

## Curing 'two cancers'

Iran-born investor tackles major crises

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## Trump's trump card

Iran attack could aid in talks with Xi

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## Dallas does Purim

Holiday spiel, Lone Star state-style

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PLUMES OF smoke rise from a residential area in Beirut's southern suburbs following an Israeli airstrike on Hezbollah yesterday. (Mohamed Azakir/Reuters)

## IDF expands incursion in S. Lebanon, no invasion until after Iran front calms

• By YONAH JEREMY BOB

The IDF on Tuesday slightly expanded its security zone in southern Lebanon, it said, adding to the five positions that it has held there since the November 2024 ceasefire in the area.

However, the IDF Northern Command said that it was unlikely to initiate a larger ground invasion into Lebanon until the situation with Iran was calmer, if at all.

Rather, its expansion in southern Lebanon was to deter any imminent potential invasion ideas from Hezbollah, not yet invading on a large-scale as it did in September 2024.

According to the IDF, Hezbollah could

fall apart without Iranian training and guidance – likely to diminish now as Iran's regime fights for its survival.

In addition, it said that Hezbollah will be substantially harmed by losing access to Iranian funds, which were almost its sole source of support since the war started, and that the terror group has angered its own constituency, who have not yet gotten reparations for their losses from the 2023-2024 conflict with Israel.

Collectively, the military said that all these factors could finally lead to the Lebanese military disarming Hezbollah, though the organization still has power sources, so this remains an unpredictable question.

Regarding Hezbollah's attack on Israel

to date, the IDF stated that most of its rockets landed in the sea or in open areas, with the IDF only having to shoot down one, and that the terror group has not used its larger arsenal of thousands or more rockets.

Further, the IDF credited the Lebanese military with trying to prevent Hezbollah from moving south toward Israel. As a result, most of Hezbollah's 2,000 Radwan commandos stayed in Beirut for safety, with only a small number managing to travel south, it said.

Regarding the Syrian front, the IDF said that Syrian leader Ahmed al-Sharaa's forces have not tried to take advantage of

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## IDF, US push to tip balance against Iran

Tehran missile salvos decline dramatically from opening days

• By YONAH JEREMY BOB

Israeli and American military forces tried to shift their attacks from Iranian first-tier army and command targets to a much broader set of objectives over Monday and Tuesday, which could eventually tip the balance for toppling the Islamic regime itself.

Although Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and most of his top military and intelligence officials were killed early on Saturday morning, the regime has tens of thousands of hardcore Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps supporters and potentially millions of general supporters from the Basij militia and otherwise.

Israel has managed to drop 4,000 bombs on the Islamic Republic's forces by Tuesday night, a pace that has exceeded all the bombs dropped there during the 12 Day War in June 2025, and the US may have attacked one and a half to two times as many targets.

At the time that Israel was saying it had attacked 600 targets on Monday night, the US said it had attacked 1,200 objectives.

However, US Central Command released its 72-hour update on the war on Tuesday, noting that American forces had struck 1,700 Iranian targets overall, nearly double the number of the day before.

In the first 24 hours, America struck 900 targets.

The pace slowed, as was reflected in the 48-hour report, reaching 1,200 targets overall, or only 300 targets on the second day.

With a jump to 1,700 targets total, or 500 targets in the 72-hour report, the pace of American strikes on Iran has nearly doubled.

**Israel strikes at symbolic heart of Islamic regime, Page 7**

Collectively, this would mean that the joint forces have, in only three days, already bombed the regime equivalent to between double and triple the volume that Israel bombed in June 2025 over 12 full days.

It was unclear whether this was the "largest" attack foreshadowed by US President Donald Trump in recent interviews, or a lead-in to an even larger volume of strikes later this week.

Unlike Israeli military updates, the US rundowns have had similar generic categories of targets each day, such as IRGC command centers, naval assets, ballistic missile sites, and air defenses, without giving much in terms of specifics.

As the operation has broadened to include a range of targets, not just high-quality ones, it has become more difficult to determine the

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## Airspace set to reopen from tonight

• By KESHET NEEV

A framework to gradually reopen the airspace between Wednesday and Thursday in order to return those stranded outside the country during Operation Roaring Lion has been put into motion, Transportation Minister Miri Regev

announced on Tuesday. Ben-Gurion Airport has been closed to both arrivals and departures since the start of the joint US-Israeli war against Iran on Saturday.

Around 100,000 Israelis have been stranded abroad since, and flights to Israel were canceled worldwide.

Some have been returning through land border crossings.

Under the new framework, Regev said the reopening of Ben-Gurion Airport will be gradual. During the first 24 hours, one plane will land per

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## IAF destroys secret nuclear weapons development site near Tehran

Spokesman reveals first Iran weapons rehabilitation site pursued after last June's attacks

• By YONAH JEREMY BOB

The IDF destroyed a secret Iranian nuclear weapons development site on Tuesday, IDF Spokesman Brig.-Gen. Effie Deffrin revealed in a

press conference. Naming the site as Min Zada, on the northeast outskirts of Tehran, Deffrin said that the site was linked to weapons development. He said that IDF intelligence fol-

lowed nuclear scientists who tried to travel there clandestinely.

By following these scientists, he said, the IDF was able to learn about the dangerous nature of these activities that

could help Tehran resume aspects of weapons development for a nuclear bomb.

Most of the global media attention focuses on uranium enrichment since it is the hardest issue to conquer and

can take many years to master.

But without a number of weapons components being developed, enriched uranium cannot be delivered as a weapon.

In June 2025, Israel's bombing campaign destroyed dozens of sites relating to weapons development, essentially shutting down that side of the nuclear coin.

Deffrin's revelation is the first public statement made by the IDF regarding Iran's new progress with rehabilitating aspects of its weapons development since the 12 Day War in June 2025.

## Trump: US 'forced Israel's hand'

• Jerusalem Post Staff

United States President Donald Trump "might have forced Israel's hand" to strike the Iranian regime, he stated during a joint press conference with visiting German Chancellor Friedrich Merz on Tuesday.

Trump's comment came after Secretary of State Marco Rubio told reporters on Monday evening that Israel had already planned a preemptive strike on the Islamic Republic – a move that would have triggered retaliation against US troops in the region and prompted the US to launch

Operation Epic Fury. "We knew that there was going to be an Israeli action, we knew that they would precipitate an attack against American forces, and we knew that if we didn't preemptively go after them

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## Northern policy shift

ANALYSIS

• By HERB KEINON

When Hezbollah opened fire on October 8, 2023, a day after Hamas's massacre, Israel's instinct was to pull its people back.

Entire communities along the northern border were emptied amid fear that Hezbollah might try to penetrate

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## Britain, France show Europe is soft on Iran

Starmer prevaricated, Macron called a meeting

COMMENT

• By ZVIKA KLEIN

Europe's leaders keep saying they fear a wider war. Iran's regime keeps widening it anyway.

Two drones hit the US embassy complex in Riyadh this week, sparking a fire and damaging part of the building. Gulf states are issuing statements about self-defense. The message from the region is this: Tehran is willing to strike anybody in reach.

In London and Paris, the message is embarrassing. "We were not involved."

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer told the House of Commons that Britain "will not join offensive action" against Iran, and his French counterpart, Prime Minister Emmanuel Macron, called for an urgent UN Security Council meeting and pushed the crisis back into diplomacy. Starmer and Macron want the benefits of American and

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### MARKING PURIM WITH PERSIA IN MIND

Revelers read from the Book of Esther at a synagogue as they mark Purim in Arnona, Jerusalem, last night. (Marc Israel Sellem/The Jerusalem Post)