

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update June 6, 2019 ***(6th Savin, 5779)***

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The image shows two items within a dashed red border. On the left is a CD case for 'The Hebrew of His Garment' by Yachad Ministries. The cover features a close-up of a hand touching a white prayer shawl with blue and gold stripes. The text on the cover includes 'TOUCHING THE POWER IN GOD'S WORD'. On the right is a white prayer shawl with blue and gold stripes and a gold tassel.

For the Yachad Report Newsletter For June 2019

PRO-PALESTINIAN GROUP SUPPORTED BY CORBYN FORCES JEWISH SHOPS TO CLOSE: Pro-Palestine activists have been conducting a 'campaign of intimidation' against Jewish shops that sell products from Israel for years. The Palestine Solidarity Campaign, which is supported by UK Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn has forced two Jewish businesses to close and activists have threatened others. Other groups targeted a British Jewish shopkeeper in Ireland and Scotland, forcing him to relocate three times and eventually flee Britain. A new film, Hounded, has been released by anti-racist campaigners to draw attention to how British Jewish shopkeepers have been living in fear for years. British Jews have spoken of their fear after a pro-Palestine group supported by Jeremy Corbyn forced Jewish-owned shops to close by staging aggressive rallies outside them. The Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC), of which Corbyn is patron, targeted shops selling Israeli products in Brighton, London and Manchester, forcing two businesses to fold. Last month, it organized a rally in London which saw 'open anti-Semitism from attendees', according to the Campaign Against Anti-Semitism. A statement from the Labour leader was read out to the crowd. It comes as Labour became the only party after the BNP to be formally investigated for racism by the Equalities and Human Rights Commission (EHRC).

One Jewish father said: "It is so sad that Corbyn is a patron of this group. I live in a Jewish community and people are beaten in the streets and pelted with eggs. With Corbyn's support, people feel free to do these things." The PSC has waged a prominent 'boycott, divestment and sanctions' (BDS) campaign against Israel since 2001. Its activists have targeted the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall and an Israeli theatre company at Shakespeare's Globe. A Labour spokesman said: 'Jeremy is a patron of PSC, the UK's foremost organization campaigning for the rights of Palestinian people.'

MIKE POMPEO 'CONCERNED' BY WARNING NOT TO WEAR KIPPOT IN GERMANY: USA Secretary of State Mike Pompeo last weekend voiced concern over a warning to Jews by a German official about the dangers of wearing the kippa skullcap in Germany in the face of rising anti-Semitism. The German

government's commissioner on anti-Semitism Felix Klein sparked alarm when he said in a recent interview that he "cannot advise Jews to wear the kippa everywhere all the time in Germany". Pompeo expressed his disquiet over the warning during a visit to Berlin on Friday 31 May 2019. "We were concerned to see Jews discouraged from wearing the yarmulke in public out of safety concerns. None of us should shrink in the face of prejudice," he said at a press conference. Germany, like other Western countries, has watched with alarm as anti-Semitic and other racist hate speech and violence has risen in recent years while the political climate has coarsened and grown more polarized. Israel's President Reuven Rivlin has voiced shock at Klein's warning, calling it a "capitulation to anti-Semitism". Anti-Semitic crimes were up by 20 percent in Germany last year.

TENS OF THOUSANDS OF IRANIANS MARCH ON QUDS DAY, REJECT TRUMP'S PEACE PLAN: Tens of thousands of Iranians marking the annual "Quds (Jerusalem) Day" in the Islamic Republic on Fri. 31 May 2019 condemned a planned Middle East peace plan that USA President Donald Trump has touted as the "deal of the century." State television said state-sponsored marches were being held in 950 communities across Iran and showed demonstrators carrying banners with slogans such as "Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Palestine" and "Death to America" and "Death to Israel." Marchers also set fire to a Trump mask and Israeli and USA flags, according to pictures on Iranian news websites. Trump's plan is to encourage investment in Judea & Samaria and the Gaza Strip by Arab donor countries before grappling with thorny political issues at the heart of the conflict. Palestinian officials, angered by Trump's decision in 2017 to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, have already spurned it. Iran said it would fail. "No to the deal of the century" read a banner splashed across the news screen on state TV, which also showed a Quds Day march in neighboring Iraq, where thousands of fighters from powerful Shi'ite militias took to the streets. Opposition to Israel is a cornerstone of Shi'ite-led Iran. It backs Palestinian and Lebanese terrorist groups opposed to peace with Israel, which Tehran refuses to recognize.

SAUDI ARABIA ASKS NATIONS TO RESPOND TO IRAN WITH 'FIRMNESS': Saudi Arabia's foreign minister last week urged Muslim nations to confront recent attacks in the region that the USA and its allies have blamed on Iran with "all means of force and firmness." Ibrahim al-Assaf made the comments at a meeting of foreign ministers of the 57-nation Organization of Islamic Cooperation. Al-Assaf said the sabotage of boats off the coast of the United Arab Emirates and a drone attack on a Saudi oil pipeline by Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthi rebels require the region to "make more efforts to counter the terrorist acts of extremist and terrorist groups. We should confront it with all means of force and firmness," al-Assaf said. The USA has accused Tehran of being behind the string of incidents last month, which also included a rocket strike near the USA Embassy in Baghdad.

Bolton described Tehran's decision to back away from its 2015 atomic deal with world powers as evidence it sought nuclear weapons, even though it came a year after America unilaterally withdrew from the unraveling agreement. He also stressed the USA had not seen any further Iranian attacks in the time since, something he attributed to the subsequent military deployments. America recently sent an aircraft carrier and B-52 bombers to the Persian Gulf. But Bolton warned the USA would strike back if again attacked. "The point is to make it very clear to Iran and its surrogates that these kinds of action risk a very strong response from the United States," Bolton threatened, without elaborating. Meanwhile Wed. 29 May 2019 acting USA Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan said some 900 troops coming to the Mideast over the perceived Iran threat — to reinforce the tens of thousands already in the region — would be deployed in Saudi Arabia and Qatar. "The Iranian threat to our forces in the region remains," Shanahan said.

THANK YOU, GOV. DE SANTIS: Even before his trip to Israel, in the weeks after DeSantis was elected governor last year, he immediately took action on behalf of the Jewish state. Florida's cabinet recognized Jerusalem as "Israel's eternal capital," invested \$10 million in Israel Bonds, and blacklisted Airbnb because of its plan to boycott listings in Judea & Samaria settlements, which the global company has since reversed. Last week, DeSantis repeatedly spoke out against the anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, leading the first official trade mission to Judea & Samaria led by a USA governor - with two dozen business

leaders. "Anti-Semitism is driving the BDS movement, and you cannot separate the two," he said at the Gush Etzion Industrial Zone, meeting with Jewish and Arab businesspeople who oppose boycotts. "We are not going to discriminate against certain Israelis - and if people do... we will take action accordingly. You have people that are willing to trade with Iran, the leading state sponsor of terrorism in the world - some of the worst regimes in the world - and yet they only want to boycott the one Jewish and democratic state in the world," he said. "If you support BDS in Florida, you are dead, politically," he added. The Florida delegation signed over 20 memoranda of understanding in multiple fields including business, trade, academia, innovation, and tourism.

DESPITE TRADE WAR, ISRAELI INNOVATORS FLOCK TO CHINESE INVESTMENT CONFERENCE. Eager for investment, more than 100 Israeli hi-tech companies and start-ups traveled last week to Jinan, the capital of China's Shandong Province, to participate in the 22nd international GoforIsrael investment conference. Approximately 1,400 investors attended the conference. During the summit, held in China for the third time, organizers said Israeli entrepreneurs took advantage of 800 one-on-one meetings with potential backers. Spanning almost 160,000 sq.km. and home to 100 million people, Shandong Province boasts GDP of \$1.1 trillion, the third-largest economy in China. Potential areas of interest, Vice-Governor of Shandong Province Ling Wen told the conference, include next-generation IT, advanced manufacturing, renewable energy, and advanced agricultural technology. China is Israel's second-largest trade partner worldwide today, with bilateral trade exceeding \$10b. in 2017. The visit of Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan to Israel in October 2018 symbolized the growing importance Beijing places on increasing innovation cooperation with the Jewish state.

NETANYAHU REVEALS TRUMP'S MAP OF ISRAEL WITH GOLAN HEIGHTS: PM Benjamin Netanyahu says USA President Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner has gifted him with an official State Department map, updated to incorporate the long-disputed Golan Heights as part of Israel. Speaking at a news conference in Jerusalem on Thur. 30 May 2019 Netanyahu addressed a nation rattled by the prospect of an unprecedented second election campaign in the same year, after the newly re-elected Netanyahu failed to form a governing coalition. In a bid to play down the political unrest Netanyahu revealed Kushner's map, on which, President Trump had scribbled, "Nice." "This map had not been updated since the Six-Day War," said Netanyahu, referring to the 1967 Middle East war, after which Israel captured the Golan Heights from Syria. "Well, it has been updated. That is to say, there are very important developments here." He pointed to a note scribbled on the map, which he called President Trump's personal handiwork. "Here is the signature of Trump, and he writes 'nice.' I say, 'very nice!'"

WHITE HOUSE'S KUSHNER IN JERUSALEM FOR ISRAELI TALKS: USA President Donald Trump's son-in-law and aide Jared Kushner was in Jerusalem on Thur. 30 May 2019 as part of a Middle East trip focused on the White House's expected plan for Israeli-Palestinian peace. Kushner met with Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu, but no further details were released regarding his schedule. Kushner, accompanied by Trump envoy Jason Greenblatt and Brian Hook, the USA special representative for Iran, is a key architect of the peace plan which the White House is expected to unveil. But the plan, previously delayed for an Israeli general election in April 2019, could face further postponements due to Israeli politics. Israel is set to hold another general election in Sep. 2019 after Netanyahu failed to form a coalition government, and the plan is widely seen as too sensitive an issue to introduce during a political campaign. The Palestinian leadership has also already rejected the plan, saying that Trump's moves have shown him to be blatantly biased in favor of Israel. The USA is expected to present the economic aspects of the peace plan at a meeting in Bahrain on 25-26 June 2019 but Palestinian leaders say they will not attend.

IDF REVEALS 'LONGEST, MOST SIGNIFICANT' HIZBULLAH TUNNEL ON NORTHERN BORDER: The Israel Defense Forces on Wed. 29 May 2019 revealed a cross-border Hizbullah tunnel discovered running into Israeli territory from Lebanon saying it was "the longest and most significant"

subterranean passage found yet. The tunnel was dug to a depth of 80 meters (260 feet), was a kilometer long and penetrated 77 meters (250 feet) into Israeli territory. IDF sources said the tunnel was equipped with infrastructure for electricity, ventilation and communications systems, and that the passage would have taken years to complete. Last month, the commander of the IDF's Ground Forces, Maj. Gen. Yoel Strick, said Hizbullah was still planning to carry out a surprise invasion of northern Israel despite the recent anti-tunnel operation.

EL AL LAUNCHES DIRECT FLIGHTS TO TOKYO: El Al will launch a direct route from Israel to Tokyo, Japan, marking the first-ever direct flights between the two countries. Flights will begin in March 2020, using three of El Al's new Boeing Dreamliner 787 jets. The direct flights to Japan are part of El Al's plan to expand its flight routes in accordance with the needs of both Israeli travelers and international travelers arriving in Israel, the numbers of which have grown considerably in recent years. The Tel Aviv-Tokyo flight will take 11 hours and 15 minutes, while the return flight will take approximately 12 and a half hours. Currently, Israelis wishing to fly to Japan need to take two flights, resulting in nearly 24 hours of travel. Michael Strassburger, El Al's V.P of Commerce & Industry Affairs, said, "Approximately 40,000 Israelis visited Japan in 2018, while 20,000 Japanese people visited Israel. The movement in recent years has grown at a fast pace and we are sure that opening a direct route between the countries will increase travel and significantly strengthen the economic and diplomatic ties between Israel and Japan. The direct flights to Japan join a list of other new direct routes launched recently by El Al, including to San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Chicago, and they significantly expand the options for tourism, entertainment, and the direct access both business people and tourists have to these destinations."

ISRAEL'S NEW MULTI-USE FLYING/DRIVING ROBOT: The first experimental robot drone that flies like a typical quadcopter, drives on tough terrain and squeezes into tight spaces using the same motors. The hybrid FSTAR (flying sprawl-tuned autonomous robot) was invented by Prof. David Zarrouk and developed by a team from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. FSTAR can fly over obstacles or run underneath them. The sprawl, which adjusts from a flat configuration to 55 degrees, allows the robot to transform its movement from a flying quadcopter to a car-like robot. It also adjusts its width to crawl or run on flat surfaces, climb over large obstacles and up closely spaced walls, or squeeze through a tunnel, pipe or narrow gaps. FSTAR can run on the ground at a speed of up to eight feet per second. That ability, combined with low energy consumption, makes FSTAR ideal for a broad range of applications that may require longer work time, said Zarrouk. "We plan to develop larger and smaller versions to expand this family of sprawling robots for different applications, as well as algorithms that will help exploit speed and cost of transport for these flying/driving robots," he said. Possible commercial uses are package deliveries, search and rescue, agriculture, maintenance, cleaning, filming, entertainment, law enforcement, and homeland security.

HUNDREDS OF MULTINATIONAL FROM 35 COUNTRIES INNOVATING IN ISRAEL: Israel is emerging as a leading innovation destination for a growing number of multinational corporations looking to the country's 6,000 plus startups for new ideas, quick prototyping ability, and infectious entrepreneurial culture, a new report shows. The report, commissioned by tech NGO Start-Up Nation Central maps for the first time the activities of some 539 multinational companies (MNCs) representing 35 countries that are currently active in Israel. It tracks the evolution of their innovation activity, showing that companies tend to increase and diversify their innovation activity with time in the market, for example, going from tech-led R&D centers to operating startup accelerators and engaging in joint ventures.

LOUISIANA PASSES 'HEARTBEAT' ABORTION BILL: Louisiana's legislature passed a bill last week banning abortions after a fetal heartbeat has been detected, joining a growing list of conservative states in a push to tighten restrictions on the procedure in recent weeks. The bill passed the House by a vote of 79-23 with no exceptions for incest or rape. It essentially bans all abortions past six weeks of pregnancy. Gov. John Bel Edwards, a Democrat, said he plans to sign the bill. "As I prepare to sign this bill, I call on the

overwhelming bipartisan majority of legislators who voted for it to join me in continuing to build a better Louisiana that cares for the least among us and provides more opportunity for everyone," Edwards said. Louisiana's new law comes on the heels of a number of other states passing or considering similar laws to limit abortions. Alabama signed the most restrictive yet, a near-total ban on abortions unless the woman's life is at risk. There are no exceptions for rape or incest. Legislatures in Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, and Ohio passed "heartbeat" bills, banning abortions after eight weeks, earlier this year.

KNESSET VOTES TO DISPERSE, HOLD NEW ELECTIONS IN SEPTEMBER: Knesset members voted Wed. night 29 May 2019 to dissolve parliament, barely a month after the swearing in of the new assembly, after PM Benjamin Netanyahu failed to strike a coalition deal with his prospective partners. Dissolving the Knesset and holding a new round of elections just months after the last and without ever having formed a government is unprecedented even in Israel's fast-paced political landscape. Of the 120 lawmakers that make up the Knesset, 74 voted in favor of dissolving parliament, and 45 voted against. At the heart of Netanyahu's failed attempt to build a coalition after the 9 April 2019 elections was legislation to draft ultra-Orthodox men into the army, which saw two of his expected political partners at loggerheads. Heading into the plenum to vote Wed. night 29 May 2019, Yisrael Beytenu leader Avigdor Liberman said Israel was holding fresh elections due to the Likud party's refusal to vote on the original version of a bill to draft Haredi men, which he had insisted on and the ultra-Orthodox parties refused to consider. The vote to end the short-lived Knesset marked a dramatic downturn for Netanyahu and sent the longtime leader's future into turmoil.

SYRIA SHOOTS RUSSIAN MISSILE AT ISRAELI JET: The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) took out a Russian-made anti-aircraft battery in Syria on Mon. night 27 May 2019 after an Israel Air Force (IAF) fighter jet was fired on from the position earlier in the day. The targeted Israeli jet had not entered Syrian airspace, but was flying a reconnaissance mission in the Upper Galilee region. The newly-acquired Russian anti-aircraft missile fell short and the Israeli jet returned safely to base. In response, an IAF jet took out the missile battery without entering Syrian airspace. Israeli fighter jets can lock-on and accurately hit targets in Syria from well within Israel's sovereign territory. Israel has been systematically taking out Syrian military sites over the past year. In Feb. 2018, an IAF F-16 was shot down over northern Israel by a Syrian anti-aircraft missile. The Israeli military has hit numerous targets in Syria in order to prevent Iranian ambitions in the region and to foil the transfer of advanced weaponry to the Lebanon-based Hezbollah terrorist group. It is also likely that Syria is ramping up aggression toward the Jewish nation with its newly-acquired advanced Russian anti-aircraft missile systems in place. This latest attempt by the Assad's regime to take down an IAF jet deep within Israeli territory could reflect renewed boldness by the Syrians against Israeli military targets. Over the next few weeks, the IDF will be assessing the situation. Syrian state news agency SANA reported that one soldier was killed in the retaliatory IDF strike that destroyed the Russian anti-aircraft battery. Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu stated, "Our policy is clear—we are not prepared to tolerate any aggression against us, and we will respond against it powerfully and decisively."

TENSIONS GROW BETWEEN RUSSIA, IRAN IN SYRIA: Russian military police last week carried out a raid against Iranian-backed terrorists stationed at Syria's Aleppo international airport, local media reported. In the aftermath, several Iranian terrorist leaders were arrested in what was seen as the latest episode of tensions between Iranian and Russian forces in Syria. As the war is waning, with Syrian regime forces reclaiming most of the territory once controlled by rebel forces, Russia and Iran seem to be vying for influence in the war-torn country. "There are definite tensions that exist between Russia and Iran within Syria," said Phillip Smyth, a researcher at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. "You see things like this raid in Aleppo that occur in flashpoint zones because there's criminal activity going on. Each country's proxy wants a cut of that," he said.

THE OLD SCOURGE OF ANTI-SEMITISM RISES ANEW IN EUROPE: For years, Europe maintained the comforting notion that it was earnestly confronting anti-Semitism after the horrors of the

Holocaust. It now faces the alarming reality that anti-Semitism is sharply on the rise, often from the sadly familiar direction of the far right, but also from Islamists and the far left. The worrisome trend was underscored by a report issued by the German government this month showing that anti-Semitic incidents in Germany had increased by almost 20% in 2018 from the previous year to 1,799, with 69 classified as acts of violence. Anti-Semitism is on the rise all across Europe, as well as in The United States. France reported an increase of 74% in anti-Semitic acts in a single year, with 541 incidents reported in 2018. In the United States, attacks on synagogues by white-supremacist gunmen have led the growing list of assaults on Jews. The Anti-Defamation League reported that these attacks more than doubled from 2017 to 2018, to 39, part of a total of 1,879 anti-Semitic incidents. What is clear is that these strains of anti-Semitism - from the right, from the left, and from radical Muslims - have morphed into a resurgence of a blight that should have been eradicated long ago, and that is causing serious anxiety among Europe's Jews. More than a third of Europe's Jews said in a poll last year they had considered emigrating in the five years preceding the survey. As appalling as these statistics should be to every European, they should also ring a loud alarm for every American leader of conscience. Speak up, now, when you glimpse evidence of anti-Semitism, particularly within your own ranks, or risk enabling the spread of this deadly virus.

MERKEL REFUSES TO OUTLAW HEZBOLLAH, SNUBBING GERMAN JEWS AFTER KIPPAH ROW: German Chancellor Angela Merkel and her interior minister, Horst Seehofer, ignored an urgent plea from the country's Jewish community to outlaw the Lebanon-based terrorist organization Hezbollah amid a shocking climate of anti-Semitism. When asked numerous times by media sources if the German government - in response to a demand by the nearly 100,000-member Central Council of Jews - plans to ban the Lebanese Shi'ite terrorist organization, Merkel and Seehofer refused to answer. Berlin authorities claimed they wouldn't prevail in court with respect to a ban of the al-Quds Day rally on Sat. 1 June 2019. The anti-Western and anti-Israel rally calls for the destruction of the Jewish state. The authorities have declined to test the law. A full ban of Hezbollah's organization has already happened in the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Hezbollah is heavily financed by Iran, and poses, in its entirety, a threat to the entire world.

IRAN SHUTS DOWN CHURCH, REMOVES CROSS: Iranian intelligence this week shut down a Presbyterian church and removed its cross from the bell tower, the Assyrian International News Agency (AINA) announced. The church was located in the city of Tabriz in northwestern Iran and it belonged to the Assyrian community. "Intelligence agents stormed the 100-year-old church, officially recognized as a national heritage site in Iran, on Thur. 9 May 2019, changed all the locks, tore down the cross from the church tower, and ordered the churchwarden to leave". Elko, the state agency responsible for the raid together with the Ministry of Intelligence, is under the direct control of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. According to the report, the congregants were left in shock and have not been allowed to hold services in the building since the raid. Before the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the Assyrian community in Iran totaled approximately 200,000 people, Radio Farda noted. However, since then many have fled and in 2015 only 32,000 Assyrians were left in the country, mostly in Tehran. Many churches owned by Protestants have been confiscated.

ISRAELIS AMONG WORLD'S LEADING CONSUMERS OF ADDICTIVE PAINKILLERS: Israelis appear to be one of the biggest consumers of addictive painkillers in the developed world, with the latest report from the OECD ranking Israel first in the rise in the use of narcotic pain medication. The report, which collected data from 2014-2016, puts Israel in 11th place (out of 37 OECD states) in the overall use of narcotic painkillers. This statistic represents a 13% increase from 2013 - the last time OECD conducted research on this matter - when Israel was ranked 24th. According to the report, some 87,000 people in Israel take addictive painkillers on a daily basis, indicating an above average consumption level for an OECD state. "Pharmacists say they definitely feel the sharp increase in the demand for painkillers," said David Papo, chairman of the Pharmaceutical Association of Israel. "We became aware of the issue around two years ago, around the time when the worrisome data on addictive painkillers in the USA was revealed." The OECD report also reveals

that the number of painkiller-related deaths has increased. In the USA at least 74 deaths per million people due to painkiller-overdose were recorded in 2011, while in 2016 that number spiked to 131. Since 1999 to 2017 at least 400,000 people died from addictive painkillers in the United States.

ANIMAL RECEPTION TERMINAL TO OPEN AT BEN-GURION AIRPORT IN 2020: After nearly 10 years of planning, Ben-Gurion Airport has announced that the construction of the Israeli Animal Reception Center (ARC) is officially underway. The facility will be built over 1.3 acres of land, including around 1,500 meters of kennel and office space able to accompany up to 150 dogs and 50 cats. The structure is being designed by Terminal4Pets, a company that has provided pet shipping services in Israel for more than 20 years. "The ARC will provide pet accommodations and services for pets traveling to, from, and through Israel's Ben-Gurion Airport," the airport said in a statement. "Services including boarding, ground handling, transit services, cargo services, veterinary care, VIP services, kennel shop, grooming, training and emergency services will all be conveniently located near Terminal 1 at Ben-Gurion airport." The ARC intends to provide "professional and essential import and export services," with an emphasis on ensuring the welfare and safety of the animals.



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