



As PM tries to hold off U.S.-Iran deal, relations with Trump worsen

Amos Harel

The tail is making another effort to wag the dog. Even as the United States and Iran, according to reports from America, were on the verge of signing an agreement, renewed tensions between Israel and Lebanon erupted on Sunday. This is now threatening to sweep the entire Middle East into another round of fighting. Yet it seems unlikely that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's fairly transparent attempt to delay the signing of the agreement in the Gulf will meet with any success.

Meanwhile, Netanyahu's decisions once again seem to be worsening relations with the American administration. U.S. President Donald Trump issued a statement in which he voiced relatively restrained criticism of Israel's behavior and urged Iran not to respond. Trump sounded focused on his main goal – signing an agreement, which he hopes will lead to a stable cease-fire and let him withdraw most of the American forces from the region.

The escalation du jour began Sunday morning, when Hezbollah launched three explosive drones that penetrated into Israel but caused no casualties. In response, Netanyahu and Defense Minister Israel Katz announced that they had ordered the Israel Defense Forces to attack Beirut.

That airstrike, which took place Sunday afternoon, targeted a building in Dahiyeh, a Shi'ite neighborhood in southern Beirut. According to Lebanese media reports, the target was a mid-level Hezbollah command post.



People gathering at the site of an Israeli airstrike in the Beirut suburb of Dahiyeh, Lebanon, on Sunday.

Bilal Hussein/AP

No official statement has been released regarding what shape it is in now.

Immediately after the Israeli attack, senior Iranian officials threatened to respond by shooting missiles at Israel. The Israel Defense Forces issued a statement saying it was prepared for

this eventuality, and soon afterward, it announced changes in the Home Front Command's instructions.

The new instructions limited mass gatherings, including in central Israel. This led to the last-minute cancellation of two shows in the greater Tel Aviv area

that had been expected to attract massive audiences.

Trump, in his statement, said that "This morning's attack on Beirut should not have happened," and forbade Israel to hit Beirut again. He also urged the Iranians to show restraint, and claimed that he would soon

lead the region to "a long and beautiful peace" that would also include Lebanon.

The new reality that has been created in recent weeks has almost become normalized, but there's nothing normal about it. For the second time in a week, Israel has put itself on an emergency

footing in expectation of an Iranian attack in response to an escalation in Lebanon.

Netanyahu doesn't have a lot of choices. Not only does it appear that the American-Iranian agreement won't satisfy even one of the goals he outlined with great self-confidence when he began the current war in late

'Bibi has no fucking judgment'

Trump slams Israeli strike on Beirut, but says Iran deal is close

Yaniv Kubovich, Noa Shpigel, Ben Kroll, Rawan Suleiman and Reuters

U.S. President Donald Trump sharply criticized an Israeli strike on Beirut on Sunday, saying that it could complicate attempts to finalize a framework deal between the United States and Iran on ending their war, but said an agreement was nonetheless close.

Trump said he spoke with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu after the Israeli strike on Beirut's southern Dahiye neighborhood, known as a Hezbollah stronghold, and asked him, "What the fuck are you doing?" according to Fox News.

Iran vowed to retaliate against Israeli strikes in Beirut, which killed three people and wounded 15 others, according to Lebanon's National News Agency.

The strike killed Hezbollah commander Ali al-Hajj, Saudi broadcaster Al Hadath reported. The attack came after three drones from Lebanon hit northern Israel earlier on Sunday, without causing injuries, the military said, prompting Israeli ministers to call for strikes on the Lebanese capital's Hezbollah stronghold.

In a post on his Truth Social platform, Trump said: "This morning's attack on Beirut should not have happened, particularly on a special day when we are so close to a Peace Deal with Iran," he wrote.

In a post on X, Iranian Parliamentary Speaker and top negotiator Mohammad Baqer Ghalibaf accused Washington of giving Israel a "green light" for the strike, and said the United States was "either unwilling or unable to uphold its com-

mitments." Separately, an Iranian deputy commander warned that the Israeli actions in Lebanon would "not go unanswered" and suggested the strike could complicate efforts to continue negotiations.

Following Tehran's threats, the IDF said it was bracing for missile fire and "remains on high alert and prepared for a range of defensive and offensive scenarios." The military's Home Front Command updated its guidelines through Monday evening, allowing gatherings of up to 5,000 people nationwide.

Free Abu Safiyah
Editorial, Page 5

Axios reported that the Israeli military notified U.S. Central Command shortly before carrying out the strike. Referring to that report, Trump said: "Why did Bibi have to do a fucking attack? I was so pissed off. I let him know. He has no fucking judgment."

Trump added that he planned to ask Iran not to respond with missile fire toward Israel and said the deal remains on track despite the tensions, Fox News reported.

In a post on his Truth Social platform, Trump said: "This morning's attack on Beirut should not have happened, particularly on a special day when we are so close to a Peace Deal with Iran. Israel has the right to defend itself against threats, but the attack it was responding to was very small and

See IRAN, Page 2

Doctors: Gov't is hurting W. Bank healthcare Amira Hass Page 4

See DEAL, Page 2

Four men charged with rioting outside home of High Court justice

Yael Freidson and Josh Breiner

Four ultra-Orthodox Israelis were charged on Sunday with rioting outside the home of Supreme Court Deputy President Noam Sohlberg earlier this month, with two of the suspects also charged with trespassing.

"The indictment concerns a serious, unusual, and unprecedented incident," the State Prosecutor's Office wrote in its request to detain the four suspects until the end of proceedings. It said the incident took place "against the backdrop of Sohlberg's judicial role" and was intended to intimidate him over his ruling on the bill that, if legislated, would exempt ultra-Orthodox men from military conscription.

According to the indictment filed with the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court against Nachman Platnik, Avraham Fried, Gershon

Hanun and Shimon Ataf, some of the rioters threw stones at the Sohlberg's home in the West Bank settlement of Alon Shvut, vandalized the entrance, broke flowerpots and windows and smashed the windshield of his car. Platnik and Fried, who are also charged with trespassing, are accused of entering the home's driveway.



The suspects waiting in court in Jerusalem on Sunday. Itay Cohen

The indictment further states that one of the house's doors was opened in an attempt at forced entry, and that a neighbor who came out of his home to stop the protesters was assaulted and had his kippa briefly taken from him.

The rioters also threw blue and white flags printed with swastikas into the street and ran toward a pa-

trol car shouting "Nazis." According to the indictment, the identity of the person who arranged for two buses and a minibus to transport the rioters is unknown.

The commander of Israel's West Bank police district, Moshe Pinchi, who is overseeing the case, said of the June 3 incident that "red lines were crossed. We'll have zero tolerance toward any display of violence and disorder."

A total of 65 suspects were detained and questioned after the attempted break-in at Sohlberg's home. Forty eight detainees were released to house arrest on Wednesday, and draft dodgers arrested in the incident were handed over to the military police.

The rioters, who were protesting the arrest of ultra-Orthodox draft dodgers, also scattered flyers in the

See JUSTICE, Page 2

Pressure grows to suspend Israeli Medical Association from global body

Linda Dayan

A petition to boycott the Israeli Medical Association received widespread attention after it was given a write-up in a prominent British medical journal on Saturday. It calls for the ouster of the Israeli physicians' organization from the World Medical Association, an international consortium that represents physicians and promotes medical ethics worldwide.

The petition, organized by

The People's Health Movement, Dutch group Artsen voor Gaza (Doctors for Gaza) and the health wing of Jewish Voice for Peace, states that the Israel Medical Association, or IMA, "has failed to uphold core medical ethical standards."

It further accuses the IMA of being "complicit in serious violations of medical neutrality and human rights, committed by the Israeli military and government," and urges the suspension of the Israeli medical group,

which is not affiliated with Israel's government.

It has gained some 1,150 signatures, including a collection of respected health professionals, though the full list has not been made public.

The petition cites the medical and humanitarian blockade on Gaza, systemic inequality in healthcare access for Palestinians in the West Bank, the war in Gaza, attacks on healthcare workers by Israeli forces in Gaza, Lebanon and Iran and the "complicity" of Israeli medi-

cal professionals in the mistreatment of Palestinians in the Israeli prison system.

The petition also urged the WMA to "hold the IMA to account" at its annual conference in Rotterdam in October. It said that "if medical ethics are to mean anything in the future," and if the WMA is to be trusted as the global "guardian of medical ethics," it must ban its Israeli member group.

Although other reports

See MEDICAL, Page 2

HAARETZ
Online now

Better no deal than a bad one?
Zvi Bar'el on how the talks boost Iran's influence

'Int'l law is our compass'
An interview with France's FM, Jean-Noël Barrot



Stephane De Sakutin/AFP

Book review: 'Tarantula'
Eduardo Halfon's novel grapples with memory and deceit

haaretz.com



The protest outside the "Great Israeli Real Estate Event" in London, Sunday. Toby Shephard/Reuters

Israeli real estate fair in London sparks pro-Palestinian protests

Daniella Peled

LONDON — Around 1,000 pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian activists demonstrated outside an Israeli real estate fair in a north London synagogue on Sunday, the latest in a string of such events that sparked similar protests in New York.

Metropolitan Police and the Community Service Trust – a Jewish security group – were at the scene to control the highly charged crowd, which resulted in 14 arrests, according to police. A CST representative told Haaretz that the demonstrations were "much worse than usual... there are fights everywhere."

The Great Israeli Real Estate Event, held in an Orthodox synagogue in Edgware, a neighborhood with a large Jewish population, went ahead despite calls from more than 100 British lawmakers, the Mayor of London and several rights

groups to cancel it.

Critics, including Amnesty International U.K. and the Palestine Solidarity Campaign, argued that the event should not proceed amid concerns that it would promote property sales in Israeli settlements in the West Bank.

Inside the invitation-only fair, there was no visible marketing of West Bank properties. Instead, exhibitors promoted housing developments in cities popular with English-speaking immigrants like Jerusalem, Netanya and Ramat Beit Shemesh, alongside legal and logistical services for new immigrants to Israel.

"It's clear cut," one of the event's organizers told Haaretz, who declined to give his name, citing fear of harassment. "No one here is selling anything in the [West Bank], full stop. We don't have any information for anything beyond the Green Line."

As for claims that the

event would be promoting property in West Bank settlements, he said, "It's all made up. There was never any question of it."

A glance at the event's website seems to confirm what the spokesperson said. However, an archived version of the website from June 4 lists Gush Etzion, a bloc of Jewish settlements near the West Bank city of Bethlehem, as one of the areas users could select to receive more information about. All mentions of Gush Etzion have since been scrapped from the website.

Outside, the protesters and counter-protesters were kept at a distance from the synagogue by a large police deployment that included a specialist rapid-response unit and a police helicopter.

A huge highly charged crowd of pro-Israel demonstrators appeared to dwarf the small pro-Palestinian

See LONDON, Page 4