

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update December 2, 2021 (28th Kislev, 5782)



For the Yachad Report Newsletter For December 2021

Iran Very Close to Bomb, Plans are Ready if Diplomacy Fails; A top US general said Iran has the ability to build a nuclear weapon in a very short time and that the US military is ready with other options to prevent this should diplomacy fail. “Our president said they’re not going to have a nuclear weapon,” General Kenneth McKenzie, commander of US Central Command, told TIME magazine in comments published Wednesday, November 24. “The diplomats are in the lead on this, but Central Command always has a variety of plans that we could execute, if directed.” While other US officials have spoken in recent days of “other options” should efforts to bring Iran back to the nuclear deal fail, McKenzie’s comments were the clearest to date as regards an American military option. Reports in recent days have indicated that both the US and Israel believe Iran has pushed far enough ahead with its illegal enrichment program that it could build a nuclear weapon within a matter of weeks to months, should it choose to do so. The UN nuclear watchdog told member nations in its confidential quarterly report last week that Iran has an estimated stock of 17.7 kilograms (39 pounds) of uranium enriched to up to 60% fissile purity, an increase of almost 8 kilograms since August. The highly enriched uranium is only a short technical step from becoming weapons-grade. However, McKenzie said that Iran still did not have a weapon design small enough to fit on the top of a ballistic missile, nor did it have the technology for the warhead to survive re-entry from space. Secretary of State Antony Blinken has spoken of “other options,” although negotiator for the JCPOA talks Rob Malley, in an interview this week with the US broadcaster NPR, made it clear the United States was thinking foremost of economic pressure. Nevertheless, Malley warned that Washington would not “sit idly” if Iran delayed progress at the talks.

No Progress in Talks with Iran; The UN nuclear watchdog said on Wednesday, November 24, there had been “no progress” in talks with Tehran on disputes over the monitoring of Iran’s atomic program. Rafael Grossi, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), told a quarterly meeting of the agency’s board that talks he held in Tehran on Tuesday, November 23, were “inconclusive” despite being “constructive”, according to the AFP news agency. Grossi had sought to tackle constraints put on IAEA inspections earlier this year, outstanding questions over the presence of undeclared nuclear material at sites in Iran, and the treatment of IAEA staff in the country. “In terms of the substance... we were not able to make progress,” Grossi told reporters, saying that the lack of agreement had come “in spite of my best efforts”. Behrouz Kamalvandi, spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, told Iranian television his team “tried until the last moment” but there is still work to be done. Iran said last week it had invited Grossi for

talks after he expressed concern over a lack of contact with Iranian authorities. Days before the invitation, the IAEA chief said it was “astonishing” that he has had no contact with the new Iranian government over several important outstanding issues since it took office. Grossi visited Iran in September, where he reached an agreement with the government over access to surveillance equipment at Iranian nuclear facilities. His latest visit to Tehran came ahead of the scheduled resumption on Monday of negotiations between Iran and world powers aimed at reviving the 2015 nuclear deal. The United States said it was "disappointed" by the outcome of Grossi's visit and said it was ready to negotiate in Vienna. "But of course Iran's failure to cooperate is a bad sign about their seriousness in a successful conclusion to our negotiations," a State Department spokesperson said.

Iran Coming to Talks Only to Get Sanctions Lifted; Israeli Foreign Minister of Foreign Affairs Yair Lapid (Yesh Atid) on Monday, November 29, met the United Kingdom's Foreign Secretary, Elizabeth Truss, at the Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office in London. At the start of his remarks, Lapid said, "I know that we are committed to the same goal – Iran will never be allowed to get a nuclear weapon." "The Iranians are coming to these talks for only one reason - to get sanctions lifted," Lapid stressed. "They will play for time, earn billions from the removal of sanctions, continue to deceive the world, and covertly advance their nuclear program. This is what they have done in the past, and it is what they will do this time as well." "The world must prevent this, and it can prevent this. Tighter sanctions. Tighter supervision. Conduct any talks from a position of strength." He added: "Foreign Secretary Truss and I signed today a memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation between our countries. This is not only an agreement between close friends but between two technological superpowers. This MoU will lead to a free trade agreement between the United Kingdom and Israel. It will strengthen economic, security, technological and cultural ties between us. "This agreement is not just a win-win, but a must-must," he concluded.

Cabinet Unanimously Approves Further Immigration from Ethiopia; The cabinet unanimously approved renewed immigration from Ethiopia from among the community of descendants of Jews, against the background of a severe civil war in the country. The decision on Sunday, November 28, to approve the government resolution – which in effect is the ongoing implementation of a previous government resolution from 2015 – will initially bring 3,000 Ethiopians to Israel. Should the number of eligible candidates for immigration exceed 3,000, the government would need to pass a new resolution to appropriate a separate budget for their immigration and absorption. The budget allocated for the immigration and absorption of the first 3,000 immigrants totals NIS 570 million. Under the terms of Sunday’s decision, those who comply with the terms of government resolution 716 from 2015 and who have first-degree relatives in Israel – either a parent, child or sibling – will be able to immigrate. Resolution 716 called for bringing all remaining members of this group to Israel, and 4,500 have arrived since then. Those eligible for immigration now will be allowed to bring with them their spouses, minor-age children, and unmarried adult children. Someone whose parents came to Israel and died here will also be allowed to immigrate.

Special Radiation Can Kill Covid-19 and Polio Virus, Israeli Study Shows; A special form of radiation known as millimeter waves can kill 99% of corona and polioviruses from surfaces within two seconds, new research from scientists at Ariel University has shown. The results can have important implications on how to disinfect environments and equipment in a fast and efficient way. “Our laboratory focuses on electromagnetic radiation sources,” said Prof. Moshe Einat from the Department of Electrical Engineering, and a co-author of the study recently published in the journal Environmental Chemistry Letters. “This type of radiation operates in the millimeter-wave regime, which means that they have a wavelength of about three millimeters. Just for comparison, the radiation from a cellphone has a wavelength of about 30 centimeters, and that from a microwave of about 12 centimeters.” Millimeters waves have many applications. In the medical field, preliminary research has shown that they can be very effective in targeting tumors and killing cancerous cells. In addition, they can be used to transfer energy and electricity without using wires, as well as in the

manufacturing process of unique materials such as synthetic diamonds. It does not appear that the technology can currently target the virus in the human body, “but it can be very useful for rooms, equipment and all forms of surfaces that need to be clear from any virus and coronavirus specifically,” said Garlitz, lead author of the study. According to Garlitz, the big advantage offered by millimeter waves is that they can disinfect a surface very fast. “Other methods currently used for this purpose, like UV radiation, take minutes and sometimes even a full hour, and in addition, they might be toxic for humans, which makes the disinfection process very impractical,” he said. “With our technique, we have cleared almost 99.9% of the virus within two seconds.” The radiation is also very gentle on the surfaces, neither heating them nor affecting them and therefore can be used on delicate surfaces such as electronic equipment. The scientists also tried the same technology with the poliovirus and obtained similar results.

Biological Institute Examining Omicron Characteristics in Safety Lab; The Israel Institute for Biological Research (IIBR) is examining the characteristics of the Omicron variant in its national safety laboratories at the request of the Health Ministry, the Defense Ministry told The Jerusalem Post. The institute will use samples from one of the verified cases in the country or work to bring in samples in a controlled manner for abroad. So far, only two Israelis have been confirmed to be carrying the variant. IIBR spearheaded the creation of a coronavirus vaccine candidate that is expected to remain effective against new variants, research has shown. Earlier this month, the Post reviewed reports that showed via neutralizing antibody tests performed in the IIBR lab that the vaccine’s antibodies maintain their neutralization capacity against all four major viral strains: Alpha, Beta, Gamma and Delta. The data was submitted for peer review by The New England Journal of Medicine. BriLife is being managed by the American pharmaceutical company NRx, which in July signed an agreement with the Defense Ministry to help fast-track the vaccine. The company, which is traded on Nasdaq, was given exclusive worldwide development, manufacturing and marketing rights. The BriLife vaccine, in contrast, is a vector-based vaccine. It takes the vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV) and genetically engineers it so that it will express the spike protein of the novel coronavirus on its envelope. Once injected, it does not cause a disease by itself. VSV does not harm humans; instead, the body recognizes the spike protein that is expressed on the envelope and begins to develop an immunological response. The vaccine will initially be delivered by traditional injection. “The BriLife vaccine differs from other COVID-19 vaccines by presenting the entire COVID-19 spike protein to the body’s immune system,” NRx explained in a release in August. “It also differs from other COVID-19 vaccine approaches in that it is a self-propagating, live-virus vaccine in which the spike protein of the vaccine appears to evolve in a manner consistent with the evolution of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in nature. “Thus, while variants may arise that support manual enrichment of the vaccine against those specific variants, the vaccine itself may continue to evolve in a manner that provides ongoing protection against variants,” the release said. It is too early to know if BriLife would be equally as effective against the Omicron variant, but such tests will be conducted, the Post confirmed. While Pfizer is also still testing the effectiveness of its vaccine against Omicron and would likely only know more in the next two weeks, the Health Ministry said on Sunday that the variant is not expected to cause severe disease among those who are vaccinated.

British PM in Hanukkah Message: Let’s Drive Away the Darkness of Anti-Semitism; British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Sunday, November 28, decried anti-Semitism in a video message released in honor of the first night of Hanukkah. “The very happiest of Hanukkahs to everyone who’s lighting the menorah this week, and for the Jewish community, it’s time to fry some latkes, spin some dreidels and remember the triumph of Judah and his band of Maccabees, who didn’t have the numbers in their favor but who came out on top thanks to a tactical nous and a rock-solid belief in the righteousness of their cause,” said Johnson. Hanukkah, he added, “is a great opportunity to celebrate our fantastic Jewish community and all they bring to British life and to reflect on what we all need to do to preserve that. Because the Seleucids weren’t the first to try to erase Judaism, they certainly and tragically, weren’t the last.” “This Hanukkah let’s all light a candle for

our Jewish friends and family, neighbors and colleagues, and together let's drive away the darkness of anti-Semitism, not just for the next eight days, but every day. Chag Sameach," concluded Johnson.

Historic Hanukkah Sling Stone Discovered in South Hebron Hills; A lead projectile dating back to the times of the Maccabees was discovered by the Civil Administration's Archaeological Department on Sunday, November 28. The 3 cm projectile carries the name of Diodotus Tryphon, a Hellenist king who reigned over the Seleucid Empire from 142-138 BC. A symbol representing Zeus, the ancient Greek religion's king of the gods, is also etched onto the projectile. The projectile was discovered at Zif, an archaeological site in South Hebron Hills. Tryphon is known for the assassination of Jonathan, one of Mattathias' sons, Judah Maccabee's successor as leader of the Maccabees and High Priest of Judea. Jonathan was the younger brother of Judah Maccabee, who led the Maccabean Revolt against the Seleucid Empire in 167-160 BC after King Antiochus IV Epiphanes issued decrees forbidding Jewish religious practice. After restoring Jewish worship at the Second Holy Temple in Jerusalem, leading to its rededication — Which is celebrated on Hanukkah — Judah Maccabee appointed Jonathan as High Priest. He eventually became Maccabee's army commander following the death of Judah. "We continue to discover new findings that add to the rich history that took place in the West Bank hundreds and thousands of years ago," said Civil Administration Archaeological Department officer Hananya Hizmi.

Time is Running Out to Stop Iran, Israel's Point is Clear; President Isaac Herzog called on the UK to be tough in the upcoming nuclear negotiations with Iran, in his meeting with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson at Downing Street on Tuesday, November 23. Johnson said that Israel's point was "well-made, and we see a situation in which the world doesn't have much time." Herzog said that Israel expects its allies to be tough with Iran since it does not believe that Iran can be trusted, and is using the talks to continue its pursuit of an illicit nuclear capability. The way to do that, he said, was to make sure that all options are on the table, implying a military option. "As you enter your negotiations with the P5+1 on the Iranian nuclear situation, we are looking forward for our allies in the P5+1 to be as tough as possible, because we do not believe that they are operating in a bona fide manner, and only if all options are on the table may things move in the right direction," Herzog said. The president also thanked Johnson for the UK's recent decision to label all of Hamas as a terrorist organization. "This is a very important message to terror organizations and global radicals trying to undermine the situation in the Middle East," said Herzog. Johnson concurred, saying "it was a difficult and controversial decision but I think the right thing, and by the way, a decision that I think was almost immediately vindicated by the appalling incident that we saw in Israel. Terrible, terrible thing."

Bennett Says Israel Will Not be Bound to Nuclear Deal with Iran Israel will not be bound by a new nuclear deal with Iran, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said Tuesday, November 23. "We hope the world does not blink, but if it does, we do not intend to. We stand at the outset of a complex period," Bennett added. The remarks came ahead of talks next week in Vienna, Austria, with the parties to the 2015 nuclear deal. Tuesday was the first time Bennett laid out his policy toward Iran since taking office earlier this year. Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz echoed the statements this week, reiterating that the Jewish state will not allow Iran to obtain a nuclear weapon. In an interview with Fox News earlier this year, Gantz said his country has been updating plans to strike Iranian nuclear facilities. Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Mariano Grossi was in Iran on Tuesday for talks. His goal: to get greater access from Iran to inspect nuclear sites. The inspectors have not had access to surveillance cameras in Iran's declared nuclear facilities. "I hope to establish a fruitful and cooperative channel of direct dialogue so the (IAEA) can resume essential verification activities in the country," Grossi tweeted.

Record Number of Hate Crimes Against Jews and Christians in Europe (Op-Ed); The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) released a report on how hate crimes against Christians and Jews have increased dramatically. Compared to the previous year (578), it means a 70 percent increase in

crimes against Christians. The number of anti-Semitic hate crimes also increased, from 600 to 2,316. "The massive increase in the number of hate crimes should open the eyes of political and cultural elites", warned Madeleine Enzberger, director of the Observatory on intolerance and discrimination: "In the media and politically, hatred for Christians it is hardly noticed". And the actual number of hate crimes is significantly higher than reported. Only eleven countries submitted data on crimes. But the Council of Europe is engaged in progressive advertising in favor of the hijab... In Germany, a creeping war is underway against everything that symbolizes Christianity: attacks on crosses placed on top of the mountains, sacred statues on the street, churches and recently also cemeteries. A local newspaper reports that in Dülmen, a city with fewer than 50,000 inhabitants, "not a day goes by without religious statues being attacked in the urban center and in the immediate vicinity". In France, on average two churches are vandalized every day. Meanwhile, a poll by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee of leaders of Jewish communities in Europe found that 23% are considering emigrating. More than two-thirds said they expected an increase in anti-Semitism in Europe over the next decade, and 22% said they didn't feel safe in their cities, up from 7% in 2008. Speaking to Le Point, Pinchas Goldschmidt, the president of the Conference of European Rabbis, when asked if he feels safer on the street, in Moscow, where he lives, or in Paris or Brussels where he goes regularly, replied: "I feel much safer in Moscow. Especially since I was personally attacked in Brussels. Three months ago I met Jews in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, who moved there because they feel safer than in Paris or Brussels. In an Arab country!". Then Goldschmidt gets out impressive numbers: "A few years ago, there were 1.6 million Jews left in Europe. Today that number has dropped by at least 300,000."

Israeli Squash Team Goes to Court to Fight Ban from World Championship; The Israel Squash Association (ISA) plans to take the World Squash Federation (WSF) to the Court of Arbitration for Sport if it does not ensure Israeli players can participate in the world championship in Malaysia next month. The Men's World Team Squash Championship, set for December 7, was moved from New Zealand to Malaysia in May, due to COVID-19 restrictions in the original location. However, Israelis are not able to visit Malaysia, and the Squash Racquets Association of Malaysia (SRAM) ignored the ISA when it inquired about the possibility of receiving special visas so its players could attend. When WSF president Zena Wooldridge followed up on the matter, the Malaysian association responded on September 27 that the Israelis would not be allowed to participate. "As you may be aware, there are, sadly, long-standing sensitivities surrounding the Israel-Palestine conflict," SRAM president Gerard Monteiro wrote, adding that Malaysia "would not be able to guarantee [Israeli players'] safety and well-being." "As is encountered across the world, there are sympathizers of the conflict who will not hesitate to take extreme measures to display their displeasure toward the nation of Israel and her people." Wooldridge told the Israelis that she had not yet found a way to enable them to attend the championship in Kuala Lumpur. On October 5, ISA chairman Aviv Bushinsky wrote to WSF CEO William Louis-Marie to express the Israeli team's disappointment. "On the one hand, we are explicitly being discriminated against, and therefore, unable to participate," Bushinsky wrote. "Yet on the other hand, if we insist on realizing our basic rights" – to inclusiveness, according to the WSF's by-laws – "a state that is far from being a squash superpower would lead to the cancellation of the event that is so important for the sport worldwide." As such, he suggested moving this year's World Team Squash Championship to Israel, where all competitors from all nations would be guaranteed equal participation, or to award Israel the opportunity to host a future championship in the next two years. Sport and Culture Minister Chili Tropper appealed to Wooldridge, calling the situation "particularly absurd" in light of the fact that the Israeli Squash Association was invited by the World Squash Federation to participate and paid all fees and dues. "I find it impossible to believe that in this modern era, there is still a place for discrimination, as well as the mixing of political considerations and sport," Tropper wrote. The minister pointed out that in 2019, the International Paralympic Committee canceled the International Swimming Championship due to Malaysia's refusal to allow Israeli athletes to enter the country. That same year, the International Olympic Committee issued sanctions on the Iranian judo association for not allowing Israelis to participate in the competition that they hosted. And Qatar has guaranteed that Israeli players and spectators will be able to attend the FIFA World

Cup even though the countries don't have diplomatic relations. On Friday, November 19, Wooldridge wrote to Tropper that it "welcomes Israel's entry to this championship," the barrier to Israel's entry "does not sit with WSF," and "the door is not yet closed on this." "We agree that politics should not interfere to prevent any nations' players from participating," she wrote, adding that the WSF did not anticipate the difficulty in obtaining visas for the Israeli team. However, Wooldridge said that in light of the tournament already being moved once, it would be too difficult to move it again on such short notice, so she will continue working to try to get visas for the Israeli players.

Israeli Technology May Protect Millions of Ghanaian Residents from Floods; The Israeli start-up company GEOX has developed technology that can predict floods and build dams, which will protect residents in Ghana from flooding disasters. The project, worth more than \$200 million and funded by the World Bank, uses three-dimensional mapping of routes, areas, and buildings, which then helps estimate in advance which areas will be flooded during heavy rain and quickly alerts local residents. Furthermore, the technology can be used to design a dam system and protect river tides to reduce the risk of floods. Many Ghanans have suffered enormous property damage as a result of repeated floods. GEOX's mapping is based on work by Ofek Aerial Photography, which is processed and analyzed using AI so that specific predictions about each building can be made – such as whether it will be flooded and to what extent – and warnings can be issued accordingly to residents. Simultaneously, the technology helps optimal planning of investments in infrastructure and protection systems. This is done by examining scenarios and models of rainwater and its impact on buildings. "With the help of proper planning based on information, it is possible to provide protection [and] save lives and property from the climate crisis and the rapidly changing world," according to GEOX CEO Itzik Levy. "In addition, we want to provide solutions anywhere in the world for all types of damage as a result of strong winds, fires, earthquakes, etc." The technology by GEOX, founded in 2018, is currently used by insurance companies, banks, and local authorities in Israel, the US, Europe, and Australia to perform in-depth analyses of buildings.

4 Israeli Universities Featured Among Top 50 Producers of Entrepreneurs; Four Israeli universities were listed in PitchBook's 2021 ranking of 50 leading undergraduate programs that produce the most VC-backed entrepreneurs, including Tel Aviv University, which ranked in the top 10. The annual PitchBook study ranks programs across categories such as top 50 undergraduate programs, top 25 MBA programs, top 25 undergrad programs for female founders, and top 25 MBA programs for female founders. The 2021 study was released last week. PitchBook Data is a company that delivers data and research covering mergers and acquisitions, VC, and private equity funds. In the ranking, Tel Aviv University came in at 8th place, for the fourth consecutive year; Technion-Israel Institute of Technology placed 12th, for the second consecutive year; Hebrew University of Jerusalem moved up one spot from last year to 31st; and the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev placed 44th, up two spots from 2020. Stanford University, University of California, Berkeley, and Harvard University nabbed first, second and third place respectively, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and University of Pennsylvania rounded out the top five. Harvard took over the third spot in 2021 from MIT, which moved down to the fourth place.

Greg Joseph, the NFL's only Jewish Kicker, Talks Football and Judaism; The only Jewish kicker in the NFL for years now, Greg Joseph is used to how mentally taxing the position can be. On Sunday, November 21, he found himself in another one of its do-or-die situations. With two seconds left to go in a tied game against the division-leading Green Bay Packers on Sunday, Joseph kicked his Minnesota Vikings to victory with a 29-yard field goal, keeping the team's playoff hopes alive. He was carried off the field by his teammates. Joseph, who attended Jewish schools in Florida after immigrating from South Africa, said he deals with the pressure of being a kicker by working on having "confidence and faith in my abilities." Joseph's kick Sunday night harkened back to a similar moment three years ago, when he kicked a game-winner for the Cleveland Browns in only his third game as a pro — hours after affixing a mezuzah to the doorpost of his

apartment. The 27-year-old's career as one of the league's handful of Jewish players has been a rollercoaster ride, ranging from the lows of being released by multiple teams in a year to the highs of a steady starting role. This season, he is the starting kicker for the Minnesota Vikings, making 84% of field goal attempts so far on a team trying to claw its way to a playoff spot. Through it all — five teams in three years — he has remained engaged in the local Jewish communities of the cities he has traveled through. In Cleveland, he showed up to a 5-year-old's birthday party at a Jewish school and put up his mezuzah with the help of a local Chabad-Lubavitch rabbi. Last year on the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, he joked, "I think we had a league-leading three Jews on one team" — himself, quarterback Josh Rosen and offensive lineman Ali Marpet. "That sense of community, no matter where I've been, you have people reach out and offer their support — Shabbat dinners, anything you need, home-cooked meals. ... Just all because they hear I'm Jewish, which is pretty crazy because they don't even know me that well, and I don't even know them at all," he told JTA. "I've always thought that's a cool aspect of the community and support system that it brings."

11-Year-Old Finds 'Holy Jerusalem' Silver Coin Likely Minted in the Temple; A rare silver coin from the first century was found by an 11-year-old girl volunteering in an archaeological project, the Antiquities Authority (IAA) announced on Tuesday, November 23. The coin was likely minted by a priest who joined the Jewish rebels against the Romans, which would make it one of the very few remains coming directly from the Temple. "This is a rare find since out of many thousands of coins discovered to date in archaeological excavations, only about 30 are coins made of silver from the period of the Great Revolt," said Dr. Robert Kool, head of the Coin Department at the IAA. The coin, made of pure silver, weighs 14 grams. On one side it features a cup and the inscription: "Israeli shekel" and "second year," referring to the second year of the revolt (67-68 CE). On the other side, another inscription reads "Holy Jerusalem" in ancient Hebrew script, accompanied by another word that according to the experts refers to the headquarters of the High Priest in the Temple. Archaeologist Ari Levy, who lead the excavation on behalf of the IAA, said the street where it was found, "which connected the Shiloah Pool in the south of the City of David to the Temple Mount in the north, was Jerusalem's main street during the Second Temple period, where thousands of pilgrims marched on their way to the Temple. There is no doubt that there would have been extensive trading here. This is evidenced by the many weights and bronze coins we have found here. But to find a rebel coin made of pure silver is definitely very special and exciting."

Donate



*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: <https://www.yachad.com/>*

Phone: 770-641-3000 (ext. 6)
Sharing Yeshua in unity with both Jew and Gentile

To unsubscribe [click here.](#)

()