

Daily News Briefing - June 23, 2026

Executive Summary

- **US-Iran Tensions Escalate:** The US Senate voted to block President Trump's military action against Iran, while simultaneous diplomatic talks in Switzerland reported "encouraging progress" toward a 60-day roadmap.
- **Tech & AI Reshaping Industries:** Oracle cut 21,000 jobs to fund AI investments, Hollywood studios partnered with OpenAI despite controversy, and Meta launched new affordable smart glasses.
- **Romania Secures EU Funds:** Bucharest received €2.25 billion in non-repayable EU funds under the PNRR program, even as political consultations continue to resolve a government formation crisis.
- **US Policy Shifts:** The Senate passed a housing bill including a four-year ban on a Federal Reserve CBDC, while a judge blocked USDA restrictions on SNAP purchases of sugary items.

Geopolitics

US Senate Votes to Halt Trump's Military Action Against Iran In a significant challenge to the White House, the US Senate passed a resolution ordering President Trump to withdraw forces from conflict with Iran, citing the War Powers Resolution. The measure passed with 50 votes in favor and 48 against, marking the first time both chambers of Congress have adopted such a resolution, though the White House claims it is unconstitutional. Source: [HotNews.ro](#)

UN Maritime Agency Initiates Plan to Clear Hormuz Traffic The International Maritime Organization is coordinating a phased evacuation operation for over 11,000 sailors stranded in the Gulf following the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz. Navigation remains slow-moving under a new MoU framework involving Iran and Oman, aiming to ensure safe passage after 46 attacks on international ships since February. Source: [ZeroHedge](#)

Cyberattack Disrupts Iran's Banking System Iranian state-owned banks, including Bank Melli and Bank Saderat, suffered cyberattacks that temporarily suspended card networks and disrupted services. Iranian authorities blamed hostile foreign actors, fueling speculation about covert US and Israeli efforts to engineer economic pressure amidst ongoing tensions. Source: [ZeroHedge](#)

UN Report Accuses Israel of Genocidal Acts Against Children in Gaza An independent UN commission concluded that Israeli forces deliberately attacked zones containing children, including hospitals, constituting war crimes and acts of genocide. The report highlights widespread harm to civilians and severe impacts on children's health and development due to blockade conditions and aerial strikes. Source: [Biziday](#)

Putin Claims NATO Preparing for War as Russia Ready to Respond Russian President Vladimir Putin stated that NATO and Western countries are actively preparing for war against Russia, citing increased military spending as evidence. Meanwhile, Ukraine vowed to isolate Crimea through drone attacks, escalating tensions as Moscow emphasizes its readiness for negotiations based on the 2022 Istanbul agreement. Source: [HotNews.ro](#)

Technology & AI

Oracle's 21,000 Layoffs Drive Debt-Fueled AI Investments Oracle reduced its workforce by 12.9% this year, cutting 21,000 jobs to redirect resources toward expanding cloud-based offerings for AI workloads. The company plans to raise up to \$50 billion in 2026 to fund this expansion, highlighting the intense capital competition in the artificial intelligence sector. Source: [Ars Technica](#)

Hollywood Studios Partner with OpenAI Amid Creative Concerns Major studios are increasingly collaborating with generative AI companies, even as a biographical drama about Sam Altman was rejected by multiple distributors for portraying AI executives negatively. Critics warn this trend may lead to uninspired films designed to appease tech giants rather than challenge the status quo. Source: [The Verge](#)

Meta Debuts New Smart Glasses Under Own Brand Meta launched "Meta Glasses" starting at \$299 in partnership with EssilorLuxottica, featuring cameras, speakers, and AI assistant integration without a display screen. The move intensifies competition in the wearable technology space, positioning Meta against rivals like Snap just weeks after their high-end Specs unveiling. Source: [TechCrunch](#)

Automakers Race Into Humanoid Robots for Blue-Collar Tasks Top manufacturers like Tesla, Hyundai, and BMW are leveraging their supply chains to develop humanoid robots for tasks ranging from assembly to household service. This convergence of automotive and AI technologies aims to address labor costs and automation gaps, with several prototypes showcased at the 2026 Beijing Auto Show. Source: [ZeroHedge](#)

Walmart Acquires Ad Tech Firm Vibe.co for \$1.4 Billion Walmart purchased connected-TV ad platform Vibe.co to expand its advertising ecosystem and attract small businesses to its performance TV network. The acquisition integrates Vibe's technology with Walmart's retail data to offer closed-loop attribution, challenging competitors like Amazon in the growing ad tech market. Source: [Slashdot](#)

Finance & Policy

US Senate Passes Housing Bill With Four-Year Fed CBDC Ban The Senate approved the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act with a provision permanently banning the Federal Reserve from issuing a central bank digital currency through 2030. The bill passed 85-5 with bipartisan support, shielding private stablecoins while aligning with the White House's skepticism of government-backed digital dollars. Source: [ZeroHedge](#)

Judge Blocks SNAP Restrictions On Sugary Drinks and Candy A federal judge ruled that the USDA lacked congressional approval to waive SNAP definitions allowing states to restrict purchases of sugary foods. The decision restores benefits in five states and upholds the lawfulness of SNAP operations nationwide, countering the administration's "Make America Healthy Again" agenda. Source: [ZeroHedge](#)

Romania

Romania Receives €2.25 Billion in EU PNRR Funds Interim Minister Dragoș Pîslaru announced that Romania has received a payment of over €2.25 billion from the European Union under the Resilience and Sustainability program. This non-repayable funding marks a significant milestone for the country's economic recovery and project financing. Source: [Antena 3](#)

President Nicușor Dan Seeks Solution for Government Formation Following rejected proposals, President Nicușor Dan concluded consultations with parliamentary formations, hinting at a potential minority government variant. Parties including PNL, PSD, and USR are negotiating urgently to resolve the political crisis before the next parliamentary session. Source: [HotNews.ro](#)

Romanian Senate Modifies Traffic Code for Digital Verification A new law exempts drivers from presenting physical documents during traffic stops if police can verify information through official databases. The change aims to reduce excessive formalism and align with modern digital documentation standards, passing the Senate plenum with 52 votes. Source: [Antena 3](#)

General

New Images Reveal Peter Murrell's Illicit Purchases Prosecutors released photos showing dozens of luxury items, including a £124,550 motorhome, bought with embezzled SNP funds by former party CEO Peter Murrell. The images were taken by Police Scotland during the investigation into the high-profile case involving the estranged husband of Nicola Sturgeon. Source: [BBC News](#)

Thomas Partey Booed by England Fans Over Handshake Incident Ghana midfielder Thomas Partey faced backlash from England fans during a World Cup match after footage circulated of him not shaking hands with Djed Spence. The incident adds to the controversy surrounding Partey, who is currently facing trial on charges of rape and sexual assault. Source: [BBC News](#)

Five-Minute Walking Breaks Significantly Improve Work Mood A Columbia University study found that taking short walking breaks every hour can significantly improve mood, reduce fatigue, and boost productivity for office workers. Researchers suggest this realistic goal offers evidence-based advice for improving well-being in sedentary jobs. Source: [BBC News](#)