

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update July 22, 2021 **(13th Av, 5781)**



[For the Yachad Report Newsletter For July 2021](#)

IDF Requests Billions in Budget Increase to Boost Iran Attack Capabilities; The Israeli military has reportedly asked for a major budget increase so that it can strengthen its attack capabilities should it need to attack Iran's nuclear program. The request, worth billions of shekels, was made during preliminary discussions on the budget. Israel considers Iran's nuclear program as the number one concern and, according to recent intelligence assessments, if the Islamic Republic does decide to renege on the agreement, it would take one year for it to produce enough fissile material to make a nuclear bomb. According to Israeli assessments, Iran is less than a year away from a nuclear weapon and has accelerated its nuclear enrichment activity.

Iran Won't Resume Nuclear Talks until Raisi Takes Over; Iran is not prepared to resume negotiations on coming back into compliance with the 2015 nuclear deal until Iranian President-elect Ebrahim Raisi's administration has begun, a diplomatic source said on Wednesday. The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Iran had conveyed this to European officials acting as interlocutors in the indirect US-Iranian negotiations. The current thinking, added the source, is that the Vienna talks will not resume before mid-August. "They are not prepared to come back before the new government," said the source, saying it was not clear whether this meant until Raisi formally takes over on August 5 or until his government is in place. "We are now talking probably not before mid-August," added the source. Iran has gradually scaled back its compliance with the 2015 deal in response to former US President Donald Trump's withdrawal from the agreement in 2018 but has been holding indirect talks with the Biden administration on a return to the agreement.

Israeli Researchers Teach Computers to Read and Analyze Electrocardiograms Better than Cardiologists; The research group of Prof. Yael Yaniv of the Faculty of Biomedical Engineering at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa joined forces with the research groups of Prof. Alex Bronstein and Prof. Assaf Schuster of the Taub Faculty of Computer Science to create an AI-based system that automatically detects disease based on hundreds of electrocardiograms, which are currently the most widespread technology employed for the diagnosis of cardiac pathology. The new system automatically

analyzes electrocardiograms (ECGs) using augmented neural networks – the most prominent tool in deep learning today. These networks learn different patterns by training on a large number of samples, and the system developed by the researchers was trained on more than 1.5 million ECG segments sampled from hundreds of patients in hospitals in various countries. The system is sensitive enough to provide alerts regarding patients at risk of arrhythmia (irregular heartbeat) – even when the arrhythmia is not shown on the ECG printout. In addition, the rate of false alarms is very minimal. The new system also explains its decisions using the accepted cardiology terminology.

UN Funneling Millions to Terror-Linked Palestinian NGOs; From 2016 to 2020, the United Nations (UN) has funneled at least \$40 million to radical Palestinian Authority (PA) NGOs. "As with most rabidly anti-Israel NGOs, their names are innocuous and mislead people into thinking they promote human rights, but in reality, they peddle malicious anti-Israel agendas," said Eytan Meir, director of external relations and development for Im Tirtzu. The report further notes that the UN is not entirely transparent in its reporting. The UN reporting "often omits the 'implementing partners' that receive the funding to carry out the programs. This creates a situation in which millions of dollars in funding are unaccounted for," Im Tirtzu asserted. As a solution, Im Tirtzu advocated increased transparency and the passing of a UN-equivalent Taylor Force Act.

Israeli Authorities Seize Cryptocurrency Transfer from Hamas; Israel's National Bureau for Counter Terror Financing (NBCTF) last week released information regarding the seizure of cryptocurrencies that had been transferred to the Hamas organization. The report detailed that this was the first time such a wide variety of cryptocurrencies was seized, as the seizure also included cryptocurrencies other than Bitcoin - Tether, Ether, XRP, and more. The sum which was seized reportedly included funds meant for, but not limited to, the Izzadin al-Qassam Brigades (the Hamas military wing). Noa Mashlach, CEO of the Israeli Bitcoin Association, also responded to the seizure in a public statement, saying that "The seizure and forfeiture of Hamas's donations prove that Bitcoin is a safe currency." "Criminals who make use of this financial system will find out the hard way that the open transaction log, the blockchain, will expose them and allow law enforcement agencies to act against them," Mashlach said.

Israel-Morocco Ties Strengthen with Signing of First Cyber-Defense Deal; Israel and Morocco signed their first-ever cyber-defense accord to signal that fledgling relations between the two countries have continued to advance. The Israeli Defense Ministry was also involved in the deal. "The accord is for operational cooperation, research and development, and the sharing of information and knowledge," the Foreign Ministry said. Israel and Morocco have long held secret ties, but have only held low-level diplomatic ones from 1994-2000. Last year, the two re-established ties at a higher level, under the rubric of the Abraham Accords in which the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Sudan also normalized relations with Israel.

Anti-Semitic Content on TikTok Increases by 912%; A recent study shows a 912% increase in antisemitic content on TikTok. Led by Dr. Gabriel Weimann of the University of Haifa and Natalie Masri of IDC Herzliya's Institute for Counter-Terrorism, the two found that the rapid increase consisted of both anti-Semitic tropes, images, and rhetoric. The 912% refers to the number of anti-Semitic comments which grew from 41 anti-Semitic comments in 2020 to 415 in 2021. In October of 2020, TikTok updated its terms of service but Weimann worries that the platform is failing to take proper action. He explains that "They certainly should apply their own Terms of Use and they're failing to do so properly. Moreover, their algorithm just promotes hate by sending such messages to those who expressed interest, sending a user down a rabbit hole of hatred."

3,000-Year-Old Inscription Bearing Name of Biblical Judge Found in Israel; An inscription dating back some 3,100 years ago bearing the name of a biblical judge Jerubbaal was uncovered in the excavations at Khirbat er-Ra'i, near Kiryat Gat in the Southern District of Israel, the Antiquities Authority (IAA) announced

on Monday. The researchers highlighted that while there cannot be any certainty on whether the inscription refers to the figure mentioned in the Book of Judges, this discovery offers important insights into the connection between the biblical text and historical reality. Inscriptions from that period – the 12th-11th century BCE – are extremely rare. All the dating has been carried out through both pottery typology and radiocarbon of organic samples found in the same archaeological layer. The writing, inked on a jug, marks the first time that the name Jerubbaal has been found outside the biblical text. It is believed that the owner penned his name on the jug.

Diplomatic Push is on to Prevent Another Israel-Hamas War in Gaza; There is a diplomatic push to find a resolution to prevent another Gaza escalation, or even war, by removing some of the points of conflict between Israel and Hamas. As a sign that tensions are easing, Israel on Monday expanded the Gaza fishing zone from nine to 12 nautical miles, close to its prewar status of 15. This was combined with a series of diplomatic moves. There is a diplomatic push to find a resolution to prevent another Gaza escalation, or even war, by removing some of the points of conflict between Israel and Hamas. Egypt is brokering indirect talks between Israel and Hamas in an attempt to reach a permanent ceasefire, or at the very least ensure a prolonged situation of calm. The United Nations is also involved in the process with support from the United States and the EU. Last Thursday [Lynn] Hastings visited Gaza. Upon her return to Jerusalem on Friday, she called on Israel to fully open the crossings. “Without a return to the regular and predictable entry of goods into Gaza, the capacity of the UN and our partners to deliver critical interventions is at risk, as are the livelihoods of and basic services for the people in Gaza,” Hastings said.

Made-in-Israel Antiviral Nasal Spray Found Effective Against Covid; An antiviral nasal spray called Enovid that was developed in Canada and tested in the UK can reduce the viral loads in confirmed COVID-19 cases by 95% in 24 hours and 99% in 72 hours, a press release said on Sunday. According to the release, the Israeli-manufactured spray can be used up to five times a day. It's suitable for children as young as 12 years old, and the Ministry of Health approved it in January this year. It will go on sale in the coming week.

In Europe, Lapid Tells Nato Chief Israel Wants to Deepen Ties; Foreign Minister Yair Lapid met in Brussels with NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg on Monday, ahead of a series of bilateral talks with several of his European counterparts. Lapid expressed his desire to deepen ties with NATO and declared Israel's readiness to support the alliance on matters of intelligence, cybersecurity, counter-terrorism, climate change, maritime security, missile defense, and civilian emergency management. He also invited Stoltenberg to visit Israel. After the hour-long talk with Stoltenberg, Lapid was scheduled to hold short conversations with his counterparts from Germany, France, the Netherlands, and the Czech Republic.

Iranian Networks at Risk of More Cyberattacks, Officials Warn; A number of vulnerabilities, including a failure to implement proper security policies and a lack of timely updates, are putting Iranian networks at risk of cyberattacks, the Iranian Students News Agency (ISNA) reported on Monday, after a string of recent cyberattacks targeted transportation in Iran. Over 20 malware files were detected by Iranian Padvish antivirus software for different platforms of Windows, ESX, and firmware after the recent cyberattacks. According to ISNA, none of these files have been detected by global antivirus companies as of yet.

Vines Growing on Retaining Wall of Temple Mount Spell out God's Name; Sometimes, prophetic visions can appear in plain sight and still go largely unnoticed. Such was the case when a post appeared on Tik Tok showing the eastern retaining wall of the Temple Mount, an area bordered by a major thoroughfare. The ancient stones of Jerusalem host a variety of plant life including the prolific Throny Caper. Batya Vagshal, a religious Israeli woman, was shocked to see that the plants had grown to form the shapes of letters. The letters seemed to be ‘written’ in ktav ashuri (modern Hebrew script), the calligraphy style used in writing sacred texts. Three letters were clearly seen: ך (yud), ה (heh), ם (vav). These are, of course, the first three letters in

God's ineffable four-letter name (minus the final ה (heh). Rabbi Berger emphasized that such signs will begin to be more common. "It is not surprising that bushes will grow and spell out the name of God," Rabbi Berger said. "The pandemic, all of the recent tragedies, are preparing us to be ready to see the messages that are appearing. Anybody can go outside in the morning and see the Name of God spelled out in clouds, hear it in the wind or the birds' song. These things were always there but now they are becoming even clearer."

Second Orthodox Jew Drafted to MLB; On Tuesday, the Washington Nationals selected Elie Kligman with their 20th round pick of the MLB draft, making him the second observant Orthodox Jewish player drafted into the league. Kligman was drafted a day after the Arizona Diamondbacks picked right-handed pitcher Jacob Steinmetz as their 77th overall pick. Kligman is a catcher who took up the position in January, but also has experience at shortstop and on the mound, where he touches 90 mph, according to MLB.com. A high school senior from Las Vegas, Kligman is considered one of the best players in the state of Nevada. He was one of 175 high-schoolers who took part in the Area Code Baseball Games, which is viewed by MLB scouts.

Church to Apologize to UK Jews 800 Years after Laws that Led to Their Expulsion; A British Jewish leader says an anticipated apology from the Church of England for anti-Semitic laws enacted in 1222 is "better late than never." The church is planning a formal "act of repentance" for next year, the 800th anniversary of the Synod of Oxford, a set of laws that restricted Jews' rights to engage with Christians in England, according to a report Monday. The laws ultimately led to the expulsion of England's Jews in 1290. They were not officially readmitted until 1656.

Israeli Startup Bluegreen Water Technologies Wins Global Water Awards; BlueGreen Water Technologies, Ltd. ("BlueGreen"), a global water tech company that provides innovative solutions to toxic algae blooms, has been named the Global Water Awards "2021 Breakthrough Technology Company of the Year" by Global Water Intelligence (GWI). BlueGreen was selected as the early-stage technology company which has made the most impressive commercial breakthrough into the global water technology market for its groundbreaking solution to treat cyanobacteria blooms in bodies of water regardless of location, size, or shape. BlueGreen has transformed cyanobacteria treatment methodology with the use of its patented product formulations, Lake Guard™ □ Blue and the Lake Guard™ □ Oxy, which float along the surface of the infected body of water to ignite a 'suicide response' within the toxic algal species. The bloom dissipates within hours, without causing harm to the aquatic ecosystems flora or fauna. With thousands of commercial applications in four continents and proprietary satellites technology in use, BlueGreen operates globally to track toxic blue-green algae blooms and then treat them to counteract and rehabilitate the infected water source.



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