building, and Turkey condemned the clashes the same day, laying the rhetorical groundwork to threaten Israel militarily over its presence in the south.
- **The Shia base does not answer Qassem’s call** — Hezbollah’s summons to flood the streets against the framework drew thin crowds and opened visible fissures along the axis it claims to lead. The Lebanese Army pilot deploying south this week tests whether the cracks widen, and a base that will not riot for the page cannot enforce the rejection Beirut’s speaker keeps promising.

Gaza & Southern Theater

- **Smotrich stages three settlements on the Gaza border** — The Finance Minister says he is ready to establish three communities along the northern edge of the Strip and is waiting only for Netanyahu’s green light. The move turns the post-war perimeter into facts on the ground before any reconstruction committee seats. Whether Netanyahu gives the word is the test of how much sovereignty-by-accumulation the coalition will run in its closing weeks.

Regional Axis (Iran, Houthis, Militias)

- **The IRGC is being shot on its own doorsteps** — Gunmen killed two more Guards outside their home in Kurdish-majority Kermanshah this week, the latest in a run of killings across Iran’s western provinces that no one has claimed. The men Tehran spent the war shielding from Israel’s targeting deck are now dying at home. The open question is whether the scattered hits cohere into an insurgency the regime cannot fight while it bargains Hormuz in Doha.
- **Iraq’s pro-Iran militias keep their rifles past the order** — Baghdad has ordered the Iran-backed militias to dissolve by September 30 under American pressure, and the groups are still holding their weapons. The order lands as the US-led coalition draws down, so the regime’s Iraqi proxy belt

faces a choice between disbanding on schedule and daring an enforcement no Iraqi government has yet been willing to attempt.

- **The Houthis open a Somalia vector** — Telegram channels tied to the axis warn against Israeli activity in Somalia even as the Sanaa group keeps testing missiles built to extend its range and accuracy. The Red Sea front Israel had pushed to the margins is reaching for a new theater, and a Houthi reach that lengthens during the Hormuz calm is the part of the axis no memorandum in Doha covers.

Home Front & Politics

- **The home front holds emergency status to July 14** — Israel extended the special civil-defense regime on the home front for another two weeks, citing continued uncertainty on both the Iran and Lebanon arenas. The extension is the state telling its own population that conflict may erupt before mid-month, the clearest read on the war's near-term temperature that does not come from a podium.
- **Three Knesset weeks left before the recess swallows the agenda** — The Knesset's legal adviser put the count at three parliamentary weeks until dissolution and the election recess. Every contest the coalition is racing now runs against that deadline, the draft laws and the arrest freeze and the Red Cross-ban it could not pass and the bench Levin is filling. What does not clear the plenum in the next three weeks waits for whoever wins in October.

The receipt arrives three days after the page, and it keeps arriving — one shaft, one Rafah officer, one banked tranche at a time — because every framework now carries the contradiction the deal was built to hold. The coalition celebrates a count the bench declined to carry and the comptroller the Court declined to let finish, both true, neither the vindication the celebration claims. Security is the beating heart of Israeli politics, and it is the variable cracking the coalition, narrowing the audits, and ordering a solo strike all in the same week.

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