

THURSDAY, JULY 3, 2025 ■ 7 TAMUZ, 5785



Bring them home

Matan Zangauker, 25, kidnapped from Kibbutz Nir Oz, held in captivity in Gaza

'Diddy' in trouble

US court convicts mogul on prostitution counts

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Love, power, survival

'Turandot' returns to the Israeli Opera after war disruption

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Trump: Israel agrees to 60-day Gaza ceasefire

Hamas officials have doubled down on demands for end of war • Soldier killed in Gaza

• By AMICHAI STEIN and Jerusalem Post Staff

US President Donald Trump said that "Israel has agreed to the necessary conditions to finalize the 60 Day CEASEFIRE, during which time we will work with all parties to end the War," in a post on Truth Social.

In the Tuesday post, Trump confirmed that his "representatives had a long and productive meeting with the Israelis today on Gaza."

"The Qataris and Egyptians, who have worked very hard to help bring Peace, will deliver this final proposal," he added.

"I hope, for the good of the Middle East, that Hamas takes this Deal, because it will not get better – IT WILL ONLY GET WORSE," he continued.

Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer informed US Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff that Israel had accepted the proposal for a ceasefire and hostage deal and is ready to begin close talks with Hamas to finalize the agreement, a senior Israeli official said on Wednesday.

Qatar submitted a mediation proposal to both Israel and Hamas based on the Witkoff framework, with minor adjustments and additions, according to a source familiar with the details who spoke to *The Jerusalem Post*.

Hamas officials have doubled down on demands that a new hostage deal agreement would see a complete end to the war, the Associated Press reported on Wednesday, citing an official from the terror group.

Hamas official Taher al-Nunu said that the terror organization was "ready and serious regarding reaching an agreement."

He added that Hamas was "ready to accept any initiative that clearly leads to the complete end to the war."

A delegation from Hamas is expected to meet with mediators in Cairo on Wednesday, an Egyptian official confirmed to the AP.

Following Israel's green light for the Qatari hostage deal proposal, which is essentially the Witkoff framework with some modifications, officials in Israel, the US, and the mediating countries are now awaiting Hamas's response.

"For the first time, there is real optimism that Hamas will say 'yes,'" two sources familiar with the talks told *The Jerusalem Post*. An Israeli official also confirmed that there is a growing belief that this time, Hamas may accept the deal. "Qatar is

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SGT. YANIV MICHALOVITCH (IDF)

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applying immense pressure on the group," the sources added. The current proposal on the table includes the release of 10 Israeli hostages, eight on the first day and two on day 50, as well as the return of 18 bodies of murdered Israeli hostages. In exchange, there would be a two-month ceasefire, during



How Israel crushed Iran's terror financing network, Page 4

Airlines want exemption from compensation claims, Page 5

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CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

An ultra-Orthodox man tries to escape the clutches of a police officer during a demonstration yesterday at a construction site in Yehud where the protesters claim there are Jewish graves. (Yossi Aloni/Flash90)

IDF's 504 intel unit busts Iranian terror cell in Syria

• By YONAH JEREMY BOB and Jerusalem Post Staff

The IDF arrested members of an Iranian terrorist cell while operating in southern Syria following receiving special intelligence from interrogations of other Syrian operatives by the elite Unit 504, the military said on Wednesday.

Intelligence that Unit 504 ("the IDF's Mossad") acquired

during interrogations of operatives it captured in Syria opened up the ability to plan and execute the nighttime operations, which led to the arrests.

In the past, before the Assad regime fell, the air force did kill Iranian operatives moving around in Syria as part of its often under-the-radar "war between wars," but it rarely was able to capture such Iranians, which would require more

boots on the ground and for longer.

During the operation announced Wednesday, the IDF also located weapons in the areas where the terrorists were arrested, including several firearms and grenades.

One of the commanders in the field said they are "working day and night to ensure that

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RATS, SNAKES, AND DEVILS:

Tehran gallery exhibits regime's antisemitic, anti-Israel propaganda cartoons, caricatures

• By MATHILDA HELLER

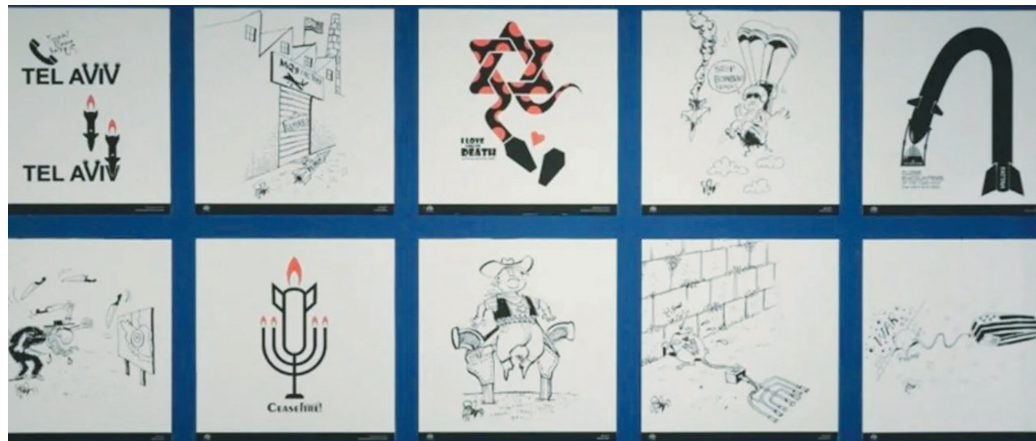
A central art gallery in Tehran has staged a new exhibition of cartoons and caricatures on the theme of Iran's war against Israel and the US, many of which contain antisemitic imagery and symbolism.

The exhibition, titled *Muzzle*, was launched on Monday at the Abolfazl Aali Gallery of the Art Bureau in Tehran. A total of 82 cartoons are on display, all said to have been created during the 12 days of the Israel-Iran war.

"The works presented are more than mere caricatures. They are a reflection of the national spirit that refuses to surrender to threats or misinformation," the exhibition statement read. "They echo the words of the leader, emphasizing that Iran does not seek conflict but will respond decisively if attacked."

In his opening speech, the exhibition's curator, Seyyed Masoud Shojai Tabatabai, discussed what he called the "vital role of satirical art."

"Many artworks here are rooted in the directives of our leader," he said in reference to



ART RIFE with antisemitic tropes is currently on display at a gallery in Tehran. (Screenshot/Foad Ashtari/Mehr News Agency)

Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The art "emphasizes strength, resilience, and the importance of standing firm," Tabatabai said.

A look at the cartoons

The cartoons predominantly depict Iran as a noble defender of its people, fighting against the US and Israel in a just or holy war. Both Israel and America are depicted in grotesque, exaggerated ways with antisemitic themes embedded within

nearly all of the works.

One, for example, illustrates a suited arm holding a miniature figure of Rafael Grossi, the director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency. A Star of David is drawn on the sleeve, and on the shirt are the words "America," "EU," and "IAEA," suggesting that Jews and/or Israel are pulling the strings of all three.

Another cartoon by Maziar Bijani shows a building with a missile heading directly at it. Jumping from that building is

an antisemitic caricature of a religious Jewish man yelling, "Help!"

Several illustrations mention Tel Aviv, and others take Jewish symbols or paraphernalia and warp them into something representative of violence.

For instance, one shows a hanukiah, but the shape of the middle candlesticks morphs into a rocket, while another reflects a Star of David made from a snake with the words: "I

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Israel's strategy: 'Banking on US achieving nuke deal'

ANALYSIS

• By YONAH JEREMY BOB

Israel is feeling ascendant following its monumental achievements against Iran during the June 13-24 war. Still, sources have said that the current strategy is to heavily rely on the US securing a tough, long-term new nuclear deal with Tehran.

If America does not secure an airtight deal, Israel will need to reconsider its strategy and

next steps, as these remain unclear.

In contrast to the truce with Hezbollah on November 27, 2024, which set clear limits regarding the terrorist organization's right to rearm and detailed how Israel could proactively enforce those limits, the deal with Iran simply pertained to a ceasefire between the two sides.

Zero provisions were made regarding the future.

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Houthis vow to keep attacking

ANALYSIS

• By SETH J. FRANTZMAN

The Houthis said they will continue to back Hamas, continuing to use their "hypersonic and ballistic missiles," and that they will target Ben-Gurion Airport, as well as Eilat.

They also said they're proud of their "broader regional confrontation" with Israel.

The group claimed to have targeted central Israel with their "Palestine 2" hypersonic missile on Tuesday night, but there is no evidence that it is hypersonic. Hypersonic weap-

ons usually refer to missiles that maneuver at hypersonic speeds over Mach 5. While ballistic missiles may reach hypersonic speeds, they follow a known trajectory, rather than maneuvering.

The Houthis' Al-Masirah media said, "In an official statement, the [Houthi] forces confirmed that the operation [Tuesday night] accurately achieved its objective, causing widespread panic among Zionist settlers, with millions fleeing to shelters and airport operations coming to a complete halt."

The Houthis also claimed to target other areas in Israel.

The report noted that the Houthis "emphasized that these operations come as part of Yemen's continued support for the Palestinian people and its rejection of the ongoing genocide being committed against them. It reaffirmed the Yemeni people's determination to fulfill their national and religious duties toward the Palestinian cause."

These "operations" included "disrupting air traffic at

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IRANIAN FM ARAGHCHI:

US bombing 'seriously damaged' Iran's Fordow nuclear site

• Reuters

The US bombing of Iran's key Fordow nuclear site has "seriously and heavily damaged" the facility, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said in an interview with CBS News.



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"No one exactly knows what has transpired in Fordow. That being said, what we know so far is that the facilities have been seriously and heavily damaged," Araghchi said in the interview broadcast on Tuesday.

"The Atomic Energy Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran... is currently undertaking evaluation and assessment, the report of which will be submitted to

the government."

Intercepted Iranian communications downplayed the extent of damage caused by US strikes on Iran's nuclear program, *The Washington Post* reported on Sunday, citing four people familiar with classified intelligence circulating within the US government.

US President Donald Trump

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After Eisenkot walks out, Gantz leads in and bets on compromise, building consensus

ANALYSIS

• By HERB KEINON

In Israeli politics, compromise is often seen as surrender – a betrayal of core values. To give an inch is to give up everything.

This mindset fueled the judicial reform battle before October 7.

On one side were the reform's champions, empowered by their electoral victory and convinced they finally had the mandate to fundamentally reshape the system and restore

a balance of power they felt the judiciary had taken from the government and the Knesset.

They saw the judiciary as having overreached and believed trimming the Supreme Court's powers would ensure Israel remained a Jewish state first and foremost. And who could compromise on that?

On the other side were the anti-reform zealots, who viewed any weakening of the court as nothing less than a direct threat to Israeli democracy. For them, democracy is the supreme value, the Supreme

Court its guardian, and therefore, they could not allow any change to the system. This was not something open to compromise. Who compromises on core values?

Neither side – or rather, the extremes on both sides who were drowning out everyone else – was willing to give ground. And that deadlock brought the country to the brink of internal collapse. Until October 7.

The Hamas massacre shattered political routines and temporarily put all else on

hold. A clear and present threat replaced ideological trench warfare. For a time, the country was united in purpose, and a spirit of conciliation took hold.

Reservists, bereaved parents, and everyday citizens began calling not for total agreement but for a new way of talking to each other – one rooted in mutual recognition and restraint. It felt, briefly, like a turning point.

But the mood faded. Before long, the country had reverted

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