

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update May 12, 2022 ***(11th Iyyar, 5782)***



[*For the Yachad Report Newsletter For May 2022*](#)

Elad Victim Unknowingly Offered Ride to Terrorists Only to be Killed on Arrival; A total of 16 children were left fatherless Thursday night, May 5, after a terrorist attack in Elad in which Yonatan Habakkuk, father of five, Boaz Gol, father of five, and Oren Ben Yiftach, father of six, were murdered. The three men were killed by terrorists armed with knives and axes in the central Israel city. Four others were also injured. Others are now dealing with the shock and trauma the attack caused. One of the victims in Thursday's terror attack drove the terrorists to the scene of the attack under the impression that he was helping by offering him a ride, it was revealed on Friday afternoon. When they arrived, one of the terrorists attacked and killed him. The families of the three victims are trying to cope with the deaths of their loved ones. Thousands of people attended the funerals of those killed in the attack in Elad on Friday. Yonatan Habakkuk's funeral left his hometown of Elad towards the Yarkonim Cemetery in Petah Tikva, where he was buried. At the same time, the funeral of Boaz Gol set out from Elad to Jerusalem, where he was laid to rest. Oren Ben Yiftach's funeral took place in Lod, his hometown.

Palestinians, Israeli Police Clash as Temple Mount Reopens to Jewish Visitors; Fresh clashes broke out Thursday, May 5, between Palestinians and Israeli police at the Temple Mount after the flashpoint Jerusalem holy site was reopened to Jewish visitors amid threats by the Gaza-ruling Hamas. The Temple Mount was shuttered to Jews on April 21 until the end of Ramadan, as part of a years-long policy of barring non-Muslims from the compound for the final days of the Muslim holy month. This year's closure came after days of clashes at the Temple Mount that began the morning of April 15, when Friday prayers for Ramadan, Passover, and Good Friday all coincided. Non-Muslims were again allowed back on the Temple Mount as of 7 a.m. Thursday, as groups of Jews lined up at the Mughrabi Bridge, from where non-Muslim visitors are required to enter the holy site. Video from the Temple Mount showed Palestinians shouting chants in Arabic as Jewish visitors passed by, including "God is great" and "with spirit, with blood, we'll redeem Al-Aqsa!" Scuffles erupted shortly later, when police said dozens of rioters began yelling "incitement" and hurled rocks and other objects toward officers, who responded with riot dispersal means. Police later said they arrested 21 suspects that took part in the morning clashes.

Israel Celebrates 74th Independence Day with Flyovers, Barbecues and a Bible Quiz; Israelis hit parks, beaches, nature sites, and other open spaces for barbecues and other festivities on Thursday, May 5,

as the country celebrated its 74th Independence Day. In an annual highlight on Thursday morning and early afternoon, Air Force aircraft flew over much of the country, a popular and iconic feature of celebrations. The flyover included F-15, F-16, and F-35 fighter jets; Lavi training aircraft; C-130 cargo planes; a Boeing refueling plane; Black Hawk, Sea Stallion, Panther, and Apache helicopters; and Israel Aerospace Industries Heron drones. It will be the first time IAI drones participate in the flyover. This year, the military added a flyby over the West Bank city of Hebron and the adjacent settlement of Kiryat Arba. It marks the first time the flyby passes over that particular area, but not the first time for all West Bank communities. The IDF said the move was not a political statement, but related to the size of the community. Other events Thursday included the annual International Bible Quiz in Jerusalem, which saw a new host in Ofer Hadad, after longtime stalwart and Hebrew language aficionado Avshalom Kor retired.

Mandatory COVID Testing at Ben Gurion to End on May 20; Passengers who land at Ben Gurion Airport starting on May 20, 2022, will not be required to perform a PCR test, Health Minister Nitzan Horowitz announced Sunday, May 8, in agreement with Prime Minister Naftali Bennett. The decision was made in light of the decline in morbidity data and at the end of discussions that took place between the professionals in the Health Ministry and the staff of the Airports Authority. It was agreed that the professionals would formulate a mechanism for maintaining the suitability of the testing system at Ben Gurion Airport, in order to allow it to be reactivated quickly if necessary, in full or in part. In addition, the Health Minister and the Chairman of the Constitution Committee, MK Gilad Kariv, agreed that starting this Tuesday, May 10, foreigners flying to Israel will also be allowed to use an antigen test instead of a PCR test if they so choose before boarding their flights. A tourist who chooses the antigen alternative will be required to perform the test in the 24 hours prior to their departure to Israel.

'Bio' Food, Precision Oncology to Take Center Stage at Biomed Summit in Tel Aviv; Some of the innovative scientific developments behind leading food technologies, as well as new cancer treatments, will take center stage at the upcoming Biomed Israel summit next week, an annual conference on life sciences and health tech that brings together scientists, healthcare professionals, entrepreneurs, and investors from dozens of countries across the world. This year, the three-day conference is marking its 20th anniversary with 10 different tracks — infectious diseases, robotics in the medical field, and AI and machine learning, among others, in addition to precision cancer diagnostics and therapies, and “bio food” and its impact on human health. Each track will be chaired by a professional leader in their relevant field and the conference, which organizers say expects about 6,000 people, will also host an exhibition where hundreds of Israeli companies can present their products and technologies. Dr. Tammy Meiron, CTO at Israel’s Fresh Start Food Tech Incubator and the chair of the food tech track, told The Times of Israel that the sessions will focus on “bio-food technologies and how we adapt biotech into the food tech arena to produce more sustainable food.” “There’s a growing consensus that, due to the climate crisis, we have to find better ways to feed the growing [world] population. There are increasing demands for food and there are ethical aspects of growing our food from animals,” said Meiron. “This younger generation is more aware of this [issue], and it’s also the first generation to come to realize the dangers of the climate crisis,” she added. These dangers have been described as a “code red for humanity” that requires urgent action by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). “We have a window of about 10 years. It is critical that we deliver solutions in food tech,” she said. Meiron is an experienced food tech professional, having headed the protein department at US biochemical company Sigma Aldrich (later acquired by Merck) where she led production on more than 450 different proteins and enzymes, before joining Fresh Start in 2019. The food-tech incubator, based in the northern Israel city of Kiryat Shmona, is a project led by the Israel Innovation Authority together with Israeli company Tnuva, beverage firm Tempo, Israeli investment company OurCrowd, and Finistere Ventures, a global investor in food tech and agritech. “We incubate companies for 2-3 years and bring them to the next level of investment. So far we have supported eight companies and intend to support at least 40 by 2028,” she explained. Fresh Start is

currently working with seven companies including one that is developing cell-cultured fish and two that are working on sugar reduction technologies.

How Moving from Sadness to Joy can Affect the Brain; Remembrance Day is one of the most difficult days on the Israeli calendar. For 24 hours, people gather in collective mourning for the country's fallen soldiers and victims of terrorism. Two sirens mark the day, one at nightfall and one the following morning. The country's cemeteries are packed with families and friends of fallen loved ones, and with those who did not know them, but still wish to remember them. Then, as the sun begins to dip and the sky begins to darken, a change occurs. Firework displays are prepared, grills are fired up and the country shifts into celebrating Independence Day. After 24 hours of shared sadness, the country turns to 24 hours of shared celebration. The holidays of Remembrance Day and Independence Day are not one after the other by coincidence. Rather, they follow the belief that without one we cannot have the other, and that the shared grief must turn into shared joy, to honor what was saved and created by those who fell protecting it. But how does this affect us psychologically? Is it really something that can be done with ease, this shift from intense grief to happiness? What toll does it take on the human mind and body to make this transition? Can we trick our brains into feeling happy? A common belief is that faking a smile can actually make you experience real happiness. A 2013 study carried out by researchers at the University of Cardiff in Wales found that a surprising side-effect in people who had undergone Botox injections was that the inability to frown appeared to actually make them happier. Other similar research has backed up this idea that faking a smile or being unable to frown, can cause real happiness. Remembrance Day is a painful day for many people. It can be a day in which intense trauma is relived – whether it is the trauma of learning of the loss of a loved one, or the trauma of actually watching their death, as is the case with many IDF veterans who lost friends in military operations. So how do people reliving and re-experiencing trauma manage to “switch it off” in order to celebrate Independence Day? Psychologists believe that with trauma comes a certain level of dissociation, ranging from a mild feeling of disconnection from the body to depersonalization and out-of-body experiences. However, while dissociation can be harmful and damaging, it can also play into the way we experience joy, allowing people to still feel positive emotions, even after extensive trauma. Left untreated, post-traumatic stress can result in a person learning to shut off their emotions at will, whether they feel anger, fear, or sadness. However, because a person cannot select which emotions to shut out, positive ones such as joy, curiosity, and excitement also become blocked out. Only through correct treatment can a person restore the ability to feel the full extent of their emotions without being overwhelmed by them. This process, although lengthy, will also allow a person to develop a healthy relationship with dissociation, allowing them to feel their full range of emotions, while still being able to put them at the back of the mind when needed. This allows them to shift dissociation in a healthy and fluid process. This is one way in which a person might be able to shift from the intense sadness of Remembrance Day to the celebratory atmosphere of Independence Day.

Israel Ushered in Memorial Day for Soldiers, Terror Victims with 8 p.m. Siren; Israelis bowed their heads at 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 3, for a minute of silence as sirens sounded throughout the country in remembrance of the country's fallen soldiers and terror victims. Fifty-six soldiers died during their military service since Israel's last Memorial Day. Another 84 disabled veterans died due to complications from injuries sustained during their service. The numbers brought the total of those who have died during service to the country since 1860 to 24,068. The nationwide ceremonies for Israel's Memorial Day, which began at sundown, started in the afternoon with a commemoration event at the Yad Lebanim memorial for fallen soldiers in Jerusalem. Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and Knesset Speaker Mickey Levy took part in the ceremony, as well as top army brass and families of fallen soldiers.

Bennett Urges Unity as Israel Marks Remembrance Day; Prime Minister Naftali Bennett called for unity during a speech at Yad Lebanim's Memorial Day ceremony in Jerusalem on Tuesday, May 3rd.

Bennett stressed that Israel has a strong military and security establishment, but warned that "if, God forbid, our solidarity is broken, or we allow anger and hatred to grip us, then at that moment our enemies will take advantage of it to harm us." The prime minister added that "our people carry on their bodies the scars of the gene of divisiveness from our ancestors." The prime minister referenced the history of the Jewish people and the first two Jewish kingdoms, saying "our State of Israel is the third time that there is a sovereign Jewish state here in the Land of Israel. The previous two times, we did not succeed in reaching the eighth decade in peace." The prime minister stressed that now "we have won a third chance," but added that "there will not be another chance." "We are now in the eighth decade of the state, the decade we have not yet succeeded in as a united nation. We have been given an opportunity to correct the sin of our ancestral brotherly hatred and to get rid of the inclination of sectarianism that destroyed our people," said Bennett. "On this day we all embrace the families who have lost the most precious to them of all," said Bennett. "Out of the sanctity of this day, out of longing for those who are not with us, we swear to protect this home, which was their home, the home they sacrificed their lives for. May the souls of our fallen brothers be bound up in the bundle of life."

Israel Blasts Russian Official Who Said Hitler Had 'Jewish Origins,' Demands Apology; Israel is demanding an apology after Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Monday, May 2, claimed that Adolf Hitler had Jewish roots, calling the remarks "unforgivable and outrageous." The comments, made during an interview with Italian television, prompted Israel to summon the Russian ambassador. Lavrov made the remarks when he was asked why Russia feels it needs to "denazify" Ukraine if the country's own president, Volodymyr Zelensky, is Jewish. Moscow has repeatedly used the claim to justify its invasion of the country. "So when they say 'How can Nazification exist if we're Jewish?' In my opinion, Hitler also had Jewish origins, so it doesn't mean absolutely anything. For some time we have heard from the Jewish people that the biggest antisemites were Jewish," he said, speaking to the station in Russian, dubbed over by an Italian translation. Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid, whose grandfather died in the Holocaust, blasted Lavrov in a statement Monday. "Foreign Minister Lavrov's remarks are both an unforgivable and outrageous statement, as well as a terrible historical error," he said. "The lowest level of racism against Jews is to accuse Jews themselves of anti-Semitism." Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said that "such lies are intended to accuse the Jews themselves of the most horrific crimes in history that were committed against them." World War II, in which the Soviet Union lost an estimated 27 million people and helped defeat Nazi Germany, is a linchpin of Russia's national identity. Repeatedly reaching for the historical narrative that places Russia as a savior against evil forces has helped the Kremlin rally Russians around the war in Ukraine. Zelensky has compared Russia's invasion to the actions of Nazi Germany, accusing Russian President Vladimir Putin of trying to carry out a "final solution" against Ukraine.

IDF Seeks Justice for Terror Attack in Ariel; The IDF mapped out the homes of the terrorists who carried out the shooting attack in Ariel and arrested twelve others on Saturday night, April 30. On Sunday morning, the IDF and Border Police forces were deployed in various locations throughout Judea and Samaria to arrest suspects involved in terrorist activity. The Israeli forces also confiscated illegal weapons, including in the villages of Kravat Bnei Hassan, Gilzon, Mircha, and Sanor. Soldiers examined the blueprints of the homes of terrorists Yahya Marai and Yusuf Assi, who executed the security guard, 23-year-old security guard Vyacheslav Golev at the entrance to the city of Ariel. The IDF also arrested a suspect aiding the terrorists who committed the attack. During the operation, violent riots erupted in the Jilzon village in the Binyamin area. During the clashes, dozens of rioters hurled stones at the forces, who responded by dispersing demonstrators with tear gas. Five other suspected terrorists were arrested. Handguns, a shotgun, and a Carlo-style weapon were confiscated. No casualties to IDF forces were reported.

EU to Make Fresh Push to Salvage Iran Deal; European officials are preparing to make a fresh push to salvage a nuclear deal with Iran, offering to send a top European Union negotiator to Tehran in an effort to break a stalemate in talks. Enrique Mora, the European Union coordinator of the negotiations, has told Iranian counterparts he is ready to return to Tehran to open a pathway through the deadlock. So far, Iran hasn't responded with an invitation. 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 May of 2018, but has held several rounds of indirect talks with current US leaders on a return to the agreement. Negotiations nearly reached completion in March before Moscow demanded that its trade with Iran be exempted from Western sanctions over Ukraine, throwing the process into disarray. The deal has also run into trouble in recent weeks over Iranian demands that the US lift its designation of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) as a terrorist organization. Western diplomats say they want to put the onus back on Iran, making it clear the talks could end unless Iran offers a way through the standoff. The opening for the talks came during an April 23 call between Iran's foreign minister and his EU counterpart. Mora will try to persuade Iran to sign off on a final text of the agreement without the foreign terrorist designation and leave that issue to a future point, diplomats said. The diplomats added that if Iran comes back with a demand for a US concession on another issue, Washington will consider that. However, the diplomats also said there can be no broad renegotiation of the deal.

MDA Dedicates the World's First War-Proof Blood Services Center; As terrorism continues to take the lives of innocent Israelis, Magen David Adom (MDA), Israel's paramedic and Red Cross service, on Monday, May 2, dedicated the world's first subterranean, shielded national blood services center in Ramla, Israel, in the presence of President Isaac "Bougie" Herzog, Defense Minister Benny Gantz (Blue and White), Health Minister Nitzan Horowitz (Meretz), United States Ambassador to Israel Thomas R. Nides, and 500 VIPs and American donors. "I am so delighted to join you in inaugurating the Marcus National Blood Services Center, which embodies the most moving essence of our shared humanity," Pres. Herzog said. "To receive a blood transfusion – the irreplaceable gift of life – from complete strangers is a stark reminder that we are one living, breathing tapestry of humanity, now safeguarded in this impressive new center." The Marcus National Blood Services Center is designed to protect Israel's strategic blood reserves from missile, chemical, and biological attacks, as well as earthquakes. Three of the building's six floors are built underground in successively more secure levels.

Florida Governor Issues Israel Memorial Day Message; Florida Governor Ron DeSantis issued a statement Tuesday evening, May 3, marking Israeli Memorial Day. DeSantis vowed to stand "shoulder-to-shoulder with Israel", and recognized "those who have lost their lives in defense of the beacon of democracy and liberty in the Middle East, our ally, the State of Israel." "Every casualty on the battlefield or loss of life in an act of terror is a tragedy. Your presence here to remember those who have passed and honor their legacies reminds us that the flourishing of the Jewish state today is rooted in the sacrifices of those who have laid down their lives over the past three-quarters of a century." DeSantis also touted his pro-Israel credentials, citing his record as a member of Congress, and his efforts against the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement while serving as governor of Florida.

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