

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update November 12, 2020 (25th Cheshvan, 5781)



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Third Lockdown Could be Imposed During Hanukkah; Israel's government is considering halting the gradual lifting of coronavirus restrictions, with some senior officials now weighing new prohibitions, according to a report Sunday night. The report cited senior Health Ministry officials who warned that a third nationwide lockdown may be imposed during the upcoming Hanukkah festival, which begins in December. "The idea that we may need to impose a third lockdown during Hanukkah is not unfounded," the sources were quoted as saying. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has reportedly asked experts to draw up plans for new restrictions, including nightly curfews which could be imposed across Israel. Under the current exit strategy, Israel was to have entered the third stage of the gradual reduction of lockdown restrictions next week, with shopping malls and markets reopening, along with studies resuming for students in grades 11 and 12.

Health Officials: Data, Not Dates, Drives Easing of Virus Restrictions; Dr. Sharon Alroy-Preis, Head of Public Health Services, warned during a public address on Sunday against lifting restrictions too quickly that were imposed during the second lockdown. "We need to get to a daily infection rate of less than 500 before we ease restrictions more," she said, noting that the effect of opening schools to grades one-four and allowing one-on-one treatments from hairdressers and other professions last has not yet been seen but will show up in a week. She said she did not know when fifth and sixth grades would be allowed to go back to school. Replying to a question from The Jerusalem Post about when stage three of the exit plan from the lockdown, which has been frozen, would continue, she said, "It isn't frozen. That would mean we planned it and stopped." Alroy-Preis said that only once the morbidity goes down, further restrictions would be lifted. "It's according to data on morbidity, not on dates... From the beginning, we never gave a date when stage three would take place."

Jerusalem Llama's Antibodies May Help 'Millions' through COVID; Antibodies from a single llama that were analyzed in a Jerusalem lab could be replicated and help "millions" of coronavirus patients, scientists say. Dina Schneidman-Duhovny of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem has examined the qualities of dozens of antibodies from a llama called Wally and identified which would best fight the coronavirus in humans. The best candidates have been tested in vitro by her US-based colleagues with live coronavirus and human cells, and appear to significantly reduce the virus's ability to infect cells. As the llama antibodies are

much smaller than human antibodies — they are often dubbed “nanobodies” — they are simpler and cheaper to replicate artificially. Researchers say they would not need to be taken intravenously, unlike human antibodies, and could be dosed via an inhaler, which is already being developed for clinical testing

Seychelles to Permit Quarantine-Free Travel To and From Israel;

Seychelles announced Saturday that it has declared Israel a “green” country and will allow travelers from the country without the need for quarantine. Following the announcement, Israel’s Arkia airline announced it would begin operating flights to the African island nation, a popular resort destination, from November 24. Travelers will need to present a negative coronavirus test and sign a health declaration prior to flying out to the country. As Europe faces a new wave of infections, Israel recently added Italy, Germany and Greece to the list of countries with high coronavirus infections from which travelers returning to Israel must quarantine for 14 days. Other European countries going through renewed outbreaks are Latvia, Lithuania and Serbia, and they were similarly added to the list of so-called red countries, the ministry said in a statement. The ministry has urged travelers to check the requirements by their destination countries, specifically their policies for travelers coming from Israel.

Netanyahu Congratulates Biden, Thanks Trump;

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu on Sunday morning congratulated Joe Biden after US news outlets declared him the winner of the election. "Congratulations Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. Joe, we’ve had a long & warm personal relationship for nearly 40 years, and I know you as a great friend of Israel. I look forward to working with both of you to further strengthen the special alliance between the U.S. and Israel," he tweeted. Netanyahu also thanked Trump for his friendship and actions taken during his presidency. "Thank you Donald Trump for the friendship you have shown the state of Israel and me personally, for recognizing Jerusalem and the Golan, for standing up to Iran, for the historic peace accords and for bringing the American-Israeli alliance to unprecedented heights."

11 Dead in Attack on Iraqi Army Post in Baghdad;

Unidentified gunmen killed at least 11 people and wounded 8 others including soldiers in an attack on an Iraqi army post in western Baghdad, police sources and medics said on Monday. The assailants in four vehicles attacked the post in the city's Al-Radhwaneya district using grenades and automatic weapons, the sources said. The army and police forces have started an operation in search of the attackers, police sources said.

Tens of Thousands of Muslims Protest Against Macron;

Tens of thousands of Muslims, from Pakistan to Lebanon to Jerusalem, poured out of prayer services to join anti-France protests on Friday, as the French president’s vow to protect the right to caricature the Prophet Muhammad continues to roil the Muslim world. Hardline Islamic groups across the region have seized on the French government’s staunch secularist stance as an affront to Islam, rallying their supporters and stirring up rage. Demonstrations in Pakistan’s capital Islamabad turned violent as some 2,000 people who tried to march toward the French Embassy were pushed back by police firing tear gas and beating protesters with batons. Crowds of Islamist activists hanged an effigy of French President Emmanuel Macron from a highway overpass after pounding it furiously with their shoes. Several demonstrators were wounded in clashes with police as authorities pushed to evict activists from the area surrounding the embassy.

Islamic State Claims Responsibility for Vienna Attack;

The Islamic State terror group on Tuesday claimed responsibility for the shooting attack in Vienna the night before, which left four dead and 15 wounded. In a statement delivered over an IS-linked Telegram channel, the terror group said: “The Caliphate’s soldier, Abu Dajana al-Albani” attacked “gatherings of Crusaders” in downtown Vienna. The alleged perpetrator, Kujtim Fejzulai, was shot and killed by police during the incident. Fejzulai was an ethnic Albanian, which could explain his Arabic nom de guerre, which literally means “the Albanian.” In a video distributed by the terror group, Fejzulai can be seen pledging allegiance to the IS caliph, Abu Ibrahim al-

Hashimi al-Qurashi, while he holds a gun and a long, serrated knife. Fejzulai, a 20-year-old Austrian-North Macedonian dual citizen, had a previous terror conviction for attempting to join the Islamic State group in Syria. Police searched 18 properties as well as the suspect's apartment, detaining 14 people associated with the assailant who are being questioned, Austrian Interior Minister Karl Nehammer said.

New York & Bahrain Synagogues to Remember Kristallnacht, Together; The Hampton Synagogue and the Synagogue in Bahrain will join together in historic solidarity to participate in the March of the Living's "Let There Be Light" campaign, in which synagogues around the world will illuminate their buildings to commemorate Kristallnacht. The two synagogues will keep their lights on during the evening of November 9 as a symbol of mutual commitment in the shared battle against contemporary anti-Semitism, racism, hatred, and intolerance. "As the only indigenous Jewish community in the Gulf, it's incredibly meaningful and impactful to have the synagogue in Manama partner with us," said The Hampton Synagogue Founding Senior Rabbi Marc Schneier. "This is far more than symbolic," Rabbi Marc Schneier added. "This is truly an opportunity for the Jews of Bahrain to join with their brethren around the world in this commemoration. Kristallnacht is a commemoration of the destruction of Jewish communities and today, the Jewish community of Bahrain represents just the opposite – a community which is in the process of enhancing its synagogue and growing its Jewish community."

Israel CEOs Seek 'Friends', Deals in UAE; If you had asked Israeli businessman Yehonatan Ben Hamozeg earlier this year where he'd be pitching his palm tree saving technology in October, there was no chance he would have said the United Arab Emirates. But after a surprise US-backed normalization agreement between the UAE and Israel, the soft-spoken, grey-haired entrepreneur found himself doing just that in a Dubai hotel last week. Ben Hamozeg is the founder and chief executive of Agrint, a company that uses seismic sensors to detect insects that eat -- and destroy -- palm trees from the inside. He was one of the 13 business leaders who joined a four-day trip to the UAE organized by Jerusalem Venture Partners (JVP), a venture capitalist firm. Before normalization, there had been discreet links between the Gulf nation and Israel's flourishing high-tech sector. But after the deal, those links have come to the surface and are poised to expand. "We're learning, we're opening our eyes, friendships and personal ties are being formed," said JVP founder Erel Margalit, who led the Israeli delegation.

After Powerful Earthquake in Turkey, Israel Offers Assistance; Defense Minister Benny Gantz on Friday instructed the IDF to be prepared to assist Turkey in the aftermath of the powerful earthquake that hit the country earlier in the day. Gantz said in a statement that Israel relayed its condolences and willingness to help to the Turkish military attaché in the country. Israel is ready to immediately dispatch a team that would assist with search and rescue operations in areas affected by the quake as well as establish a field hospital, the statement added. "The State of Israel and the security forces will always reach out to offer humanitarian assistance to injured civilians everywhere, using the capabilities and experience gained in the IDF over the years to deal with emergencies," Gantz said. At least 14 people were killed in Friday's earthquake, which caused buildings to collapse.

India, Israel Share Close Ties in Agriculture, Covid-19 Fight; Israel and India share a close bond of friendship and complement each other, Israel's Ambassador to India Ron Malka said. Speaking at the foundation stone laying ceremony for the Indo-Israeli Centre of Excellence for Vegetables Protected Cultivation in the outskirts of Guwahati, the ambassador praised the close collaboration the two countries have had in fighting the coronavirus pandemic. This followed a meeting between a Malka-led delegation and Sarbananda Sonowal, chief minister of the Indian state of Assam, where they discussed several issues benefiting both India and Israel. This includes the Centre of Excellence, which Sonowal has said will be a valuable addition to government efforts at boosting farmer income through the infusion of new technological innovations in agriculture and food processing.

Netanyahu: Street Stores Will Open Sunday; Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday made the following remarks after the Corona Cabinet meeting: "We just convened the Corona Cabinet. Just as we promised at the previous meeting, we will open street stores this coming Sunday. We are allowing four customers at a time, no more. "We also know that there has been a certain increase in morbidity; therefore, if we see this coming weekend, ahead of the major third stage, that there is an increase in morbidity, we will need to stop and maybe tighten the restrictions." At this stage, this is our decision – opening the stores and allowing four customers. And I request that everyone respect these rules."



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