

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update March 13, 2015

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WITH POLICE HELP, SEVERELY DISABLED KIDS TRAINED FOR RACE OF THE YEAR: The fifth annual Jerusalem Marathon is taking place Friday 13 March, 2015. Among race participants is a group of young people with disabilities who are covering the course thanks to specialized equipment and the support of 20 dedicated Israeli police officers. The young people are residents of ALEH, a medical and rehabilitation facility providing comprehensive care to children and young adults with severe impairments. Most of them cannot walk, but that has not stopped them from ditching their wheelchairs and striding along Rupin Road with police escorts. For several months, the police officers from Jerusalem's Lev Habira station came to ALEH's building once a week to help get the residents in shape for the big race. The majority of the 15 participating residents, ranging in age from 3 to 30, are moving their legs as they are pushed in their walkers along the race course. Some of the smaller children are using an apparatus known as an Upsee, a mobility device. Upsee lets children with motor impairment stand and walk with the help of an adult - in this case one of the police officers. The child's erect body is strapped to the adult with a special harness, and his foot to the adult's foot with a double sandal. The child faces out and can see where he is going, as he moves his lower limbs in tandem with the adult. The athletes and their coaches didn't let the cold, rainy, and even snowy winter weather get in the way of their two-hour training sessions. On nice days they practiced outside, and when the weather was inclement, the police put the kids through their paces indoors. (Times of Israel)

OECD SHOWS DROP IN ISRAEL FOOD PRICES BUT PRICES STILL HIGH:

The cost of food in Israel is falling, and has been for several months, data from the OECD has confirmed. According to the report, food prices started falling in April 2014, and the trend has since picked up speed. In January, food prices fell by an annualized 4.1 percent, the fastest drop in years. The downward trend in food prices is a positive sign, but does not mean food is cheap. Over the past few years, the price of food jumped several times. In July 2008, for example, the monthly increase in food prices spiked to 15.7% in annualized terms. The statistics comes as good news to Naftali Bennett, who has touted reforms in the food market as Economy Minister. Under the reforms, import duties on certain foods were reduced, barriers to imports were lowered, and mechanisms were set up to ensure local competition. The cost of food has been a central sticking point in the cost of living . Good news was absent regarding the housing market, the other central driver of popular discontent with high prices. In that area, prices continue to stubbornly increase. A recent report by the state comptroller found that the cost of housing rose 55% from 2008 to 2013. In February, a survey by the Government Appraiser found that housing rose another 5% in 2014. (Jerusalem Post)

ECONOMIC CATASTROPHE AWAITS IF JEWS LEAVE EUROPE, JEWISH LEADER WARNS:

Europe is on the verge of a serious economic crisis if the EU does not introduce new legislation to counter anti-Semitism, according to the president of the European Jewish Congress. Moshe Kantor said every Jewish family on the continent is contemplating whether they should "leave or stay" as they fear the levels of anti-Semitism growing. Kantor warned if the authorities took no action then the potential Jewish exodus from Europe could create an economic crisis. "Out of three million Jews that are living in Europe at least one million, very active part or young part, or self-sufficient part are going to leave and it will be a disaster, an economic disaster for Europe in general. A lot of cash and money currents are going to leave Europe and also businesses," Kantor explained. "We should react on the level of gestures and intentions, visible intentions , not to wait until it's on the level of murdering people; this is the key point just now. We are in front of a strong demand from civil society to modify the legislation fighting against racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism," he added. (Jerusalem Post)

IRAN'S KHAMENEI SLAMS USA REPUBLICANS AND 'ZIONIST CLOWN'

NETANYAHYU: Iran's Supreme Leader hit out on Thursday 12 March, 2015 at a letter by USA Republican senators threatening to undo any nuclear deal between Washington and Tehran, saying he was worried because the United States was known for "backstabbing." Ayatollah Ali Khamenei added at a meeting with President Hassan Rouhani and senior clerics that whenever negotiators made progress, the Americans became "harsher, tougher and coarser." The letter signed by 47 Republican senators warned Iran that any nuclear deal made with USA President Obama could last only as long as he remained in office, in an unusual intervention into USA foreign policy-

making. Iranian news sources quoted Khamenei as saying: "Of course I am worried, because the other side is known for opacity, deceit and backstabbing." He also criticized a speech to Congress by Israel's PM Benjamin Netanyahu this month - referring to him as a "Zionist Clown," - for warning the USA it was negotiating a bad deal with Iran that could spark a nuclear nightmare." (Jerusalem Post)

NETANYAHU SAYS SUPPORT GROWING FOR ISRAELI POSITION ON IRAN: A week after his address to Congress, PM Netanyahu said Tuesday, 10 March, 2015 that "there are more and more voices, especially in the USA, but also in other places" supporting Israel's opposition to the emerging Iran deal. "The agreement being formulated between the major powers and Iran gives a clear path to Iran to achieve nuclear bombs," Netanyahu said during a visit to the Judea & Samaria Division headquarters. "A better agreement must be sought." The prime minister did not relate to the controversy surrounding the letter by 47 Republican senators to the Iranian leadership warning that an agreement that is not brought to Congress may not be binding once USA President Obama leaves office on January 20, 2017. The Prime Minister's Office has also been completely silent on this matter. The letter has infuriated the White House and led the Iranians to question whether the Americans are "trustworthy." Netanyahu did say that he hoped more "realistic views" about Iran and its nuclear program will "receive tangible expression in the negotiations." He added that Israel was closely monitoring the developments, and would continue to speak out on an issue "that is so fateful for the future of the State of Israel." (Jerusalem Post)

PRIME MINISTER SAYS THERE'S A 'WORLDWIDE' EFFORT TO TOPPLE HIM: PM Netanyahu said in broadcast Tuesday, 10 March, 2015 there was a "huge, worldwide effort" to ensure he loses next week's closely contested election. Army Radio interpreted his comments as referring to foreign funding for advocacy groups campaigning for a change of government in Israel. Political parties in Israel are banned from accepting money directly from overseas donors during an election campaign. But such funding is allowed under Israeli law for non-profit organizations espousing political viewpoints, and USA consultants have advised Israeli candidates for years. "It is a very tight race. Nothing is guaranteed because there is a huge, worldwide effort to topple the Likud government," said Netanyahu, who received rousing applause in the US Congress last week during a speech against a potential nuclear deal with Iran sought by the administration of President Obama. Likud and the Center-left Zionist Union are running neck-and-neck in opinion polls ahead of the March 17, 2015 ballot, with Netanyahu widely seen by political commentators as having a better chance of forming a governing coalition after the vote. Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon echoed the prime minister's sentiments and said, "There are non-profit organizations here that are funded by European money and other groups that don't want to see Netanyahu in power," said Ya'alon. (Ynet)

ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY FATAH PRAISES FEMALE TERRORIST: On March 8, 2015, International Women's Day, Abbas' Fatah party posted an image of terrorist Amna Muna, addressing her as "O glorious one," and stating that she "is always present in our hearts." Muna participated in the kidnapping and murder of 16 year-old Israeli Ofir Rahum on Jan. 17, 2001. She met the Israeli youth in an online chat room, convinced him to meet her, and then drove him to Ramallah, where he was murdered by her two accomplices. She was arrested and sentenced to life in prison, but was released in the Gilad Shalit deal. Interviewing Muna upon her release in 2011, the official Palestinian Authority daily called the terrorist "brave" and a "female fighter and leader." She was deported to Turkey, after refusing to go to the Gaza Strip. In the Shalit deal, Israel released 1,027 Palestinian prisoners in exchange for Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, who had been held hostage by Hamas for more than 5 years. (PMW)

AID CHIEFS: WORLD UTTERLY FAILING SYRIA AFTER 4 YEARS OF CONFLICT: The world is "not even close to grasping the magnitude" of the humanitarian crisis in Syria, an aid chief said ahead of the fourth anniversary of the peaceful protests that marked the start of the devastating conflict. "We may live with the aftermath of the Syrian conflict for generations," Jan Egeland, head of the Norwegian Refugee Council told media sources. The conflict has killed some 200,000 people, created more than 3.9 million refugees, mostly in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan, and displaced 7.6 million people within Syria, UN figures show. Aid experts blame the dire humanitarian situation on the hostile environment facing relief efforts, lack of political will by the protagonists and their backers, and a lack of cash. "This is the biggest humanitarian crisis in a generation," Egeland said this week. Additionally, according to a research report based on satellite images released 12 March, 2015, some 83% of the lights in Syria have gone out since the start of the conflict. (J.Post)

SAUDI ARABIA SIGNED A NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH KOREA, fueling fears of a nuclear arms race in the Middle East. The Wall Street Journal wrote on Thursday that the signing of the agreement increases "concerns on Capitol Hill and among U.S. allies that a deal with Iran, rather than stanching the spread of nuclear technologies, risks fueling it." Experts Simon Henderson and Olli Heinonen explain, "While the purpose of multilateral negotiations with Iran is to reduce proliferation concerns, successful talks may in fact accelerate nuclear plans in the Gulf states and Jordan." Rumors of a weak deal that allows Iran a glidepath to a bomb have heightened concerns; lawmakers on Capitol Hill and analysts have expressed fears that America's Sunni allies will pursue their own nuclear programs. As Henderson writes, "[F]rom their perspective, if Iran is going to be allowed to enrich uranium and retain its nuclear-capable missiles -- as they believe likely given Washington's reported approach to the negotiations thus far -- why shouldn't they be permitted to acquire similar capabilities?" Henderson contextualized this observation by adding that containing proliferation will be very difficult if an agreement is signed and the Gulf states oppose it. Gulf Arab states have raised their concerns with the United States over the impending

nuclear deal with Iran. Former head of Israeli military intelligence, Amos Yadlin concluded, “[If Iran gets the bomb] the Saudis will not wait one month. They already paid for the bomb, they will go to Pakistan and bring what they need to bring.” The Journal also reports, “A number of senior Arab officials have warned the White House in recent months the Saudi government could seek Pakistan’s aid in developing nuclear technologies — or even buy an atomic bomb — if it sees an agreement with Iran as too weak.” Referring to the implications of Middle East proliferation, Jeffrey Goldberg of The Atlantic writes, “If Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Turkey respond to an Iran nuclear agreement by ramping up their own nuclear programs, we may be able to judge the deal a provisional failure.”

IN ADDITION TO BEING ONE OF THE MOST VIOLENT AND BRUTAL TERROR GROUPS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THE ISLAMIC STATE OF IRAQ AND SYRIA (ISIS) ALSO HAS A VERY SOPHISTICATED MEDIA SYSTEM AND PUBLIC RELATIONS STRATEGY. A new report ([Arabic link](#)) found that ISIS has seven distinct media outlets through which it publicizes its radical ideas. These are Ajnad, Al-Furqan, Al-I’tisam, Al-Hayat, Al-Bayan Radio, Dabiq Magazine and media offices in each of its “provinces.” In addition, ISIS has published around 90,000 pages on social media platforms, mostly on Facebook and Twitter. Egyptian researcher Sabra al-Qasemi, who published the research paper “The Seven Media Wings of ISIS’s Communication Department,” told the Al-Arabiya TV channel that ISIS’s media department is run by Mohammad al-Adnani, the communication “minister” of the terror organization. He said that every one of the seven media wings has a very specific mission decided on by the organization’s top leaders. According to al-Qasemi, those seven wings market ISIS’s radical ideas in more than 12 languages all over the world, aiming to recruit as many young people as they can. The research has shown that ISIS allocated \$3 billion from its budget to fund its media operations. The terror group controls many oil-rich areas in Iraq and thus can fund this media activity easily. Al-Qasemi also found that ISIS spends significant sums of money to import the latest hi-tech equipment for its media operations from neighboring countries such as Turkey. Most ISIS videos, which are shot in high-definition video and include sophisticated graphics, are distributed by Al-Hayat Media Center and the Al-Furqan foundation. Al-Hayat has also released an online English-language magazine titled Dabiq, which includes in-depth reports about ISIS strategy and its activities. ISIS also runs a special studio, the Ajnad Media Foundation, which produces religious hymns and songs. (via [TheTower.org](#))

THREE ISRAELI FRIENDS FRESH OUT OF THE ARMY GO TO NEW YORK TO BUILD A NEST EGG. Then they sink their hard-earned cash into actual eggs, outfitting a 2003 Ford food truck to purvey four varieties of shakshuka (also spelled “shakshouka”), the tomatoey poached-egg dish that Israelis love for breakfast and all day long. They rolled out the Shuka Truck during one of the coldest-ever New York winters. Are they cracked? Not at all, explains Solomon Taraboulsi, the trio’s business strategist. He and his partners, Josh Sharon and Gabriel Israel, figure that starting with a trickle of

customers during the frigid winter months will prepare them to handle hordes when the weather warms up. “It’s our first business and we need to be ready for the spring and summer, so this is our learning period,” says Taraboulsi, 24. Food trucks are nothing new in the Big Apple, but shakshuka-on-the-go is a novel concept and therefore risky. “Everybody knows the food industry is one of the toughest, and as a new business it would have been easier to come with a food truck that sells familiar food because Americans like to get what they know,” Taraboulsi tells ISRAEL21c.

WATER AUTHORITY: FEBRUARY RAINS BRING 1.16 TIMES ANNUAL NORM FOR SAME PERIOD: According to statistics released by the Water Authority this week, since the onset of this year’s rainy season through the end of last month, 1.16 times the amount of rain that usually falls within the same time period fell in the country, for a total of 91% of the annual average. Due to February’s heavy rains, the water level of the Sea of Galilee rose 48 centimeters, bringing it up to 212.12 meters below sea level by March 1. The Dead Sea’s water level rose by 7 centimeters in February, bringing the level up to 428.82 meters below sea level by the first of March, 2015. (Arutz-7)

STUDY: ISRAEL HAS THE HEALTHIEST DIET IN THE WEST: Israel's is the country with the healthiest diet in the West, and the ninth healthiest diet in the world, according to a study published in The Lancet Global Health journal. Israel's Mediterranean neighbors – especially Turkey, Greece and Italy – received compliments in the research as well. The Israeli nutrition is considered healthy because it is based on increased consumption of fresh vegetables, olive oil, fruit and grains and on moderate consumption of proteins. The study was led by Dr. Fumiaki Imamura of the University of Cambridge, who looked into the eating habits in 187 countries with almost 4.5 billion adult residents. According to the researchers, healthier people eat more grains and legumes, milk, dietary fiber, omega-3s, fish and fruit. The researchers explained that African countries received the highest ranking thanks to their simple and unprocessed menu and the lack of junk food. While these countries' residents suffer from poverty, they actually have the healthiest food in the world. Chad, one of the poorest countries in the world, was ranked as the country with the healthiest diet overall, followed by Sierra Leon, Mali, Gambia, Uganda, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Israel and Somalia. The country with the least healthy diet overall is Armenia, followed by Hungary, Belgium, the Czech Republic and Kazakhstan. (Ynet)

RARE 2,300-YEAR-OLD SILVER AND BRONZE COINS, JEWELRY FOUND IN ANCIENT NORTHERN CAVE: A rare cache of 2,300-year-old silver and bronze coins, minted during the reign of Alexander the Great, were recently discovered by amateur explorers in an ancient stalactite cave in northern Israel, the Israel Antiquities Authority announced on Monday, 9 March, 2015. According to IAA officials, the coins represent “one of the important discoveries to come to light in the north of the country in recent years, and will require much time to study in order to crack the secrets of the cave.” The finding was made by three members of the Israeli caving club, who wandered

and crawled between the different parts of the cave for several hours. The men found two ancient silver coins minted during the reign of Alexander the Great, who conquered the land of Israel during the Hellenistic period (late fourth century BC). Near the coins, the men found several types of silver jewelry including rings, bracelets and earrings which seem to have been concealed in a piece of cloth in the cave 2,300 years ago. Authority sources said the coins were likely hidden by its owners during a period of heightened unrest following Alexander's death. "Presumably, the cache was hidden in the hope of better days, but today we know that whoever buried the treasure never returned to collect it." (J. Post)

SENATORS TELL IRAN: A DEAL YOU SIGN WITH OBAMA ENDS IN 2016: A group of 47 Republican senators has written an open letter to Iran's leaders warning them that any nuclear deal they sign with President Barack Obama will not be valid after he leaves office in 2016. The letter was by written by Senator Tom Cotton and signed by the Senate's entire Republican leadership as well as potential 2016 presidential contenders Marco Rubio, Ted Cruz and Rand Paul. The letter is meant "not just to discourage the Iranian regime from signing a deal, but also to pressure the White House into giving Congress some authority over the process." "It has come to our attention while observing your nuclear negotiations with our government that you may not fully understand our constitutional system. Anything not approved by Congress is a mere executive agreement," the senators wrote. "The next president could revoke such an executive agreement with the stroke of a pen and a future Congress could modify the terms of the agreement at any time. Iran's ayatollahs need to know before agreeing to any nuclear deal that any unilateral executive agreement is one they accept at their own peril," Cotton said. The new letter is the latest piece of an effort by Senators in both parties to ensure that Congress will have some say on whether a deal is signed. (Bloomberg/ Arutz-7)

FROM THE EXTREME LEFT: 'NETANYAHU IS RIGHT ON IRAN': Speaking to Italian newspaper La Repubblica over the weekend, prize-winning Israeli author David Grossman expressed his support for PM Netanyahu's position on the Iranian nuclear program. Grossman - an outspoken critic of Netanyahu and his policies - said, "Iran threatens the entire world; this time Netanyahu is right." Grossman had harsh words for the American position led by President Obama, terming the American approach toward Iran's nuclear program "criminal naiveté." He emphasized that he does not want Netanyahu to win the elections on March 17, but said that world leaders should listen to Netanyahu on this matter just the same. The author, whose son was killed during the Second Lebanon War in 2006, said that Netanyahu's speech last week in the USA Congress was correct. Iran's nuclear plans are "an expanding danger in the region which could soon pose a threat not just to Israel but to the entire free world. We need to listen to Netanyahu," the writer said. (Israel National News)

HAMAS FOCUSES ON REBUILDING TUNNELS AS GAZANS SUFFER: Hamas has been investing great efforts in rebuilding its system of terrorist tunnels in Gaza. The

project employs hundreds of Palestinian workers and numerous trucks, tractors, and heavy machinery. Gaza residents have noted that the areas near the Israeli border are teeming with trucks moving earth. As a result, the work, which is supposed to be secret, is exposed for almost everyone in Gaza to see. Hamas has declared the areas of the work off-limits and has posted movement members to stand watch. The rampant tunnel reconstruction is also indicative of the warped priorities of Hamas. Once again, Hamas is investing its scant resources on preparing for the next war. (Al-Monitor)

EU DIPLOMATS SAY PA NOT DOING ENOUGH TO RECONSTRUCT GAZA:

Discussion of Gaza's rehabilitation and Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas' role in making it happen has remained mere talk. Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Spain protested to the PA last week that it was not doing enough to rebuild the Strip. Envoys from the five nations met days ago with a senior diplomat in the Israel Foreign Ministry, where they complimented Israel's cooperation with the UN's reconstruction apparatus, Israel's doubling of the water supply to Gaza and its easing of export restrictions from Gaza. One European diplomat said, "The Israelis are removing hurdles and assisting reconstruction. At the same time, reconstruction is still stuck because of the internal fights on the Palestinian side." The European diplomats said their consuls general held a meeting with senior PA officials several days earlier, in which they conveyed a sharp protest to the PA leadership over their lack of sufficient cooperation regarding reconstruction in Gaza. (Ha'aretz)

HAMAS: WE WILL CONTINUE TO ABDUCT IDF SOLDIERS:

Hamas' military wing, the Al-Qassam Brigades, continues to threaten Israel with the abduction of IDF soldiers. Such soldiers are used by Hamas, the terror organization that controls Gaza, as bargaining chips for the release of Palestinian terrorists serving prison sentences in Israel. In 2011, Israel released over 1,000 terrorists in exchange for kidnapped IDF soldier, Gilad Shalit, who was held captive in Gaza for five years. Abu Obaydeh, Al-Qassam's spokesman, said recently that "The Al-Qassam Brigades has carried the torch for the release of prisoners since its establishment. It will continue to take this path until every last Palestinian prisoner has won his freedom." (INN)

ARAB LEAGUE CALLS TO CREATE A 'UNIFIED ARAB MILITARY FORCE:'

Arab League chief Nabil al-Arabi on Monday, 9 March, called for the creation of a unified Arab military force to battle the spread of Islamic terrorists groups. "There is an urgent need for the creation of a multi-purpose common Arab military force able to intervene rapidly to fight terrorism and the activities of terrorist groups," Arabi told a meeting of league foreign ministers in Cairo. He also stressed the importance of "cooperation in areas related to security protection and the exchange of information between Arab countries." Talk of creating a "unified Arab force" was raised last week ahead of a March 28-29 meeting in Egypt's Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, with the League saying it would discuss the initiative by Egyptian President Fattah al-Sisi to create a unified military presence. The League's Deputy chief Ahmed Ben Helli said the

force "should be ready and present so that they could symbolically show that the Arab countries have a deterrent force and a peacekeeping force that could step in at times of conflicts." In the Arab League meeting this week, the body is also expected to propose a resolution to end "Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories." (Israel National News)

NETANYAHU SAYS HIS PAST SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN STATE ‘SIMPLY IRRELEVANT’: "Simply irrelevant" is how Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu described his former support for a demilitarized Palestinian state on Sunday, 8 March 2015. "In the situation created in the Middle East, any territory that will be evacuated will be taken over by radical Islam and terrorist organizations supported by Iran," Netanyahu stated. "Therefore, there will not be any withdrawals or concessions. The matter is simply irrelevant," he added. Also Sunday 8 March, Likud candidate Bennie Begin and Knesset Speaker Yuli Edelstein held a press conference in Tel Aviv to deny a weekend report by an Israeli daily columnist accompanied by a front-page headline declaring he uncovered Netanyahu's "document of concessions," which included basing talks with the Palestinians on pre-1967 lines with land swaps. (Jerusalem Post)

IRAN’S NEW MISSILE PUTS ISRAEL ‘IN RANGE’: As the USA and its allies continue to discuss limiting Iran's nuclear program with Tehran, the Iranian military on Sunday, 8 March, 2015 announced it had developed a new long-range cruise missile with a range of some 1,200 miles – putting Israel well within its reach. The missile, called the “Soumar,” features “different characteristics in terms of range and pinpoint accuracy in comparison with the previous products,” Iranian Defense Minister Hossein Dehqan said at the unveiling of the missile. Israel’s PM Netanyahu has warned that while the world is capitulating to Iranian demands to allow it to continue with its nuclear development program, the issue of its delivery systems – the advanced missiles it is developing – has not even been placed on the agenda, because Iran refuses to discuss it at all. Commenting Sunday, 8 March, 2015, Iran's Aerospace Division head Amirali Hajizadeh said Tehran “will never negotiate the country's defense capabilities, including the development of its ballistic missiles.” (Israel National News)

OBAMA ON IRAN: IF THERE’S NO DEAL, THEN WE WALK AWAY: USA President Barack Obama reassured critics of nuclear talks with Iran that he will not support an agreement that threatens USA security, saying, "If there's no deal, then we walk away. If we cannot verify that they are not going to obtain a nuclear weapon, that there's a breakout period so that even if they cheated we would be able to have enough time to take action. If we don't have that kind of deal, then we're not going to take it," said Obama. "We're not losing anything through these talks," he said. But others, including Israeli PM Netanyahu, aren't convinced the administration is getting enough. "I do not trust inspections with totalitarian regimes," Netanyahu said in an interview on "Face the Nation" Sunday, 8 March, 2015. "What I'm suggesting is that you contract Iran's nuclear program, so there's less to inspect." As an example, he cited North Korea and previous Iranian regimes who he says have "cheated and bamboozled inspectors." As

to whether or not he trusts Mr. Obama to negotiate the deal, Netanyahu said it's "not a personal issue, it's not one of trust, it's a matter of survival, really, and the deepest security issues for the state of Israel, for the security of the Middle East, for the security of the world and also for the United States." (CBS)

NETANYAHU: MAJOR POWERS SAY THEY WILL WAIT FOR THE ‘RIGHT’ IRAN DEAL: Several major powers’ governments have indicated they will not sign a bad agreement with Iran, Israeli PM Netanyahu said. “Following my speech to Congress, we heard - over the weekend - several of the major powers’ foreign ministers saying that they do not see the need to reach an agreement forthwith and that they will wait until the right agreement is found. I hope these words will find tangible expression,” Netanyahu said on Sunday, 8 March, 2015. Netanyahu continued that the right agreement is “one that links between the lifting of the restrictions on Iran’s nuclear program and the cessation of Iran’s terrorist actions around the world and, of course, its threats to annihilate Israel. The right agreement is one that extends by years Iran’s break-out time to achieve a bomb, given the feasibility of violating the agreement.” Netanyahu, in a speech last week to a joint meeting of Congress, argued that the proposed nuclear deal being negotiated with Iran, whose framework is set to be inked on March 24, 2015 will lead inexorably to a nuclear-armed Iran and war in the Middle East, in part because it would let most of Iran’s nuclear infrastructure stay in place, including thousands of centrifuges. “We will continue to take all possible action to deny the largest terrorist state in the world the ability to produce the most dangerous weapon in the world, a weapon which is aimed – first and foremost – against us,” Netanyahu said. (JTA)

FRANCE SIGNALS TENSIONS AMONG WORLD POWERS ON IRAN NUCLEAR TALKS: As European officials declared negotiations with Iran over its nuclear program “in the last mile,” aiming toward a March 31, 2015 deadline, France suggested over the weekend that more technical concessions are required from Tehran for a comprehensive accord. “As regards the numbers, controls and the length of the agreement,” French FM Laurent Fabius told reporters, “the situation is still not sufficient. Diplomats have not yet agreed on the number and quality of uranium- enriching centrifuges Iran would be allowed to operate under any deal, nor have they agreed on the precise nature of checks required over an inspection regime, which will ensure Iran does not violate the deal.” France is part of negotiations alongside the USA, United Kingdom, Russia, China and Germany attempting to cap, monitor and partially roll back Iran’s nuclear program. They seek a “big-picture” political framework agreement by the end of March and a comprehensive accord, with all technical details settled, by late June. (INN)

FRENCH PM WARNS THAT 10,000 EUROPEANS MAY SWELL ISIS RANKS BY END OF 2015: The number of Europeans joining the ISIS ranks could reach 10,000 by the end of 2015, French PM Manuel Valls said on Sunday, 8 March, 2015 in a media interview. "There are 3,000 Europeans in Iraq and Syria today. When you do a projection for the months to come, there could be 5,000 before summer and 10,000 before the end of

the year," Valls warned, addressing the near three-fold increase of foreign born ISIS terrorists. "Do you realize the threat this represents?" he asked. "There have already been nearly 90 French people who have died out there with a weapon in their hand, fighting against our own values." According to the Tel-Aviv-based Meir Amit Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center, between 6,000 and 7,000 fighters have traveled to Syria alone in order to fight the Assad regime. Meanwhile, the USA State Department has suggested that as many as 20,000 fighters from one hundred different countries have passed through both Syria and Iraq. (INN)

ARRESTED ISIS-SUPPORTING AMERICAN SAYS HE PLANNED TO KILL OBAMA, BOMB ISRAELI EMBASSY: An Ohio man claiming connection with ISIS terrorists and charged with plotting to attack the USA Capitol said in a television interview that he would have shot President Obama in the head. Christopher Cornell, 20, told media sources that if he had not been arrested by FBI agents in January, he would have carried out a plot to plant pipe bombs on the Capitol and at the Israeli Embassy. "What would I have done? I would have took my gun, I would have put it to Obama's head and I would have pulled the trigger," Cornell, of Cincinnati, said in a telephone interview from a Kentucky jail, aired on Friday, 6 March, 2015. "Then I would have released more bullets on the Senate and the House of Representative members, and I would have attacked the Israeli Embassy and various other buildings full of infidels who want to wage war against us Muslims. That 's what would have happened," he said. Cornell was arrested after he researched how to make pipe bombs, purchased a rifle and ammunition and made plans to travel to Washington to carry out the plot, according to court testimony from an FBI informant. He is being held without bail. "I got orders from the brothers overseas because I'm with ISIS. My brothers over there, in Syria and Iraq, gave me specific orders to carry out jihad in the West, so I did so," Cornell said. (Jerusalem Post)

JEWISH MOTHER, DAUGHTER MAKE ALIYA FROM SYRIA: A mother and her daughter escaped from Syria and made aliya to Israel last year, media sources reported Friday 6 March, 2015 after the news was cleared for publication by the censor. Their escape via a neighboring country of Syria was facilitated by the Jewish Agency, and the two are now in an absorption center in the South. There are about 20 Jews living in the Syrian capital of Damascus. Aside from Syria, and with the exception of Iran, there are mere handfuls of Jews living in Middle Eastern countries: six in Baghdad; a few more in Iraq and in Yemen. There is growing concern about the individual safety of the members of the small Jewish community in Yemen where rebels supported by Iran control the capital and other cities who are refusing to leave the country, though Jewish organizations are trying to persuade them to change their minds. (Jerusalem Post) *From the onset of the 1948 Arab–Israeli War until the early 1970s, 800,000–1,000,000 Jews left, fled, or were expelled from their homes in Arab countries; 260,000 of them reached Israel between 1948 and 1951 and amounted for 56% of the total immigration to the newly founded State of Israel. 600,000 Jews from Arab and Muslim countries*

had reached Israel by 1972. By the Yom Kippur War of 1973, most of the Jewish communities throughout the Arab World, as well as Pakistan and Afghanistan, were practically non-existent. The reasons for the exodus included push factors, such as persecution, anti-Semitism, political instability and expulsion; together with pull factors, such as the desire to fulfill Zionist yearnings. Pray that remaining endangered Jews living in small pockets across the Middle East will heed the signs and warnings and agree to make their homes in Israel.

POST-PURIM MIRACLE: ROCK-THROWERS FREEZE WHEN CONFRONTED: Call it a post-Purim miracle: A resident of the town of Ateret in the Binyamin region “subdued” two Arab rock attackers when they attempted to throw rocks at his vehicle, by stopping his car, getting out, and drawing his pistol. Instead of attempting to escape, as teenage rock throwers usually do when confronted in this manner, the two Arab youths raised their hands in surrender – and were promptly arrested by IDF troops patrolling in the area. (Israel National News)

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