

## ***Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update October 27, 2017 (7<sup>th</sup> of Cheshvan, 5778)***



**NETANYAHU: ISRAEL HELPS BECAUSE WE ARE A LIGHT UNTO THE NATIONS:** During a ceremony welcoming Christian media representatives to Jerusalem, PM Benjamin Netanyahu was asked why Israel goes so far out of its way to provide aid to disaster victims around the world. From Haiti to Nepal to Japan to Mexico, Israel is almost always the first on the scene following major catastrophe, and more often than not sends one of the largest and best-equipped delegations, despite being so much smaller than many of the other nations who send aid. In response to the question, Netanyahu cited the Bible: "Because we're a light unto the nations. That's the great fulfillment of that great prophecy, and in fact what Israel is doing. And the people say, 'well, what is it that you get out of it?' And the answer is we're not getting out of it anything, we're fulfilling our deepest values – Israel is a light unto the nations." (Israel Today)

**AMERICANS BELIEVE IRAN NOT COMPLYING WITH NUKE DEAL:** Americans have little faith in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran negotiated by the Obama administration. According to a new Harvard-Harris poll, Americans – including a majority of Democrats – are unsatisfied with the deal and believe Iran is not keeping its end of the agreement. "Americans see Iran as a bad actor on all fronts and substantial majorities believe this agreement is being violated and never should have gone into effect without a Senate vote," said

Harvard-Harris co-director Mark Penn. Sixty percent of all voters say the JCPOA was a bad deal for the USA, while two-thirds agree Iran has not complied with the agreement. Half of Democratic respondents agreed that Iran had not fulfilled its side of the agreement. More than two-thirds (70%) say the JCPOA should be renegotiated and verified by Congress. Broken down by partisan affiliation, 85% of self-described Republicans say the deal should be renegotiated, along with 71% of independents, and 57% of Democrats. About four-fifths (81%) believe that a new agreement should be require approval by the USA Senate, like all official treaties. The survey was conducted from 14 Oct. 2017 to 18 Oct. 2017. (Arutz-7)

**IRAN-LED SHIITE AXIS ISRAEL'S BIGGEST ENEMY:** Prof. Moshe Maoz, an expert on Syria and Hezbollah from the Political Science Department at the Hebrew University, said on 22 Oct. 2017, he believes four rockets from Syria which exploded in the Golan Heights on the previous day were accidental spillover from the Syrian civil war. He added, however that "in strategic terms, the great danger is from Syria as an important link of the Shiite axis that is being led by Iran, and this is Israel's greatest enemy. This axis potentially includes Iraq, Lebanon-Hezbollah and Yemen. There is a danger the Iranians may provoke us in the future. This is where a third factor comes in to play, and that is the Russians who control the skies of Syria. They have agreements and disagreements with the Iranians and the question is what they will do, mainly because they have the means to prevent Israeli flights and bombings. There appears to be an understanding between the Russians and us, and they allow us to hit Hezbollah's weapons convoys, but if it spreads further, it will be considered a blow to the Russian honor. "Beyond that, they have modern means to prevent our airstrikes," noted Maoz. "They have S-400 systems, beyond the S-300s they provided to the Iranians, which they can use to prevent and intercept any aircraft coming from Israel. This is the most critical point, and it is no coincidence that Netanyahu has been to Russia six or seven times in recent months. Moreover, the Americans are not helping, Trump has given up on Syria and Russia is the potential ruler in this region. We're in a pretty delicate state of affairs. The Russians will not forcefully prevent the Iranian presence in the region, it is not in their interest, and they do not want to do so," he said, adding, "The question is the level of coordination between them. That's a very critical question." (Arutz-7)

**TILLERSON PUSHES SAUDI ARABIA, IRAQ ON UNITED FRONT TO COUNTER IRAN:** USA Secretary of State Rex Tillerson this week promoted a Trump administration goal of uniting Saudi Arabia and Iraq in common cause to counter Iran's growing assertiveness in the Middle East. Tillerson participated in the inaugural meeting of the Saudi Arabia-Iraq Coordination Committee, along with Saudi King Salman and Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, telling the leaders that the event highlighted the improving ties between the longtime rivals and showed "the great potential" for further cooperation. He noted the August 2017 reopening of a major border crossing and the resumption of direct flights between Riyadh and Baghdad. The United States is "grateful for this progress and urges you to expand this vital relationship for the stability of the region," Tillerson said. His participation in the meeting comes as USA officials step up encouragement of a new axis that unites Saudi Arabia and Iraq as a bulwark against Iran's growing influence from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean Sea. (AP)

**LESS THAN 5% OF SYRIA UNDER ISIS CONTROL, RUSSIA SAYS:** Russia's defense minister says less than 5% of Syria remains under control of the ISIS group. At the height of the rise of the ISIS, the terrorist group controlled about half of the territory of Syria before their downfall began. Speaking at a conference in the Philippines, Sergei Shoigu said on 23 Oct. 2017 that "terrorists" controlled more than 70% of the country before Russia launched its air operation at the end of 2015 to support President

Bashar Assad's offensive against ISIS terrorists and opposition forces. In recent weeks, Russia focused efforts on the east of the country where a race is underway between USA-backed Syrian forces and government troops in the oil-rich Deir el-Zour province. (Ha'aretz)

**ISIS FIGHTERS RETURN TO HOME COUNTRIES BY THOUSANDS:** Thousands of foreign fighters who flocked to fight with ISIS in its Syrian and Iraqi strongholds have returned to their home countries as the terrorist group's territory shrinks. The report, released Tues. 24 Oct. 2017 by the New York-based firm The Soufan Group, said "there are now at least 5,600 citizens or residents from 33 countries who returned home" in a situation that "represents a huge challenge for security and law enforcement entities" around the world. Whether those returning fighters will present a threat in their homelands has become a major source of concern for security and intelligence officials in governments across the Middle East, Europe, Asia and North America. Despite its losses on the battlefield, ISIS remains a potent threat, the Soufan Group report said. As ISIS "loses territorial control of its caliphate, there is little doubt that the group or something similar will survive the worldwide campaign against it so long as the conditions that promoted its growth remain," the report said. "Already its propaganda has cast the eradication of its territorial control in Syria and Iraq as unimportant, and merely a temporary setback in its preordained journey to victory; and it has promised more attacks in the West." (Washington Times)

**FLIERS FOUND AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY READ 'JUST SAY NOT TO JEWISH LIES':** Anti-Semitic fliers with swastika-like symbols were discovered on the campus of Cornell University in upstate New York. The posters, which read "Just say no to Jewish lies!" and urged students to "join the white gang," were discovered Monday morning 23 Oct. 2017, and taken down the same day. The Ivy League school's president, Martha Pollack, denounced the fliers. "Whoever is responsible for these fliers is hiding under the cover of anonymity, having posted them overnight," she said. "Whoever they are, they need to ask themselves why they chose our campus, because Cornell reviles their message of hatred; we revile it as an institution, and I know from many personal conversations that thousands of Cornell students deplore it individually." Police were investigating the matter and increasing patrols around Jewish buildings on campus, the Cornell Hillel said in an email to the Jewish community. "We are deeply concerned that a poster of this nature was placed on our campus, as these sentiments run counter to the spirit of diversity and pluralism that our university works to uphold," Hillel Executive Director Rabbi Ari Weiss said in a statement. (JTA)

**MARYLAND JOINS NEARLY HALF OF AMERICAN STATES WITH ANTI-BDS LAWS:** The state of Maryland has adopted a rule barring companies that engage in boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel from receiving local government contracts, joining 22 other American states with similar laws. Maryland's Republican governor, Larry Hogan, issued an executive order enshrining the new provision. "Boycotts based on religion, national origin, place of residence or ethnicity are discriminatory," Hogan said, announcing the move alongside local Jewish leaders. "Contracting with businesses that practice discrimination would make the state a passive participant in private-sector commercial discrimination." The nation's largest states have already taken similar action including Florida, California, New York, Illinois and Texas. (J.Post)

**ISLAM HEADS AGAINST NORMALIZATION WITH ISRAEL:** The Conference of Scholars Against Normalization announced the formation of a committee that will discuss proposals by Muslim clerics relating to the formulation of a credo, to be published in coming days, for guiding the struggle against normalization with the "Zionist entity." At the close of the religious scholars meeting in

Istanbul, participants announced that any form of normalization with the "entity" is prohibited by religious law and comprises a "crime," be it economic normalization or in the fields of communications, sport, or society. The clerics stressed that all of "Palestine" and all the "occupied" land by the "robber entity" is Islamic land that must not be relinquished for any reason or by any pretext. "Giving up Palestine and recognizing the right of the Zionist entity to establish its state on the land of Islam and the Muslims is a betrayal of Allah, His Messenger (Muhammad) and the rest of the believers," the concluding statement said. (Arutz-7)

**THE USA SUPPORTS ISRAELI POSITIONS ON PALESTINIAN UNITY PACT:** The USA came out with its strongest statements yet regarding the accord signed between Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah party and Hamas, expressing support for Israel's position not to engage in any diplomatic initiative with a Palestinian unity government unless Hamas agrees to disarm, end its terrorist activities and recognize the Jewish state's right to exist. American special envoy to the Middle East Jason Greenblatt affirmed that any future Palestinian political entity "must explicitly commit to nonviolence, accept previous agreements and obligations with Jerusalem and commit to peaceful negotiations." A major sticking point remains the fate of Hamas' military wing, the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades. Both Netanyahu and Abbas have called for its complete dismantlement, a demand Hamas has repeatedly refused. On Thur. 19 October Yahya Sinwar, the new leader of Hamas in Gaza, said "Over is the time Hamas spent discussing recognizing Israel. Now Hamas will discuss when we will wipe out Israel. No one in the universe can disarm us," he added. (Medialine/ Times of Israel) *The Palestinian Authority and the Hamas terrorist organization are linked entities having only one long lasting goal – not to build its own state – rather, to destroy the Jewish state. As PM Netanyahu told the Israeli Presidential Conference in 2013: "The Arabs want it all."*

**A FEW MORE GLITCHES IN THE PALESTINIAN – HAMAS UNITY DEAL:** The Hamas terrorist organization has persistently refused to recognize the legitimacy of the Jewish state or renounce terrorism against it, resulting in the destruction of Israeli citizens and property, as well as the ruin of its own Gaza Strip population. The USA and Israel, along with UN nations in 2007 deemed the Palestinian Authority, led by Fatah chief, Mahmoud Abbas, to be the legitimate Palestinian government and peace partner for Israel - on the condition he did not make future connections with the Hamas terrorist organization. Abbas agreed he would not even speak with Hamas leaders – one of many broken promises.... Since then money, munitions, and combat training have flowed from Israel, the USA and other nations to strengthen the Palestinian Authority, which as it turns out, has never been a legitimate peace partner for the Jewish state. Where will many of these assets go and against what country will it be used if the PA successfully unites once again with Hamas? Do we need three guesses? (JNN)

**DEPUTY HAMAS LEADER: WE WILL NEVER CUT TIES WITH IRAN:** Deputy Hamas leader Salah al-Aruri stressed on Saturday 21 Oct. 2017 that the group would never agree to sever its ties with Iran and give up the armed struggle as prerequisites for talks with Israel. Aruri is heading a high-ranking Hamas delegation which arrived in Tehran last weekend and is meeting with local leaders to discuss its reconciliation efforts with rival faction Fatah. His comments came during a meeting with Ali Akbar Velayati, a top advisor to Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Referring to talks with Fatah in Cairo, Aruri said that Israel had set three preconditions for talks, including the disarmament of Hamas, recognition of Israel and cutting ties with Iran. "In response to the first prerequisite that was disarmament of Hamas, we have declared that we don't accept it at all," he said, adding that the second precondition was also rejected as Hamas is now fighting "to annihilate the

Zionist regime. Our presence in Iran is the practical denial of the third precondition that was cutting ties with Iran," Aruri stressed. Hamas and Iran had been at odds over the uprising against Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad. As a result of Hamas's refusal to support Assad in the uprising, Iran stopped supplying the terror group with weapons. This past summer, however, Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh thanked Iran for its "unlimited" support for the Al-Qassam Brigades and its contribution to the development of Hamas' military capabilities, an indication that the rift was over. The advisor to Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Jawad Zarif clarified that there are good relations between his country and Hamas. (INN)

**PA CITY ERECTS SADDAM HUSSEIN MEMORIAL:** The city of Qalqilya, under PA jurisdiction, has recently erected a memorial and named a street in honor of former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. Arab leaders expressed appreciation for Hussein at the dedication ceremony, hailing him as "an emblem of heroism, honor, originality and defiance. According to the report, the monument bears the inscriptions "Saddam Hussein – The Master of the Martyrs in Our Age," and "Arab Palestine from the River to the Sea -" a favorite mantra of Hussein's. The report documented the unabashed praise PA leaders had for Hussein at the dedication ceremony. Qalqilya District Governor Rafi' Rawajba said that "Saddam was an emblem of heroism, honor, originality and defiance, as was the martyr Yasser Arafat. Both served as a compass for the Arabs and their resolute decisions, and when they departed, Arabism departed with them. President Abu Mazen (Mahmoud Abbas) makes sure to follow in the footsteps of these two great leaders." (Arutz-7)

**PA MISSION TO COLOMBIA CALLS FOR ISRAEL'S DESTRUCTION:** The official Palestinian Authority mission to Colombia posted a call for the complete destruction of the State of Israel on its Twitter account on 19 Oct. 2017. The PA mission posted a Spanish translation of a quote from former PA leader Yasser Arafat. "Our goal is the end of Israel, and there can be no compromises or mediations. We don't want peace. We want WAR and victory - Yasser Arafat." The quote was removed following a report by Israel's Channel 1 News. The mission has offered no explanation or apology for the quote. Israel's Foreign Ministry condemned the tweet and said that the quote illustrated Arafat's legacy of hatred and death. (JTA)

**NETANYAHU: " JORDAN VALLEY WILL ALWAYS REMAIN A PART OF ISRAEL:** The Jordan Valley will always remain a part of Israel. We will continue to settle it, invest in infrastructure and tourism," PM Benjamin Netanyahu said last week at a ceremony marking 50 years of Israeli settlement there. "The Middle East is unstable and violent. The valley is a strategic defensive belt for the country, and without it the fundamentalist flood could reach the interior, up to greater Tel Aviv. Thus, our eastern defensive line starts at this place. If we won't be here, Tehran and Hamastan will be here. We won't let that happen." Netanyahu said Israel will never abandon the Jordan Valley settlements "because they are of utmost security importance to Israel." (Ha'aretz)

**ISRAELI RESEARCHERS DISCOVER ALZHEIMER'S TRIGGER:** Israeli researchers have discovered that the amount of a specific protein is severely reduced in the brains of people with Alzheimer's. Alzheimer's is a neurodegenerative disease caused by brain cell death. Currently there is no cure, but according to researchers at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU), we now know what may trigger it. Dr. Debbie Toiber, of the BGU Department of Life Sciences, and her team discovered that a specific protein -Sirtuin-6 -is severely reduced in the brains of Alzheimer's patients. SIRT6 is critical to the repair of DNA, the deterioration of which "is the beginning of the chain that ends in neurodegenerative diseases in seniors," she explains. She discovered that as a person ages, the

amount of the SIRT6 protein in the brain declines. In fact, according to Dr. Toiber, "In Alzheimer's patients, it is almost completely gone." Dr. Toiber is currently working on finding a way to increase the expression of the protein into the brain.

Dr. Toiber acknowledges that healthy habits like good diet and exercise might make a difference in our DNA health. She points out that engaging in sports and even working past retirement can challenge the body in positive ways, preparing your cells to react more readily and thus be more likely able to repair themselves. She concludes, "We should be focusing our research on how to maintain production of SIRT6 and improve the repair capacity of the DNA damage that leads to neurodegenerative diseases." (Arutz-7)

**USA DEMANDS HAMAS RENOUNCE VIOLENCE, DISARM BEFORE UNITY DEAL:** In the first detailed USA response to this month's Palestinian unity deal, Jason Greenblatt, President Trump's special representative for international negotiations, said Thurs. 19 Oct. 2017: "Any Palestinian government must unambiguously and explicitly commit to nonviolence, recognize the State of Israel, accept previous agreements and obligations between the parties - including to disarm terrorists - and commit to peaceful negotiations. If Hamas is to play any role in a Palestinian government, it must accept these basic requirements." Hamas has thus far rejected calls for it to disarm its estimated 25,000 troops in Gaza, even as talks on the unity deal move forward. (Times of Israel/AFP) *How tragic that Hamas has used billions of dollars of foreign aid money to build terrorist attack tunnels into Israel to buy and use weapons against the Jewish state, and to pad their own pockets. So much could have been done to build up the suffering Gaza Strip society, to provide jobs, homes, schools, and so much more. Instead, Hamas continues to feed its men, women and children on hate and jihad. An entire population is starving on such a diet. Pray that Hamas will in fact be overthrown and that others with a positive eye towards rebuilding the Gaza Strip and co-operating with Israel will be put in place.*

**USA UNDERSTANDS ISRAEL'S DECISION NOT TO NEGOTIATE WITH PA:** Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Tzipi Hotovely sees the cabinet's decision to freeze diplomatic negotiations with the Palestinians as long as Hamas does not reform, as an important breakthrough. She said: "It is clear that over the years of discussion on Palestinian Authority union with Hamas, part of the thought of future negotiations has dealt with the idea that the PA represents only some of the Palestinians and that they are separate from Hamas. This has changed, and therefore the government made a decision that we will not allow the Palestinians to continue telling the world on the one hand that they want peace, and on the other hand to conduct a political campaign against Israel while embracing a terrorist organization. We're not willing to play this game anymore. The Israeli government has made a value-based statement here that has wide implications - even when we sit with the Americans and talk about the future of the region and what we expect. It is no secret that the Americans hoped that a regional agreement could be reached and there is no doubt that this undermines the ability of the Americans to force the Palestinians to come to the negotiating table - because of this situation in which they bound themselves with Hamas terrorists.

"Throughout the years, we have demanded that the Palestinians stop the incitement to terrorism and that the Palestinian Authority stop financing the families of terrorists. We have engaged in this campaign, and some European countries responded to our request to reduce the amount of funds they transfer to the PA, which receives more foreign aid per capita than anywhere else in the world. Also on the issue of recognition of the State of Israel; we have demanded this in all our dialogue and negotiations with the Palestinians. Our basic expectation is that they recognize Israel as the nation-state of the Jewish people, that we have a historical right here and not only that there happens to be an entity

with that name on a map. Our demands are on the PA as well, not just on Hamas." Hotovely said that the signals coming from the White House indicate that the Trump Administration understands the Israeli position, even if this is not explicitly stated. "There are red lines for every country when it wants to negotiate, and in any normalization negotiations, red lines must be drawn. This embrace and partnership with Hamas, which is more than just a political partnership, is such a red line that Israel cannot remain silent about it, and the Americans understand this. Instead we see support from the USA, and the most important issue that concerns us at this time is the Iranian issue," said Hotovely. (Arutz-7)

**IRAN SEEKING NUCLEAR WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY, GERMAN INTEL SAYS:** "Despite the nuclear agreement reached with world powers in July 2015, Iran has not given up its illegal activities in Germany. The mullah regime also made efforts this year to obtain material from German firms for its nuclear program and the construction of missiles, said security sources." They added, "Iran has according to the security sources clearly not given up its long-term goal to become a nuclear power that can mount nuclear weapons on rockets." Frank Jansen, who is a one of Germany's most prominent journalists covering counterterrorism, radical Islamism and neo-Nazism, wrote in his Tagesspiegel article: "Security experts say Iran is very interested in equipment to extend the range of missiles. Iran made more than 30 attempts to obtain equipment for its nuclear and missile programs in 2016."

According to the city state of Hamburg's intelligence agency: "There is no evidence of a complete about-face in Iran's atomic policies in 2016" after it signed the nuclear accord the previous year. Iran sought missile delivery technology necessary for its rocket program." Meanwhile, USA Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley urged the UN to crack down on Iran's behavior, telling the body that Iran "has repeatedly thumbed its nose" at Security Council resolutions. "Iran hides behind its assertion of technical compliance with the nuclear deal while it brazenly violates the other limits of its behavior, and we have allowed them to get away with it. This must stop," said Haley. (INN/ (J.Post)

**IRAN TO CO-OPERATE WITH SYRIA TO DESTROY 'THE ZIONIST ENEMY':** Iran's Chief of Staff declared on Wed. 18 Oct. 2017 that he will cooperate with other countries in order to destroy the "Zionist enemy." "We arrived in Damascus in order to coordinate and cooperate to confront our common enemies: the Zionists and the terrorists," Iranian General Mohammad Baqeri told Syria's state television channel. Baqeri arrived in Syria accompanied by several senior Iranian military figures. Among others, he is expected to meet with Syria's Defense Minister. On Monday, 16 Oct. 2017 Israeli Air Force planes responded to a Syrian attack on Israeli aircraft, destroying the surface-to-air missile battery which had attacked them. A report in August revealed that Iran has been building a Scud missile factory in Syria near the city of Baniyas, south of Latakia. (INN)

**LONDON REJECTS ANTI-ISRAEL AD CAMPAIGN:** Adverts highlighting Palestinian objections to the Balfour Declaration of 1917, when Britain promised to establish a Jewish national home in Palestine, have been blocked by Transport for London. Theresa May and her Israeli counterpart, Benjamin Netanyahu, are expected to be the guests of honor at a London dinner celebrating the centenary of the declaration, the most high-profile of several events. Israeli officials say it is right to celebrate the centenary and have accused those demanding that Britain apologize for the declaration of being anti-Semitic and ignoring Palestinian hostility and intransigence. (Arutz-7/UK Guardian)

**ARGENTINA FORMER PRESIDENT TO BE INVESTIGATED:** A local judge has sent a special order to former president Christina Fernandez de Kirchner, which allows the authorities to investigate her about the attack on the AMIA Jewish center in Buenos Aires and the death of Jewish special prosecutor Alberto Nisman, who was investigating the bombing. In addition to the investigation,

Kirchner and 14 others will also be required to give testimony in court. The main suspicion is that Kirchner forged a deal with Iran during her presidency, in which she undertook to help conceal the fact that the Iranian government was involved in the attack. (Arutz-7/JTA) *Alberto Nisman's body was found on 18 Jan. 2015, hours before he was to present evidence to Argentine lawmakers that President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner covered up Iran's role in the 1994 attack on the AMIA Jewish center in Buenos Aires that left 85 dead and hundreds wounded. More than a year after Nisman's death, the investigation was moved to the federal courts, meaning that the case was being investigated as a political murder rather than as an alleged suicide. Since then, Prosecutor Eduardo Taiano, has led the investigation into Nisman's death and received death threats. Pray that the truth behind this brutal terrorist attack and investigations into Nisman's death will be completely made known, and that those who are guilty will be brought to justice.*

**ISRAELI DOCTOR TO LEAD PRESTIGIOUS GLOBAL MEDICAL ORGANIZATION:** Israeli Medical Association (IMA) Chairman Prof. Leonid Eidelman has been chosen to serve as the next president of the World Medical Association. Medical association leaders from across the globe - representing more than nine million doctors worldwide - elected Eidelman at the organization's annual convention in Chicago earlier this month. Eidelman, 65, will succeed India's Dr. Ketan Desai to lead the organization beginning in October 2018. As Israel faces repeated calls to expel Israeli medical organizations from international bodies, the appointment of a doctor from the Jewish state to one of the top positions in the medical world - with a major influence on the most important decisions regarding the behavior of doctors - is seen as carrying considerable significance. Eidelman is a prominent authority in the area of medical ethics in Israel. (Algemeiner)

**ISRAELIS WIN THREE GOLD MEDALS AT INTERNATIONAL JUDO MATCH:** Three Judokas representing Israel each won gold medals while competing at the International Judo Federation's 2017 Grand Prix in Uzbekistan boosting Israel to the highest medal ranking at the tournament that took place in Tashkent between Oct. 6-8, 2017. The gold medalists, who each came first in their respective weight categories, were heavyweight Or Sasson, lightweight Sagi Muki and half-lightweight Betina Temelkova. Sasson, aged 27, is known in international judo as having won the bronze medal at the Olympics in Brazil. Muki, aged 25, took on Dagvasuren Nyamsuren from Mongolia, and beat him in a sudden-death tie breaker. Temelkova, 20, claimed victory over Polish opponent Agata Perenc. Notably, Temelkova is Bulgarian and is not an Israeli citizen. Culture and Sports Minister Miri Regev has asked the Ministry of Interior to grant Temelkova citizenship "so that she can continue to represent us with honor in the European Championship next year in Israel." (Kehila News)

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