

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update December 17, 2020 ***(2nd Tevet, 5781)***



[For the Yachad Report Newsletter For December 2020](#)

Government Will Not Impose New Restrictions over Hanukkah; The government will not impose new restrictions over the Hanukkah holiday despite the continued rise in coronavirus cases, it was announced Thursday afternoon. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Defense Minister Benny Gantz, and Health Minister Yuli Edelstein agreed to wait until after the holiday to consider such restrictions following opposition from several ministers in the government. The proposal for a night curfew will be dropped from the agenda and restrictions under the National Security Council's tightened restraint program will enter into force only when the number of new coronavirus cases reaches 2,500 per day. Under the Health Ministry draft recommendations which were submitted to the ministers, from December 10 to December 18, from 17:30 in the evening to 00:00 midnight, citizens would have been prohibited from staying in homes other than their place of residence in localities with a Jewish majority.

Siberian Synagogue Erects 10-foot Menorah Made of Ice; A synagogue in Tomsk, a Siberian city in Russia, has unveiled a giant Hanukkah menorah made of ice. The 10-foot menorah was erected Tuesday inside the synagogue yard. Tomsk, a city of roughly 500,000, is located about 2,000 miles east of Moscow. The menorah was made by Seva Mayorov, a local non-Jewish artist whose work also features regularly at the annual Tomsk Ice Park exhibition, which attracts thousands of tourists to the city annually. Tomsk carries symbolism for Russian Jewry. In 1876, it saw the erection of a different synagogue, built by Jews who were conscripted as child soldiers, often against their will, to serve in the czar's army. This year is the second time that Tomsk has boasted an ice menorah, but it features some upgrades to last year's version, including colorful LED lights that run through it and elaborate crown-shaped tips, according to the local rabbi, Levy Kaminetsky, a Chabad emissary who moved with his wife, Gitty, to Tomsk in 2004.

Rise in Israeli Strikes in Syria Correlates to Decrease in Iranian Activity; Iran's entrenchment in Syria is slowing down as a result of ongoing IDF operations which have increased over the past year, IDF Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Aviv Kochavi announced Friday. The IDF chief also revealed for the first time that the military has carried out cyberattacks. "The Iranian entrenchment in Syria is in a clear slowdown as a result of IDF activity, but we still have a long way to go to complete our goals in this arena," he said. The past year has seen an increase in pace and quality of Israeli strikes against Iranian assets in Syria, including kinetic operations as

well as an expansion of both covert and clandestine ones. “We have struck over 500 targets this year, on all fronts, in addition to multiple clandestine missions,” Kochavi said.

Lebanese PM Charged over Beirut Port Blast; A judge investigating the Beirut port explosion this past August has charged Lebanon’s caretaker Prime Minister Hassan Diab and three former ministers with negligence over the blast that killed 200 people and devastated swathes of the capital. Diab said in response that his conscience was clear and accused the judge of breaching the constitution. Judge Fadi Sawan called Diab and former finance minister Ali Hassan Khalil in for questioning next week, along with former public works ministers Ghazi Zeaiter and Youssef Finianos. Zeaiter, who said he would comment once he was officially informed, headed the public works ministry in 2014, soon after the Rhosus ship carrying tons of ammonium nitrate arrived at Beirut port. The highly explosive chemicals were stored for years in poor conditions at the port.

Oman Welcomes Morocco, Israel Normalization; Oman welcomed Morocco's announcement that it was establishing diplomatic ties with Israel and hoped the move would strengthen efforts towards a lasting and just peace in the Middle East, its foreign ministry said on Friday. Israel and Morocco agreed on Thursday to normalize relations in a deal brokered with US help, making Morocco the fourth Arab country after the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Sudan to set aside hostilities with Israel in the past four months. In a departure from longstanding US policy, President Donald Trump agreed as part of the deal to recognize Morocco's sovereignty over the disputed territory of Western Sahara. "(Oman) welcomes what Morocco's King Mohammed VI announced in his phone calls with US President Trump and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, and hopes this will further endeavors to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East," the statement said, without specifically mentioning what had been announced.

Israel Accepted into International Energy Agency; The State of Israel has been accepted into the International Energy Agency (IEA) after members of the agency voted unanimously in favor of the move. This is the first step towards becoming an official member of the IEA. The move came to fruition thanks to a joint diplomatic effort on the part of the Foreign Ministry backed by Israel's delegation to international organizations in Paris, alongside the Ministry of Energy. The International Energy Agency (IEA) is an organization that unites the largest energy consumers in the world and manages global energy costs while providing its members an international platform for the management of the national energy economy. Israel's admission into the prestigious organization is another reminder of the critical role the Jewish State plays in the regional and international energy sector, as well as its participation in fostering renewable energy and green energy sources. As a result of this development, Israel will now have access to critical sources of industry research and be able to connect with leading international players in these fields.

Israel to Begin Giving Coronavirus Vaccines Dec. 27; Speaking at a news conference on the day that the first several thousand Pfizer vaccines landed in Israel, he said the aim would be to administer jabs to 60,000 people per day, mainly through the local health funds. Every person who is vaccinated will receive a green passport and will be able to move freely, he added, though he and Health Minister Yuli Edelstein said the details of the program would be coming soon. “The more you get vaccinated, the more the economy will be able to open up,” Edelstein said Wednesday night. The health minister also announced that going forward, subject to two negative coronavirus tests, it will be possible to be released from isolation after 10 days. “In the coming days we will announce when it will start,” Edelstein said. “This is good news for the economy and citizens.”

Thousands of Israelis Pushed into Poverty Amid Pandemic; Some 268,000 new families have found themselves in a situation of “extreme poverty” this year amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, according to a report by the ERI Institute. It reports that almost three in 10 Israelis (29.3%) live in poverty (850,000 households) – 9.3% of the population – a number clearly exacerbated by the pandemic. The report also found

that Israel's middle class dwindled during the pandemic, shrinking by a total of 15.5%. More than half (50.7%) reported "significant economic damage," and only 23% of households report their financial situation to be "standard or above standard," compared to the 45% who said so prior to the pandemic.

West Bank Workers Entering Israel will be Required to Test for COVID-19; Due to the rapid spread of coronavirus throughout the West Bank and the increasing morbidity rates in the area and in Israel as a whole, the Defense Ministry has decided to start imposing mandatory coronavirus tests in border crossings for work permit holders entering Israel from the West Bank, COGAT spokesperson's office announced on Wednesday. Workers entering Israel who refuse to be tested would be prohibited from entering the country. The Home Front Command's "Alon" coronavirus HQ and the Civil Administration in COGAT will be tasked with managing the tests. Authorities have had trouble grasping the entire scope of morbidity rates in the West Bank for several reasons—the main issues being the lack of enforcement in the area and the phenomenon of fake medical documents becoming more popular and reaching Israel.

EU Members Slam Iran's Plan to Boost Enrichment; Plans by Iran to install advanced centrifuges at its main nuclear enrichment plant in Natanz are "deeply worrying," France, Germany, and the UK said on Monday. The three governments, dubbed the E3, said the plans were contrary to the 2015 agreement between Tehran and world powers that aimed to restrain Iran's nuclear program by barring sophisticated centrifuges. The E3 also warned Iran not to move ahead with a law that would see it boot UN inspectors and increase uranium enrichment. The development came days after Iran informed the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that it planned to install several cascades, or clusters, of advanced uranium-enriching centrifuges at the Natanz plant in violation of its commitments under the nuclear deal.

Satellite Imagery Indicates Iran Moving Nuclear Site Underground; Satellite imagery shows that Iran is moving its key Natanz nuclear site underground. Following the mysterious July explosion, which started a fire at the Natanz facility damaging key centrifuges, a Visual Investigations team began tracking construction and repairs at the site. On December 9, it was reported that "tunnel entrances for underground construction are [now] visible under a ridge in the mountain foothills south of the Natanz facility, about 140 miles south of Tehran."

Russia's Amb. to Israel Summoned to Foreign Ministry for Reprimand; Russia's ambassador to Israel has been summoned to the Foreign Ministry following an interview, in which the ambassador said that "Israel is a major problem in the Middle East." Foreign Ministry political-strategic desk head Ambassador Alon Bar rebuked Ambassador Anatoly Viktorov, saying that his remarks were inconsistent with the reality in the Middle East that was presented to the ambassador more than once, and discussed in political talks and diplomatic channels between the two countries. The leader clarified to the ambassador Israel's position and expectation that the discourse, including on regional issues, especially the Iranian threat and Iran's proxy organizations, especially Hezbollah, will take place via diplomatic channels, with reference to the reality and threats facing Israel, and not to "outrageous and dangerous false visions, as is customary and as has been the practice so far between the two countries."

Israeli Mask Maker Sonovia Completes IPO; Ramat Gan-based Israeli fabric maker and developer Sonovia has completed its initial public offering (IPO) following its success in developing the SonoMask, which has been lab-tested to neutralize the novel coronavirus at an effective rate of 99.34%. Sonovia's offering was oversubscribed, attracting a total of NIS 55.9 million (\$18.5 m.), of which NIS 35 million (\$10.7 m.) will be liquidated in stocks to public investors to represent 25.9% of the company at NIS 9.15 a share. Sonovia raised an additional NIS 12 million (\$3.7 m.) through a private offering. The company was valued at NIS 94 million (\$29 m.) before going public, with a NIS 141 million (\$43.4 m.) post-money valuation. The textile and chemical solvent manufacturer will now be listed on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. Since the decision to go public centered around the development of its patented bacteria eliminating technology, which

is thought to be where Sonovia will earn the bulk of its future capital, it will be traded as a technology company.



Robert I. Solomon: Messianic Rabbi, rabbisolomon@yachad.com

Jeffery Blalock: Ministries Coordinator, jeffery@yachad.com

Yachad Ministries, 950 Pine Grove Road, Roswell, Georgia 30075

E-mail: info@yachad.com, Web Page: www.yachad.com

Phone: 770-641-3000 (ext. 6)

Sharing Yeshua in unity with both Jew and Gentile

To unsubscribe [click here](#).