

## DAILY BRIEFING

# The Dispatch

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## MAIN STORY: TRUMP FORCES NETANYAHU TO ABORT THE BEIRUT STRIKE AND WINS A HEZBOLLAH CEASEFIRE PLEDGE

- United States President Donald Trump ordered Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to pull Israeli troops back from Beirut and call off a planned strike on the city's southern suburbs, telling him in a phone call "What the f\*\*\* are you doing?" and that he had reacted disproportionately to Hezbollah's attacks and that "everybody hates Israel because of this." Trump accused Netanyahu of ingratitude, claimed the prime minister would have been in prison without him, and steamrolled him into compliance, with Netanyahu replying "OK, OK, just make sure everything is taken care of," in one of the sharpest exchanges between the two since Trump's second term began. Trump then posted that Netanyahu had "turned his Troops around" after being asked not to mount a major raid on Beirut.
- Netanyahu and Defense Minister Israel Katz had ordered the military on Monday to strike Hezbollah targets in Dahiyeh, Beirut's southern suburbs, after lobbying Washington for weeks for a green light and after Hezbollah rejected a fresh US de-escalation offer. The public joint statement cost the operation its surprise. Hezbollah commanders and many residents fled Dahiyeh in heavy traffic before any strike landed, and the leak of intent canceled an Israeli plan to hit the group's command centers and "center of gravity" in the capital.
- Hezbollah accepted a US proposal for a reciprocal halt to attacks, the Lebanese presidency announced, citing confirmation relayed through the Lebanese embassy in Washington after talks between President Joseph Aoun and Secretary of State Marco Rubio. Under the arrangement, Israeli strikes on Dahiyeh stop in exchange for Hezbollah ending its attacks on Israel, with the cessation to widen afterward across all of Lebanese territory. Trump said he had spoken directly with Hezbollah representatives, who "agreed to stop shooting."
- Iran's threat to abandon its own negotiations forced the issue. Chief negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf told Speaker Nabih Berri that continued aggression on Lebanon would push Tehran to halt talks with Washington and enter "direct confrontation," and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi warned that violating the ceasefire on the Lebanon front violates it "on all fronts." The warnings preceded Trump's call to Netanyahu and made a Lebanon ceasefire the condition Tehran attached to any wider US-Iran deal.
- The Health Ministry counts 3,433 people killed in Lebanon and 10,395 wounded since Hezbollah opened the southern front on 2 March in support of Iran, with more than 1.2 million displaced, while Israel has lost 24 soldiers and four civilians over the same period.

- Katz declared there would be “no calm in Beirut” unless Hezbollah halts its attacks and vowed to turn the Litani area into an IDF-controlled security zone “free of weapons and terrorists,” signaling that Israel intends to keep Beaufort and the roughly one-fifth of Lebanese territory it captured over the past week even as it forgoes the strike on the capital.

## STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

Trump’s intervention, not the negotiating table, halted the Beirut strike, and the reversal exposes how little operational latitude Netanyahu’s government holds once Washington judges an Israeli move to be endangering its Iran deal. The US-brokered halt confirms that the offensive functioned as leverage rather than annexation, but Israeli compliance under presidential pressure produced it, not an Israeli decision to trade ground. Israel keeps Beaufort and the captured fifth of Lebanon, and Katz’s security-zone vow signals that the cessation suspends strikes on the capital without reversing the occupation beneath it. Hezbollah is likely to observe the halt only as long as Tehran keeps a Lebanon ceasefire welded to the US-Iran memorandum, the linkage Ghalibaf and Araghchi made explicit when Iran threatened to walk. The interception of two projectiles over northern Israel at 01:35 Tuesday, hours after Trump declared the fighting over, measures how provisional the arrangement is, and its first real test is whether it survives the cabinet revolt that Ben-Gvir and Eisenkot opened against the cancellation.

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## IRAN

- United States Central Command struck Iranian military sites over the weekend, including a communications tower on Sirik Island in Hormozgan province, and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps retaliated against a US base in the Gulf, with Kuwait’s air defenses intercepting the incoming missiles and drones as sirens sounded across the country. The exchange opened a fresh round in the sporadic strikes that have continued despite the 8 April US-Iran ceasefire, and Kuwait condemned the attack on its territory as a violation of its sovereignty.
- Trump is seeking edits to the draft US-Iran framework on reopening the Strait of Hormuz and removing Iran’s highly enriched uranium, reworking the unsigned 60-day memorandum that the prior cycle left awaiting his approval. Araghchi dismissed reports of an imminent agreement as “speculation,” and Ghalibaf said Tehran will not sign anything that fails to secure the rights of the Iranian people.

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## ISRAEL

- National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, former military chief Gadi Eisenkot, and opposition leader Yair Lapid turned on Netanyahu over his decision to cancel the Beirut strike at Trump’s urging, with Ben-Gvir writing that it was “time to tell our friend President Trump no,” Eisenkot calling the directive “a humiliating demand” that was “blatantly unreasonable,” and Lapid accusing Netanyahu of governing Israel as though it were a US protectorate. Several lawmakers demanded the army act to protect the north as Hezbollah fire continued.

- The coalition's bill to dissolve the Knesset passed its first reading late Monday by a vote of 106 to zero, advancing a move to bring elections forward from 27 October amid the standoff with the ultra-Orthodox parties over the conscription law. The bill still requires two further readings, and no election date has been set.
- Netanyahu asked the Jerusalem District Court to shorten his Tuesday testimony and cancel Wednesday's hearing in Case 2000, the media-corruption case over his dealings with Yediot Aharonot publisher Arnon Mozes, citing changeover ceremonies for the incoming Mossad chief and his military secretary as the cross-examination nears its final stretch.

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## LEBANON

- President Joseph Aoun defended negotiation with Israel as "safer than war" and the only option left to Lebanon, said it would take time and would not solve the problem instantly, and rejected the charge that talks amount to surrender, calling them "a solution to stop wars with the least possible damage."
- Speaker Nabih Berri said he can guarantee Hezbollah's "full, comprehensive and immediate" commitment to a ceasefire but asked "who will force Israel" to stop its aggression, after rejecting a de-escalation formula that Rubio had floated through Aoun under which Hezbollah would halt attacks first.
- Hezbollah drones killed two more Israeli soldiers on the southern front Monday. Captain Doctor Ori Silvester, 30, of the Givati Brigade, died when roughly six explosive drones struck a Namer armored vehicle, wounding several officers including a battalion commander, and Staff-Sergeant Adam Tzarfati, 20, was killed in a separate drone strike, the third Israeli soldier lost to Hezbollah drones in five days.
- Israeli air defenses intercepted two projectiles fired from Lebanon over the north at 01:35 Tuesday, hours after Trump announced the fighting would end, the first sign the declared halt had not reached the ground.
- Israel destroyed Arch Almoulouk, the Wadi al-Hujeir resort and restaurant of Lebanese chef Husen Fayad that had served free meals to displaced families through the war, reducing a well-known southern landmark to rubble.

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## SYRIA

- Syria logged nearly 12,000 aircraft transits in May as international airlines rerouted around the airspace closed by the Iran war, channeling overflight traffic and fees into Damascus's skies in an unexpected windfall from the regional conflict.

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## PALESTINE

- A Palestinian assailant rammed a vehicle into pedestrians at the Gush Etzion junction in the West Bank on Sunday night, seriously wounding a 17-year-old girl and lightly wounding a 15-year-old before a soldier from the Kfir Brigade's 90th Battalion shot him dead, and the IDF raided the attacker's Hebron home overnight Monday and questioned his associates.
- Turkish intelligence chief Ibrahim Kalin met senior Hamas officials in Ankara, including Shura Council chair Mohammed Darwish and members of the political bureau, on the next phase of the Gaza ceasefire, with Hamas briefing him on what it called Israeli violations of the agreement during Eid al-Adha.
- Hamas accused Nikolay Mladenov, head of the Board of Peace overseeing Gaza, of inciting against the enclave and the movement, urged him to back the war-ending plan without adding complications, and said it was pressing mediators to hold Israel to its first-phase obligations.

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## KEY REGIONAL EVENTS

### Jordan

- Jordan condemned "repeated" Iranian attacks on Kuwait as a violation of Kuwaiti sovereignty, international law, and the United Nations Charter, warned that the strikes threaten regional stability, and reaffirmed full solidarity with Kuwait and support for the measures it has taken to defend its territory.

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## KEY INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

- Russia struck Ukraine overnight with hundreds of drones and dozens of missiles, killing at least 11 people and leaving residents trapped under a collapsed 24-story building in Kyiv, where one resident described the barrage as an "apocalypse," in one of the heaviest assaults of the war.
- The French Navy boarded the sanctioned, Russia-linked oil tanker Tagor on the high seas in the Atlantic on Sunday with British support, with Macron calling it unacceptable for ships to circumvent sanctions and finance Russia's four-year war on Ukraine.

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## MARKETS

- The protracted Strait of Hormuz crisis is driving jet-fuel costs sharply higher and scrambling global flight plans, squeezing both the crude and the refined jet fuel that normally move through a waterway carrying about a fifth of the world's seaborne oil, and raising the prospect that the era of cheap long-haul air travel is ending.

- Saudi banks' pre-tax profits rose 6.1 percent year on year to 8.24 billion riyals, about 2.18 billion dollars, in April, though monthly earnings fell 18 percent from March to a six-month low as rapid Vision 2030 lending outpaced deposit growth and tightened liquidity.

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