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READER EDITION

July 20, 2026

ISRAEL BRIEF

Monday, July 20

Iron Dome fires into a war Israel is not in, while Likud hands Netanyahu his slate and the attorney general reaches for Ben-Gvir's seat.

◇ URIEL ZEHAVI

THE BOTTOM LINE Magyar is retiring Orban's appointees through the one office with no power, and he picked a nominee with no party. For Hungary's Jews the arithmetic runs older than the politics. A state whose own police loaded its Jews onto the trains is offering the presidency to a woman whose grandparents came back from Auschwitz. Orban spent a decade as the most reliable veto against EU measures on Israel, and Magyar has cast nothing yet [a president does not sit in the European Council, which is where Jerusalem actually needed Budapest].

CLASSIFICATION

Reader Edition

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ISRAEL'S part in the ninth night of this war was a single interceptor, fired at falling debris from a missile Tehran aimed at Jordan. Washington is closing a deal that lets Riyadh enrich uranium without the inspectors who could check it, hosting a Lebanese president whose disarmament plan his own army cannot execute, and parking its tankers on Israeli runways. Ankara has put in for a guarantor's seat over any future Israeli-Palestinian agreement, inside a 769-page volume on the presidency's own website. J Street's student arm co-sponsored the College Democrats convention that handed Hasan Piker the Saturday stage, and he used it to tell the room to stop funding Israel. Jeremy Ben-Ami's answer is that J Street chose no speakers (see Briefly Noted). The one fight Israel still runs alone is at home, and it has reached the point where the state cannot send a tax inspector into Bnei Brak.

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FLASH BRIEF

- **Iran:** Iron Dome fires its first interceptor since April at debris from an Iranian missile aimed at Aqaba. *See The War Today.*
- **Lebanon:** Hezbollah kills a Lebanese soldier inside the zone Beirut is about to receive from Israel. *See The War Today.*
- **Judea and Samaria:** Two arrests turn the Havat Gilad fire that destroyed thirteen homes from accident into attack. *See The War Today.*
- **Likud:** The Constitution Committee hands Netanyahu eight reserved slots and a clause to cancel the primary. *See Inside Israel.*
- **Ben-Gvir:** The attorney general declares the police framework dead and asks the court to remove him. *See Inside Israel.*
- **Bnei Brak:** The state pulls its tax inspectors out of the city and freezes its war-damage claims. *See Inside Israel.*
- **Saudi nuclear:** Washington finishes a deal letting Riyadh enrich uranium without the short-notice inspections the protocol requires. *See Israel and the World.*
- **Beirut in Washington:** Aoun carries a Hezbollah disarmament plan into the Oval Office tomorrow and asks pressure on Israel. *See Israel and the World.*
- **Influence campaign:** Israel's \$45 million persona operation surfaces, and its own American allies are asking who bought them. *See Israel and the World.*
- **J Street:** Its student arm co-sponsored the College Democrats convention that gave Hasan Piker the stage to tell the room to stop funding Israel. *See Briefly Noted.*
- **Turkey:** Ankara publishes a 769-page case for Hamas and claims a guarantor seat over any agreement. *See Israel and the World.*
- **Italy:** Activists crowd-source a register of Jewish and Israeli addresses before public pressure takes the form down. *See Israel and the World.*
- **Hormuz:** Trump reportedly orders a forced tanker convoy once Iran's southern launch sites are flattened. *See Developments to Watch.*

The decisions that will shape Israel's next decade are being drafted in rooms where Israel is not seated. Riyadh's centrifuges and the guarantor's chair Ankara has claimed over any future Israeli-Palestinian agreement are both other people's work, and Jerusalem's leverage on each was surrendered before the drafting began. What Israel still governs is the ground under its own feet, and that is where the harder contest sits: who controls the police ministry and the party slate when the voters get their turn in October.

The War Today

Iranian Missiles at Aqaba Put Iron Dome Back in the War

Israel fired its first Iron Dome interceptor against an Iranian threat since the April ceasefire, at debris from a missile aimed at Jordan. Four ballistic missiles came down toward Aqaba yesterday afternoon, across the water from Eilat. American Aegis systems took the warheads, and Jordan's army said three were intercepted and a fourth fell in open ground. The IDF then fired

at fragments heading for Israeli airspace, and interceptor pieces landed in an open area north of Eilat. No injuries, no damage, no sirens. Overnight, American forces completed a ninth consecutive night of strikes on command centers, air defense and coastal surveillance sites, missile and drone launch positions and communications networks, with explosions reported in Tabriz in the northwest and Bushehr and Abadan in the south. American dead in the exchange reached three — two at the Muwaffaq Salti base in Jordan on Friday, one in northern Iraq on Saturday during a controlled detonation of unexploded ordnance from a downed Iranian attack drone. Unidentified remains recovered at the Jordanian base may make four. Zamir, reviewing the sector at the Judea and Samaria Division, said Israel is ready to resume combat immediately. Katz said any Iranian missile fired at Israel draws a full-force answer with no conditions attached. Defense officials expect no immediate launch toward Israel and hold the alert high but short of its peak, reading the Aqaba salvo as Tehran testing the edges, and they name three ways Israel enters the fighting: an Iranian strike, intelligence that one is being readied, or a formal American request. Dozens of American refueling aircraft have landed at Ovda and Ramon, with F-35s moving in from Britain and fighters from Germany. CENTCOM has redirected six commercial vessels and disabled one since the blockade resumed on July 14, the IRGC claimed two tankers “exploded” attempting the southern route through Hormuz, and a vessel struck by an unidentified projectile off Kumzar burned and drifted after its crew evacuated. Trump said the campaign now aims to end “any chance” of an Iranian nuclear weapon and that the United States controls the strait. Brent crossed \$90 for the first time since June 11, and the rial touched a record 1.95 million to the dollar.

ASSESSMENT

Israel's first interceptor of this war went up against debris from a missile meant for somebody else, which is the whole of Jerusalem's position on night nine. None of the three routes into the fighting belongs to Israel — two are Tehran's to choose and the third is Washington's, and the refueling aircraft now sitting on Ovda and Ramon are the reason the third would be hard to decline. Trump has meanwhile widened the stated aim from reopening the strait to ending the nuclear program, the file the memorandum that closed the last war said nothing about, along with the missiles. [Nine nights in, Israel's contribution to this campaign is airspace and tarmac.]

Hezbollah Kills a Lebanese Soldier as the Army Enters Its Zone

Sgt. Maj. Ahmad Sami Khalil of Froun was killed Saturday when a device exploded in his Lebanese army vehicle near Mansouri, wounding a soldier and an officer. Lebanese reporting first put the blast on an Israeli airstrike, reading it against Israeli operations on Hezbollah infrastructure nearby in the preceding days. The IDF said Hezbollah planted the charge, that Israeli troops had not been in Mansouri, and that the Lebanese vehicle had entered the security zone without the coordination the mechanism requires. The pilot program under which Lebanese troops enter designated areas to verify they are clear of Hezbollah operatives and weapons is expected to open shortly, following last week's Rome round between Ambassador Yechiel Leiter and

Lebanon's ambassador in Washington, Nada Hamadeh Mouawad, under American auspices. Rubio and Aoun worked through implementation of the tri-lateral framework in Washington yesterday. The air force separately intercepted a drone near the Syrian border, with the launch point still under review.

ASSESSMENT

Hezbollah answered the handover by killing a soldier of the army meant to take the ground from it, inside the zone Beirut is about to receive. The framework's whole premise is that the Lebanese army can take custody of what Hezbollah holds, and its first receipt is a Lebanese sergeant killed by a Hezbollah charge. [Which settles the question of what the group intends to hand over.] Aoun works implementation in Washington while the militia he is meant to disarm sets the terms on the ground, and his own army cannot yet drive through the sector without tripping the deconfliction line.

Two Arrests Turn the Havat Gilad Fire From Accident to Attack

Undercover Border Police officers and IDF troops arrested two Palestinian suspects overnight over the fire that destroyed thirteen homes at Havat Gilad on Saturday. Police first described the arrests as involvement in setting the fire, then revised the wording minutes later to causing it, with a decision on extending their detention to follow questioning. Security forces had initially assessed a discarded cigarette butt. The residents called it arson from the first hour, and the whole community was evacuated while crews fought the blaze. The Fire and Rescue Service has stood up a special team to establish the cause. Overnight in Deir Jarir, troops who entered to protect Israeli civilians searching for livestock stolen from them came under stones and cinderblocks and returned fire, killing two Palestinians. Zamir, walking the sector with Central Command chief Avi Bluth, credited the division's counter-terror work with driving attack numbers down and warned that nationalist crime cuts against security.

ASSESSMENT

Thirteen houses burned and the working theory stayed a cigarette butt until undercover officers produced two suspects overnight — which is the reflex a decade of one-directional counting trains. [The residents said arson within the hour and were told to wait for the investigation.] Deir Jarir travels as “Israeli forces, settlers kill two in Ramallah,” Middle East Eye's construction, with the cinderblocks and the stolen herd left outside the sentence. Both defaults run the same direction, and the dashboards European parliaments now legislate against are built out of exactly this.

Inside Israel

Likud Hands Netanyahu Eight Slots and a Route Past the Primary

Likud's Constitution Committee gave Netanyahu eight reserved slots on the Knesset slate yesterday, seven of them inside the top twenty-nine. It also wrote in a wartime clause. If security conditions block the primary, Netanyahu

convenes a five-member committee of Likud mayors to build the list. The reserved slots no longer need the 4,500-member Central Committee. Ministers, deputy ministers and sitting MKs are barred from the district races, except in the non-Jewish sector district. David Bitan's rival proposal — three reserved slots inside the top thirty — lost and will not reach the convention. He calls the Katz version worse than an arranging committee. Netanyahu told a closed meeting of Likud mayors he prefers a primary and is keeping the committee option in reserve. He also told them Eisenkot opposed striking Khamenei and Iran, which Eisenkot rejects. A Lod District Court injunction had stopped the Central Committee's vote last week, and the party's own tribunal ordered yesterday's session.

ASSESSMENT

Netanyahu now holds the slots and the power to cancel the vote that fills the rest. A senior Likud figure names the fear directly: a bloc short of sixty-one, and second- or third-tier MKs crossing to build an alternative government. A slate of hand-picked loyalists answers that. The wartime clause guarantees he gets one, because he decides whether the security situation permits a primary. [Israel is in its third year of war — the condition is not exactly hypothetical.]

The AG Declares the Ben-Gvir Framework Dead and Reaches for Removal

Baharav-Miara told the High Court this morning that the framework governing Ben-Gvir's role in police work has failed. Four working sessions produced four draft procedures. His bureau's comments on the final text left gaps she called core to protecting police independence from ministerial interference. Those gaps, she wrote, reflect the minister's rejection of police apoliticism as a principle. She logged the violations since April — public claims that a criminal investigation of a senior police officer was politically motivated, public comment on the stun grenades used against haredi protesters, continued intervention in appointments. April's ruling had given the principles binding force. It confined senior appointments to the General Command Staff's recommendation, on seven days' notice to her office, and barred the minister from commenting on police force used against citizens. Her filing points back to the remedy the bench declined in April, removal from the government, reportedly on the ground that the conduct endangers law enforcement in an election period. Ben-Gvir answered that she will go on trying to bring down the government, "and with God's help, we'll win." Her letter to the government secretary on Friday told the outgoing government to consult legal advisers before non-routine decisions and to avoid irreversible facts.

ASSESSMENT

Baharav-Miara wants the bench to empty an elected minister's seat three months before the voters can. April's bench declined that remedy once already. Her case is real — told to route senior appointments through the General Command Staff, Ben-Gvir promised to keep appointing for loyalty and to blow up the talks if she interfered, and he did both. He spent yesterday inside a closed military zone with two dozen coalition colleagues. Underneath the removal filing sits a genuine question about where a minister's authority over police policy ends and the force's independence begins, and elected governments are supposed to answer it. An unelected legal officer is asking judges to answer it by subtraction, during an election period, against a caretaker government she instructed on Friday to avoid irreversible facts. [Emptying a cabinet seat before the voters can rule on it is the most irreversible fact on offer.]

The State Pulls Its Inspectors Out of Bnei Brak

The state employees' union shut down Tax Authority operations in Bnei Brak yesterday, citing a real and immediate danger to its workers' lives. It wants a security arrangement in place before the inspectors go back, and says a condemnation will not do. Tax Authority director Shai Aharonovich had already ordered his people to stop handling the city's war-damage claims until the municipality condemns the attack publicly. The municipality has not answered his letter. His director-general asked to meet Mayor Hanoach Zeibert today. Thursday's assault was coordinated in advance: voice messages went out on a hasidic phone line saying "unwanted guests are wandering around," and hundreds of students leaving morning studies surrounded the inspectors' car within minutes. Stones and eggs flew until police pulled them out. The inspectors had come for a routine round of the business district. Ger hasidim rally outside Prison 10 tonight with the Gerrer Rebbe over a yeshiva student arrested for failing to report. Rabbi Dov Landau, speaking at the Mir, called the men behind conscription wicked and said those in knitted kippot are no less so, and that soldiers sent to kill for the state's honor make it "actual murder. So they are inciting to murder." More than seventy mayors and council heads petitioned against the exemption law, among them Haim Bibas and Shay Hajaj, who chair the local and regional authority federations. Maj. Gen. Dado Bar Kalifa, who runs the IDF Personnel Directorate, wrote to soldiers on Friday that the new thirty-two-month term "does not eliminate the need to expand the pool of draftees."

ASSESSMENT

The arrest freeze stopped the arrests and could not stop the rest of the state, which has now walked out of Bnei Brak. Compensation for Iranian missiles is the lever Jerusalem reached for, held against a condemnation the mayor has not written. Landau's charge that religious-Zionist conscription backers incite to murder aims at the community that both learns and serves. Every hesder yeshiva will have heard it by tonight. [Seventy mayors signed the petition against the exemption, and not one of them can draft anybody.]

Israel and the World

Washington Finishes a Saudi Enrichment Deal With the Inspections Left Out

Trump has a finished draft on his desk that would let Saudi Arabia enrich uranium on its own soil for civilian power. Negotiators closed the text last October and it still has not gone to Congress. The draft does not require Riyadh to sign the IAEA's Additional Protocol, which is what lets inspectors arrive on short notice. In its place sits a bilateral American-Saudi safeguards arrangement. Administration briefings to Congress earlier this year described a "special arrangement" for indigenous Saudi enrichment, and lawmakers were reportedly told it may extend to chemical reprocessing of spent fuel for plutonium. Those are the two roads to a warhead, and one official called the terms unprecedented for an agreement of this kind. The enrichment ceilings are not spelled out. Biden's condition that the civil-nuclear package and the defense pact ride on Saudi recognition of Israel was dropped last year and does not appear in the text. Submission has been held back by the war with Iran and by expected opposition in both parties.

ASSESSMENT

Washington is bombing enrichment in one capital and underwriting it in another. The gold standard American nonproliferation deals were built on is gone, and it went before anyone signed. Riyadh gets centrifuges without the protocol that lets inspectors check what they spin, and the substitute is an American promise to audit a partner it is courting for a defense pact. Jerusalem's one lever on the terms was the recognition clause, surrendered a year before the draft was finished [the kingdom gets its reactor without ever having to say Israel's name].

Aoun Brings Washington a Disarmament Plan His Army Cannot Execute

Joseph Aoun landed at Andrews for a four-day official visit, the first by a Lebanese head of state since Michel Sleiman in 2009. He met Rubio yesterday, and the State Department readout commended Beirut's effort to reclaim sovereignty, disarm Hezbollah and dismantle its terror infrastructure. Aoun pressed for alignment on delivering the first Israeli withdrawal from the first pilot zone, and asked for American money for the Lebanese army and investment in energy, communications and transport. Rubio answered that full Lebanese sovereignty can only come from a Lebanese decision issued through Lebanese constitutional institutions. Aoun meets Trump in the Oval Office tomorrow and reportedly intends to hand over a written plan for disarming Hezbollah, hoping to enlist American pressure on Israel, and to demand Israeli withdrawal from ground taken over the past two years in Lebanon and Syria. The June 26 framework conditions that withdrawal on Hezbollah's disarmament, which Hezbollah rejects along with the talks behind it. US-brokered Israel-Lebanon talks in Rome on Wednesday closed without a withdrawal timeline.

ASSESSMENT

Aoun came to Washington to reverse the order of operations, and Rubio put it back. The framework pays withdrawal against disarmament, so the plan Aoun carries into the Oval Office tomorrow asks the Americans to bank an enforcement Beirut has never once delivered. He works the patron because pressure on Israel is the only pressure he can generate [Hezbollah does not take his calls, and his army has never taken its rifles].

Israel's \$45 Million Persona Campaign Hands Its Own Allies the Charge

Millions of Americans received text messages from senders calling themselves Emma, Sarah and John, writing on behalf of a group named Friends for Peace, asking what the recipient made of the US-Israel talks with Iran. The senders were AI, and the Israeli government paid for them. A Wall Street Journal investigation published yesterday names the vendors: Sparkfire ran the messaging on some \$6.5 million through mid-May, Show Faith by Works took more than \$3 million to work evangelical students, and Brad Parscale — Trump's 2016 digital chief, now chief strategy officer at Salem Media — holds a contract worth more than \$45 million. Parscale's initial agreement included "integrating narrative messages" into Salem assets, the country's second-largest conservative talk network. At least six firms have been retained inside a year, three dozen people have registered as foreign agents for Israel, at least \$50 million has gone to American firms, and the operation reportedly extended to shaping what AI chatbots say about Israel. The 2026 image budget runs past \$700 million, more than four times the 2025 allocation and over twenty times what public diplomacy historically drew. Pew now puts 69 percent of American adults unfavorable on the Israeli government and 42 percent unfavorable on Israelis themselves.

ASSESSMENT

Jerusalem is renting reach in a country where its adversaries own the institutions. Those numbers were built over decades in curricula, accreditation boards, newsroom style guides and NGO donor pipelines — ground no text message reaches. The campaign has meanwhile become the charge: the vice president accuses Israel of working to undermine his own government's Iran negotiations, and Steve Bannon asks how the second-largest conservative talk network came to be run by a registered foreign agent. [Forty-five million dollars, and the friendly microphones are the ones now asking whether they were bought.]

✘ Field Dossier: *The Fifty-Year Front* — This entry's Assessment is the Dossier's central claim arriving as a single day's evidence — that the ground moving American opinion was taken over fifty years inside curricula, accreditation boards, newsroom style guides and NGO donor pipelines, which is why forty-five million dollars of rented reach cannot move it and keeps handing the other side the charge. ##### Ankara Publishes Hamas's History and Files for the Guarantor Seat The Turkish presidency's Directorate of Communications has published a 769-page volume, *Our Palestinian Issue*, on the presidency's own website. It presents Israel as committing "genocide" and "war crimes," casts Zionism as the root of the conflict, and gives Hamas leaders a chapter under the heading "The struggle against Israeli oppression." October 7 survives in a single sentence: "Hamas began resistance, and then Israel attacked Gaza." A new report from the Jerusalem Center for Applied Policy reads the book as a plan. Its closing chapter lays out the instruments — international legal proceedings against Israel, global advocacy campaigns, expanded humanitarian access to Gaza, world leaders mobilized for ceasefire pressure, and a "guarantor mechanism" seating Turkey and others over any future Israeli-Palestinian agreement. JCAP places Ankara's intended reach in Gaza's governance, in a future Palestinian security force, and in Jerusalem through Islamic organizations, and draws the division of labor plainly: Iran supplies Hamas money and weapons; Turkey supplies "political, legal and ideological legitimacy." Turku Avci, the 27-year-old Turkish student in Israel who read the volume through, has an arrest warrant waiting at home for her pro-Israel advocacy.

ASSESSMENT

A 769-page volume on a head of state's website becomes a footnote in a European committee report, then a court filing, then a rapporteur's annex — under a state seal no NGO product can offer. Ankara is filling the assignment Tehran's money and rockets cannot: legal and institutional standing for Hamas, supplied from inside NATO. A fighter-jet file sits open in Washington for the same government whose foreign minister calls Israel a burden humanity can no longer bear. [And the ask is a guarantor seat over any future Israeli-Palestinian agreement — for the government that just published Hamas's version of the last twenty years.]

Italian Activists Crowd-Source a Register of Jewish and Israeli Addresses

A form circulated through Italian WhatsApp groups and social accounts asked the public to catalogue "Zionist tourism, commerce and re-colonization" across the country. Respondents were to file exact dates, geographic locations and their sourcing. The categories reportedly included decompression tourism for "Zionist soldiers," property and commercial deals, and institutional ties. Presented as grassroots monitoring research and attributed to the Global Sumud Movement, the link came down inside a day under public pressure. Milan's Jewish community collected the digital material and handed it to the authorities with a demand for a criminal investigation. Its president, Walker Meghnagi, called the exercise a witch hunt against Jews and "the new fascism." Undersecretary of state Alessandro Morelli called the form abominable and promised his own complaint to law enforcement. Lombardy regional councillors are weighing civil action. In Paris, vandals smashed the plaque at

15 Rue Louis Braille honoring Arsene and Angele Richard and their daughter Marcelle. The Richards hid 13-year-old Edmond Rajchman through the Vel d'Hiv roundup, and Israel named them Righteous Among the Nations. His mother Rachel was arrested by French police and murdered at Auschwitz. France's commemoration went ahead yesterday for the 13,152 Jews those police delivered to the Nazis in July 1942. A third were children. Deputy defense minister Alice Rufo promised the plaque would be restored and said the Republic "will not yield an inch."

ASSESSMENT

Activists in Italy asked volunteers to file dates, locations and sourcing on Jewish and Israeli presence. A target list starts as paperwork. Public pressure took the form down inside a day, and no police officer did. Paris spent yesterday restoring a plaque to the Righteous that somebody smashed first [the Republic will not yield an inch, and it could not hold one wall in the twelfth arrondissement]. Milan's community built the evidence file itself and handed it over, which leaves the question these jurisdictions keep failing — whether anyone is charged.

Hungary's New Prime Minister Offers the Presidency to Judit Polgar

Peter Magyar named Judit Polgar as his choice for Hungary's interim presidency and said he would put the question to her today. Tamas Sulyok, Orban's man in the office, signed the constitutional amendment ending his own term on Saturday, warning that it weakened the rule of law. Magyar's Tisza party holds the two-thirds majority that elects a successor, who would sit until a new constitution passes or for five years at the outside. The office is largely ceremonial, and Magyar has been stripping Orban's allies out of every position that is not. Polgar led the women's world rankings for twenty-six unbroken years, took five Chess Olympiad titles, and remains the only woman ever rated above 2700. She beat Kasparov. A Netflix documentary on her, "Queen of Chess," released earlier this year. She was born into a Budapest Jewish family that lost relatives in the Holocaust and whose paternal grandparents came back from Auschwitz. Her sister Sofia and their parents live in Israel. She has not yet accepted.

ASSESSMENT

Magyar is retiring Orban's appointees through the one office with no power, and he picked a nominee with no party. For Hungary's Jews the arithmetic runs older than the politics. A state whose own police loaded its Jews onto the trains is offering the presidency to a woman whose grandparents came back from Auschwitz. Orban spent a decade as the most reliable veto against EU measures on Israel, and Magyar has cast nothing yet [a president does not sit in the European Council, which is where Jerusalem actually needed Budapest].

Briefly Noted

Frontline & Security

- *JNS*: Shin Bet, police and IDF arrested several operatives running the Health Work Committees, the PFLP's financial arm and a designated terror organization since 2020, with indictments filed and more expected. European donors, Belgium among them, are still writing the checks.
- *Arutz Sheva*: Iran's foreign minister Araghchi admitted in a Persian-language interview that the intelligence breach which put Israel inside Khamenei's schedule "likely still exists." He has never met the man now called Supreme Leader, and says only a handful have.
- *Times of Israel*: A decade-long military intelligence effort tracked Lt. Hadar Goldin ז"ל through tunnel graffiti, smoke-mapping and hospital footage to a refrigerator behind an iron door in Rafah. The man believed to have put him there ran the Hamas health ministry's field hospitals, and sits in Israeli custody uncharged.

Diplomacy & Geopolitics

- *Forward*: Colombia and Slovenia each recognized a Palestinian state, each then voted out the government that did it, and both successors have committed to opening embassies in Jerusalem. Colombia's incoming foreign minister gave Gideon Saar the pledge in Washington last week, ahead of de la Espartero's August 7 swearing-in.
- *Times of Israel*: The State Department accused the Palestinian Authority of trying to "dupe" the world into believing it ended the payments that reward killing Israelis, dismissing the Alvarez & Marsal audit Ramallah commissioned because it never examined the clandestine bypass channels.
- *Ynet News*: UNESCO's 196 member states begin voting Friday in Busan on adding Beaufort Castle and four other southern Lebanese fortresses to the List of World Heritage in Danger, two months after the IDF took the Crusader fortress it left in 2000.
- *Jerusalem Post*: Qatar is reportedly working Tehran for the release of five Jews arrested in Iran during the escalation, and doing it to bank goodwill in Washington.

Public Diplomacy & Media

- *Jewish Insider*: J Street's student arm co-sponsored the College Democrats convention that handed Hasan Piker its Saturday stage. Piker told the room to stop funding Israel, and Jeremy Ben-Ami answered that J Street chose no speakers.
- *Jerusalem Post*: Iran's judiciary opened files on 300 people accused of speaking to Iran International or Manoto. Talking to a diaspora broadcaster now draws wartime-espionage and moharebeh charges at Tehran's Revolutionary Court.
- *Walla*: A Diaspora Ministry study documents Jibril Rajoub using Palestinian soccer to glorify terrorists and incite against Israel. Washington had already barred him from the World Cup.

Domestic & Law

- *Jerusalem Post*: Moti Leitner, Beit Shemesh's deputy mayor, launched a haredi party yesterday demanding a slot on the UTJ and Shas lists.
- *JNS*: Twelve families founded a community in caravans atop Mount Ebal last week, seventeen kilometers from the nearest Jewish town.
- *Ynet*: The Musli-Jaroshi feud put two stun grenades into Tel Aviv and Ramat Hasharon overnight, one police believe was army-issue.
- *Israel Hayom*: Four men who blocked Route 6 and stoned Jewish drivers during Guardian of the Walls drew five years each. The riots were May 2021 — the accounting for the internal front runs five years behind the event.

Economy, Tech & Infrastructure

- *Israel Hayom*: Brent rose 3% to \$90.78 as Hormuz traffic thinned and tankers rerouted along Oman's coast. American drivers are paying \$3.99 a gallon, 34% above the pre-war average — the number that reaches a US voter first.
- *Globes*: Elbit Systems of America won more than \$370 million in US Customs and Border Protection contracts, for delivery by May 2029.
- *Globes*: Migdal, More, Meitav and Clal put a combined \$1.03 billion into US data-center operator EdgeConneX, about 15% of the \$6 billion it has raised this year. Migdal's own alternatives head concedes not every operator in the AI buildout will be a winner.

Culture, Religion & Society

- *JNS*: Archaeologists pulled charred roof beams out of the Babylonian destruction layer in the City of David, days before Tisha B'Av. The growth rings in the wood narrow the dating range from centuries to roughly a decade.
- *Arutz Sheva*: Shiloh's red-heifer project began genetically targeted insemination Monday, breeding the two cows disqualified after black and white hairs appeared. The remaining unblemished pair has turned four, and the center is not waiting on them.
- *Jerusalem Post*: A Tehran court sentenced the singer Anita Papi to 74 lashes for "offending public decency" by singing uncovered online. The regime took her passport and blocked her phone, and she says she is not leaving.

Developments to Watch

Judea & Samaria

- **An arsonist filmed and still loose** — Cameras caught a terrorist setting four fires along Ridge 917 above Route 60, and he escaped toward Sinjil. The manhunt is open, and a weekend that burned thirteen homes at Havat Gilad shows what a lighter buys.

Regional Axis (Iran, Houthis, Militias)

- **Tehran argues without an arbiter** — Israeli defense officials read the Iranian leadership as split over whether to add Israel to the strike list. Larijani's killing removed the one man who bridged the IRGC's hardest faction, and the successor Tehran announced has not appeared.
- **Iraq's militias publish their trigger** — The Islamic Resistance in Iraq says it enters the war against American bases if Washington widens the campaign. The prime minister who promised Trump that no militia keeps weapons past September 30 flies to Tehran this week.
- **Iran takes Kuwait's power and water** — Kuwait says Iranian strikes damaged its electricity and desalination plants, and Bahrain intercepted three waves overnight. Iran is answering the American bases on Gulf soil by taking the host states' electricity and drinking water.
- **A convoy Washington means to force** — Trump reportedly ordered the strait opened for tankers along the Omani coast, once Iran's southern launch sites are flattened. A forced transit sets American escorts against Iranian shore batteries, and ground seizure plans sit behind it. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**

Diplomatic & Legal

- **Tehran works the Jordanian street** — The IRGC credited Jordanian soldiers with the intelligence behind the base strike, and told Jordanians to kill Americans themselves. Amman summoned Iran's charge d'affaires over it, reading the incitement as the actual attack.

Home Front & Politics

- **Ben-Gurion runs out of room** — Regev convenes the Airports Authority and the civil aviation regulator at Ben-Gurion today over the American tankers still arriving. The air force bases are full, so the tankers land where half a million passengers move this week.
- **The tournament ends this week** — Israeli security officials count the World Cup's close as the loss of one of the last restraints on regional escalation. A television schedule is doing work deterrence is not.

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