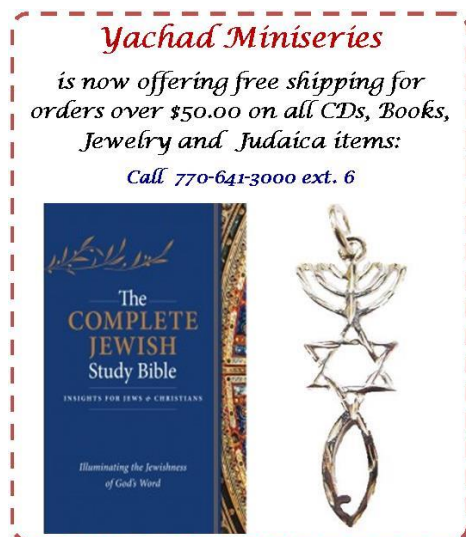


Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update February 11, 2021 (29th Shvat, 5781)



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New Israeli Drug Cured 29 of 30 Moderate/Serious COVID Cases in Days; A new coronavirus treatment being developed at Tel Aviv's Ichilov Medical Center has successfully completed phase 1 trials and appears to have helped numerous moderate-to-serious cases of COVID-19 quickly recover from the disease, the hospital said Friday. Hailing a "huge breakthrough," the hospital said Prof. Nadir Arber's EXO-CD24 substance had been administered to 30 patients whose conditions were moderate or worse, and all 30 recovered — 29 of them within three to five days. The medicine fights the cytokine storm — a potentially lethal immune overreaction to the coronavirus infection that is believed to be responsible for much of the deaths associated with the disease.

Netanyahu Scraps UAE, Bahrain Trip Over COVID-19 Restrictions; Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has canceled his planned trip to the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain for this week, citing the halting of all passenger flights in and out of Israel due to COVID-19, "despite the importance of the trip," the Prime Minister's Office said. "Netanyahu very much appreciates the invitations from Crown Prince [of Abu Dhabi], Sheikh Muhammad bin Zayed and the King of Bahrain, Hamad bin Issa al-Khalifa, and the historic peace between our countries," the PMO said in a statement. This is the third time Netanyahu has postponed a trip to the UAE due to corona-related restrictions and political developments at home.

Israeli Minister Proposes Making Vaccinations Mandatory, is Shot Down; During a cabinet meeting on Israel's coronavirus response Thursday, Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz proposed advancing legislation that would obligate the public to be inoculated, or face punitive measures, according to a television report. Steinitz compared the matter to sanctions on civilians who refuse to enter bomb shelters during wartime, Channel 12 News reported. The report said Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit shot down the proposal, asking, "Are you proposing to sanction anyone who runs away from a needle?" Additionally, the energy minister proposed vaccinating children aged 14-16 (an age group currently excluded from vaccination — only ages 16 and up participated in vaccine trials), suggesting Israel could lead trailblazing research on the matter.

US Senate Votes to Keep Embassy in Jerusalem Permanently; The US Senate voted overwhelmingly Thursday to keep the United States Embassy in Jerusalem, with only three senators voting against establishing

funding to maintain the diplomatic mission. In a move welcomed by Israel and bitterly opposed by the Palestinians, the Trump administration recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital in late 2017 and moved its embassy from Tel Aviv to the holy city in 2018. It was one of a string of diplomatic gifts delivered by former US President Donald Trump to Israel. President Joe Biden is expected to take a more balanced approach toward Israel and the Palestinians, but he has said he does not plan on moving the embassy back to Tel Aviv.

Paris Adopts IHRA Definition of Antisemitism; The city of Paris adopted the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism during a session of the Council of Paris on Thursday, joining a growing number of cities around the world, including London and more recently the French city of Nice, to make the move. The decision was taken by the Council of Paris, headed by Paris' Mayor Anne Hidalgo, which consists of 163 councilors and that is responsible for governing the French capital. The IHRA definition is an internationally agreed classification of antisemitism, which also provides contemporary examples of how antisemitism too often plays out in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere.

From Israel to Dubai: Vertical Farms Agreement Signed;

Israeli vertical farm company Future Crops signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the United Eastern Group (UEG) from the United Arab Emirates on Thursday to consider the joint establishment of vertical farms in one of the first agricultural cooperations between Israel and UAE companies. Vertical farms are indoor, multi-level facilities that optimize plant growth in a highly controlled environment, maximizing land usage and produce yields, which allows for pesticide-free produce to be farmed vertically within containers big enough to fit in a parking lot, using only one-tenth the amount of water usually needed. Future Crops announced the signing of the MOU, explaining that it will allow both parties to examine the establishment of a venture that will use Future Crops' vertical agriculture technology to establish a facility for growing various crops in the UAE.

Ruth Dayan, Matriarch of an Israeli Dynasty, Dies at 103; Ruth Dayan, the matriarch of one of Israel's most famous families, died on Friday, a month before her 104th birthday. The story of her life is entwined not only with contemporary Israeli history but with the story of the wandering Jews, who after centuries of exile, finally came home. Born in Haifa in March 1917, in the final period of Turkish rule as the elder daughter of Russian immigrants Rachel and Zvi Schwartz, she lived through the British conquest and subsequent mandate, the proclamation of the State of Israel, all the wars in which Israel was involved and in numerous efforts to resolve the conflict with the Palestinians.

Israeli Teams Discover Ancient Olive-Eating Practices Below the Sea; In an underwater site, dated to approximately 6,600 years ago, archeologists have discovered two stone structures filled with thousands of olive pits. The pits, most well preserved and whole, provide evidence that olives were processed industrially for eating at this very early stage. Previous evidence was unclear, with the earliest indications pointing to olives first being eaten in the first millennium BCE. Olives and their oil are a key ingredient in the Mediterranean diet and hold symbolic value in many countries. This latest study now shows that the residents of the area have not only been using olives for oil for thousands of years – as was previously revealed – but eating them as well.

Israel Nears Five Million COVID Vaccinations; Nearly five million doses of the coronavirus vaccine have been administered in Israel as of now, Health Minister Yuli Edelstein (Likud) announced Tuesday morning. Thus far, a total of 4,989,925 doses of the COVID vaccine have been administered since Israel's mass vaccination campaign was launched in December. Of those, 3,165,000 doses were given as a first dose, with 1,824,525 Israelis having received both doses of the two-dose vaccine. Edelstein announced that nearly 117,000 doses were administered Monday. "Almost 5 million doses of the coronavirus vaccine have been administered thus far." "We will defeat the virus because we have the best vaccination program anywhere - but the mutations have forced us to extend the lockdown for a little longer. I know this is not easy but we must

do it," he stated. A total of 34.35% of Israelis have received the first dose of the vaccine, with 19.80% having received the first and second doses.

Coronavirus: Businesses Losing Hope as Israel's 3rd Lockdown Continues; As Israel's third lockdown continues in its second month, anger has turned into a sense of hopelessness for small businesses. "At this point, I just don't know what to do," said Jan Elazar Refoua, who owns the Ora gift shop in Jerusalem's city center. "They tell us to close; they tell us to open. We can't go on like this. We have been here for 40 years, and we have always worked with tourists. But now there are no tourists. Other than a few people calling to place orders, there's nothing." "We have gotten some help from government grants, and they helped, but they aren't enough," he said. "If we open in the next week, we can keep the business going. But we don't want to sit at home getting grants. We want to work."

Israel, Kosovo Establish Diplomatic Ties Over Zoom; Israel and Kosovo officially established diplomatic relations in a ceremony held via Zoom video conference on Monday. It likely was the first ceremony of its kind in the world, the Foreign Ministry said. Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi signed three agreements, which the ministry scanned and sent to his Kosovar counterpart, Meliza Haradinaj-Stublla, to sign. Before the ceremony, Haradinaj-Stublla submitted a formal request to open an embassy in Jerusalem, which Ashkenazi accepted. "I hope to open the embassy soon with you," Ashkenazi said. He later presented a plaque to be installed on the future Kosovar Embassy in Jerusalem, which is expected to open in March. Ashkenazi touted the "warm and friendly relationship" between Kosovo and Israel. Kosovo is another Muslim-majority country that has established relations with Israel in the past year, he said.

Biden Orders USS Nimitz Aircraft Carrier Home; The United States aircraft carrier USS Nimitz, known for anchoring US power in the Middle East, has been ordered back home, US Naval Institute News said citing American officials. The move was seen as a possible signal to Iran to deescalate tensions amid efforts by the Biden administration to open negotiations on a new nuclear deal. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin instructed the carrier and the 5,000 sailors and Marines of its strike group to return home after being deployed for over 240 days.

Iran Deepens Breach of Nuclear Deal at Underground Enrichment Site; Iran has deepened a key breach of its 2015 nuclear deal, enriching uranium with a larger number of advanced centrifuge machines in an underground plant as it faces off with the new US administration on salvaging the accord. Tehran has recently accelerated its breaches of the deal, raising pressure on US President Joe Biden as both sides say they are willing to come back into compliance with the badly eroded agreement if the other side moves first. Iran began its breaches in 2019 in response to Washington's withdrawal in 2018 under then-President Donald Trump and the reposition of US economic sanctions against Tehran that were lifted under the deal.

Oscars: Israeli Team Wins Academy Award for Film Technology; An Israeli team won an Academy Award in the Scientific & Engineering category for 2021. The winners were announced on Tuesday night, and Prof. Meir Feder of the Iby and Aladar Fleischman Faculty of Engineering at Tel Aviv University and his former student and co-founding partner of the start-up Amimon, Dr. Zvi Reznic, shared the award with Amimon's senior executives, Guy Dorman and Ron Yogev. Every year, in addition to the winners of the traditional Oscars, the American Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announces winners in various scientific and technical categories, honored for the impact their work has had on the global film industry.

World's Oldest 'Emojis' Unearthed at Prehistoric Site in Israel; Did ancient humans communicate with prehistoric "emojis" over 120,000 years ago, before any form of written language was developed? According to new research by Israeli and French scholars, the answer is yes. Researchers from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the University of Haifa, alongside a team from the Le Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique in France, identified six subparallel incisions on a bone fragment uncovered in an open-air

Middle Paleolithic site near Ramle. Dating back 120,000 years ago, the fragment represents one of the oldest pieces of evidence of the use of symbols. The results of the study were recently published in the Quaternary International journal.

Israeli Archaeologists Reveal 'Glory' of King Herod's Palace after Decade of Conservation; A decade of archaeological conservation and restoration has revealed a wealth of new information and sites at the ancient palace of Herodium. Built by Herod the Great on top of the highest peak in the Judaeen Desert between 22 and 15 BC, the fortress-palace was abandoned at least 100 years later. Herod's palace sits today in the West Bank, about 7.5 miles south of Jerusalem and 3.1 miles south of Bethlehem. Archaeologists from the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA), Civil Administration, and the Israel Nature and Parks Authority have been working on the site for 10 years now. Their incredible work has restored an ancient theatre - one of the first theatres built in Israel - the Royal Guest House and an archway leading to the palace's "monumental staircase". The IAA said: "Come experience the glory of Herod's creation from 2,000 years ago." King Herod built the palace-fortress and small town at Herodium and is believed to have been buried there.



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