

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update July 14, 2022 (15th Tamuz, 5782)

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The image shows two items: a book and a bottle. The book is purple with yellow and red text, titled 'GOD'S APPOINTED TIMES' by Barney Kasdan. The bottle is yellow with a white label, titled 'Anointing Oil' and 'Jersalem of Gold Anointing Oil'.

For the Yachad Report Newsletter For July 2022

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World Leaders Congratulate Israel's New Prime Minister Lapid; Yair Lapid officially became Israel's new prime minister starting Friday, July 1, at midnight. US President Joe Biden congratulated the new prime minister, while also thanking outgoing Prime Minister Naftali Bennett "for your friendship over the past year. I look forward to seeing you both in July to celebrate the unbreakable US-Israel partnership." Lapid thanked Biden, and said that he also looks forward "to welcoming you to Israel and strengthening the unique alliance between us." The American Jewish Committee "extends [their] heartfelt congratulations to @YairLapid on assuming the role of Prime Minister of Israel," in a tweet shortly after Lapid took the mantle. India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted in both English and Hebrew, extending his "warm wishes and heartiest congratulations to His Excellency @yairlapid for assuming the premiership of Israel. I look forward to continuing to further our strategic partnership as we celebrate 30 years of full diplomatic relations." UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss tweeted that she is "looking forward to working" with Lapid. Guatemalan President Alejandro Giammattei congratulated Lapid and "wishes him great success during his term as head of government in Israel. Guatemala is an ally; I know we will continue strengthening the historical ties of brotherhood and cooperation that bind our nations." Finally, Lithuanian Prime Minister Ingrida Simonyte congratulated her Israeli counterpart, wishing him "all the success and keeping Israel strong." "Lithuania and Israel are close friends, and I look forward to working together to further strengthen our friendship that is based on shared values."

Lapid in Paris: Important to Present 'United Stance' on Iran Deal; "It is important for the international community to hear Israel's opinion on the Iran nuclear deal," Prime Minister Yair Lapid said on Tuesday morning, July 5, ahead of his flight to Paris where he will meet with French President Emmanuel Macron. "We are presenting a united stance before the international community," he said, regarding Israel's opposition to the nuclear deal. "A large part of the trip will be devoted to the nuclear deal with Iran. We will also address the repeated attacks on Israeli gas rigs - Israel will not agree to this type of attack on its sovereignty, Lebanon must restrain Hezbollah". Lapid plans to ask Macron to relay to Lebanon that Israel will not negotiate its

maritime border while under threat from Hezbollah. He also plans to present new materials showing how Hezbollah, which in addition to being an Iran-backed terrorist group is a party in the Lebanese government, is endangering Lebanon and its security. Israel hopes to work with its partners on an international campaign against Iran with diplomatic and economic elements, the source said, adding that Lapid will try to gain an understanding of what France, specifically, and the E3 – the three European countries involved in Iran talks, the UK, Germany, and France – are willing to do on that front. Other matters on Lapid's agenda for the Paris trip include the energy crisis, the war in Ukraine, and economic and security bilateral relations between Israel and France.

Iran Bought Illicit German Tech Violating Nuke Deal; On Monday, July 4, the city-state of Hamburg in northern Germany published its annual security report, declaring that the Islamic Republic of Iran purchased illegal technology from a German-Iranian man totaling nearly 1 million euros. A September 2021 analysis of the case involving the German-Iranian Alexander J. by the Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security confirmed the dangerous findings outlined by the Hamburg intelligence agency in its new report. According to the institute's study, "This case [of Alexander J.] highlights the continued effort of Iran to break trade control laws and sanctions of other nations to procure items for its nuclear and ballistic missile programs. Additionally, Iran continues to actively recruit sympathetic or persuadable individuals to acquire commodities for its sensitive programs. Some of these exports appear to violate the JCPOA [Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action]." The German Federal Prosecutors Office said, Alexander J. illegally exported a multitude of complex laboratory equipment, including four spectrometers. During the period 2018-2020, Alexander J. sold, in two cases, laboratory equipment to EU-sanctioned companies in Iran used to secure technology for the Iranian regime's nuclear and ballistic missile programs. The Hamburg intelligence agency said that two accused accomplices are being sought for their role in the case of Alexander J. Iran's regime is mentioned 82 times in the 194-page Hamburg report that focuses on a wide range of security threats to Hamburg's democracy.

Henry Kissinger Slams Talks to Renew Iran Nuclear Deal; Former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said in a recent interview that peace will not be achievable in the Middle East until Iran ends its nuclear program. Speaking to the Spectator, Kissinger, 99, had harsh words for the 2015 Iran Nuclear Deal, describing the agreement negotiated by the Obama administration as "inadequate," and "dangerous" if re-entered by the United States. Kissinger commented about the stalled negotiations between the US and Iran on returning to the Iran Deal after former President Donald Trump withdrew the US from the plan in 2018. Kissinger always held doubts about the plan from the time it was signed. "I thought Iran's promises would be very difficult to verify, and that the talks really created a pattern in which the nuclear build-up might have been slowed down a little but made more inevitable," he said. He remarked that he worried an Iranian build-up of nuclear weapons would inevitably lead to responses from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and especially Israel. "Now, the trouble with the existing nuclear talks is that it is very dangerous to go back to an agreement that was inadequate to begin with – to modify it in a direction that makes it apparently more tolerable to the adversary," he said. Kissinger added: "There is no way you can have peace in the Middle East with nuclear weapons in Iran, because before that happens, there is a high danger of pre-emption by Israel, because Israel cannot wait for deterrents. It can afford only one blow on itself. That is the inherent problem of the crisis."

Russia Orders Jewish Agency to Stop All Operations in Country; The Russian government has ordered the Jewish Agency to cease all operations inside the country, The Jerusalem Post has learned. The order was given in a letter received from the Russian Justice Ministry earlier this week. Officials in the Jewish Agency confirmed that the letter was received. They would not comment, however, on the response that is currently under consideration in the organization's offices in Jerusalem in consultation with the Foreign Ministry and the Prime Minister's Office. "As part of the work of the Jewish Agency's delegation in Russia, we are occasionally required to make certain adjustments, as required by authorities," the agency said in response to a

query from the Post. “The contacts with the authorities take place continuously, with the aim of continuing our activities in accordance with the rules set by the competent bodies. Even nowadays, such dialogue takes place.” On Tuesday, July 5, a senior diplomatic official said: “Russia is saying the Jewish Agency illegally collected info about Russian citizens... We will bring up the Jewish Agency [with Russian authorities] and address it in an organized way. It will be taken care of at the embassy level. We don’t totally understand the reasoning [of the request to stop Jewish Agency’s activities in Russia].” The order comes amid growing tension between Israel and Russia over Jerusalem’s stance on the war in Ukraine and its policy of standing with Kyiv and its embattled leader, Volodymyr Zelensky. On Monday, Russia’s Foreign Ministry called strikes on Syria, which have been blamed on Israel, unacceptable, and it demanded an unconditional cessation of the attacks. An order forcing the Jewish Agency to stop its work in Russia is dramatic and could directly undermine the ability of Russian Jews to immigrate to Israel. Thousands of them have finished their paperwork and have been waiting for flights to become available to Israel. However, the sanctions on Russia have caused most international airlines to stop flying to the country, and therefore, future immigrants are “stuck” in Russia, according to Israeli officials.

Hamas Releases Footage of Israeli Captive Hisham Al-Sayed; Israel accused Hamas of preventing a hostage deal after the terrorist organization published its first video of one of the captives, Hisham al-Sayed, who was shown lying in bed and breathing through an oxygen mask. “It is Hamas that is delaying any chance of a deal,” said former Prime Minister Naftali Bennett’s office on June 28, adding that the Palestinian group which forcibly controls Gaza is “cynical and reprehensible.” Al-Sayed entered Gaza in April 2015 and has been held since then by Hamas, along with Israeli citizen Avera Mengistu who crossed into the Strip in April 2014. During his one year in office, Bennett was not able to secure an agreement for the release of the two men or for the Hamas-held bodies of two soldiers believed killed in the 2014 Gaza war: Lt. Hadar Goldin and St.-Sgt. Oron Shaul. Hamas has portrayed al-Sayed and Mengistu as soldiers. However neither of the men is connected to the IDF, and both are believed to suffer from psychological illnesses. Hamas warned that the health situation of one of its captives had deteriorated. In the 39-second video released, al-Sayed can be seen lying down with his head on a floral pillow and a floral sheet pulled up to his chest. His arms are laid straight over the sheet and he moves his head slowly to the side. Al-Sayed’s Israeli ID card was open on the bed so that his identity was clearly spelled out. An Al Jazeera broadcast of the Qatar economic summit could be seen on a flat-screen TV next to the bed. Al-Sayed’s father, Sheban, said that this was “the first time in seven years” he had seen his son.

How Is a Venezuelan Cargo Plane Linked to Iran’s Attempts to Attack Israelis? The recent detainment of a Venezuelan cargo plane in Argentina could be linked to attempts by the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) to attack Israelis abroad, according to independent Israeli intelligence analyst Ronen Solomon, who runs the Intelli Times blog. The cargo plane, which belongs to the Venezuelan state-owned Emtrasur cargo company, was detained on June 8 after landing in Buenos Aires. There were concerns linked to the aircraft’s past as an Iranian aircraft and due to Iranian crew members staffing the flight. Since the plane was detained, the case has expanded, with Argentinean Federal Judge Federico Villena ordering the plane to be seized and inspected for any documents or evidence that could help determine what the crew was doing in Buenos Aires. Iran has a long history of drug, weapons, and oil smuggling in South America – particularly with Venezuela and with criminal organizations in multiple countries on the continent.

Israel and US Celebrate 4th of July; The U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem hosted a celebration of the US’s 246th Independence. The official program began at 7:45 pm Israel time and featured speeches by US Ambassador Tom Nides, Israeli President Isaac Herzog, and Israeli Alternate Prime Minister Naftali Bennett. Nides addressed those in attendance by praising the long, fruitful relationship between the US and Israel. “We’re both nations of immigrants,” he said, adding: “[That offers] a lot of diversity and value.” “158 years [after America declared its independence] when President Truman was the first world leader to recognize the

State of Israel, he did so knowing that the history of the Jewish people and that of the United States were bound together," said Nides. President Herzog called the US an "inspiration to the world since its founding more than two centuries ago." Alternate Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said the connection between the US and Israel is based on both being "persecuted people who fled their homeland." Bennett invoked the Jewish People's deliverance from Egypt as the inspiration for the American founding fathers and their steadfast belief in life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Iran Escalates Enrichment with Adaptable Machines at Fordow; Iran has escalated its uranium enrichment further with the use of advanced machines at its underground Fordow plant in a setup that can more easily change between enrichment levels, the UN atomic watchdog said. Although technically the latest escalation by Iran is not as serious as some of its previous enrichment moves, the signaling made it unmistakable that the Islamic Republic is still eyeing confrontation with the West in the nuclear standoff over an immediate negotiated compromise. Western diplomats have long expressed concern about the devices with which this cascade of centrifuges is equipped. The use of these so-called modified sub-headers means Iran could switch more quickly and easily to enriching to higher purity levels. While Iran is required to inform the International Atomic Energy Agency about such a switch, if it chose not to, it might escape detection for some time, as there is currently a lag between Iran's enrichment and IAEA inspectors' verification of what is produced. Iran is already enriching to up to 60% elsewhere, well above the 20% it produced before its 2015 deal with the world's major powers that capped its enrichment level at 3.67%, but still below 90% weapons grade. A jump to 90% weapons grade would be a new signal that Tehran might be seeking to become a nuclear threshold state or to develop a nuclear weapon. Iran's avoidance of such a move has helped keep up hopes that it still may want to cut a deal.

Iran Warns Against Military Alliance with Israel; The Iranian Foreign Ministry on Saturday, July 9, warned that the establishment of a joint defense alliance between Israel and the Arab states in response to Iran's UAV attacks, and announced that the move would only exacerbate instability in the region. "This will be a catalyst for tension and divisiveness," a spokesman for the ministry said. The Iranians' remarks were made against the background of reports of contacts between Israel and Arab countries for cooperation in the field of air defense. IDF Chief of Staff Aviv Kochavi participated in a secret discussion with his Saudi counterpart at a meeting attended by senior representatives of the IDF and the armed forces of various Arab states. The participants agreed in principle on a plan to share air defense alerts through a variety of media. The agreement remains theoretical for the time being, pending the approval of the political echelons of both sides.

IDF, Police Bust Gun-Running Operation on Jordanian border, Seize 12 Handguns; Israeli security forces arrested two men in northern Israel early Friday morning, July 8, suspected of smuggling guns from Jordan, confiscating a dozen handguns in the process. According to Israel Police and the Israel Defense Forces, the two men in their 30s from Bedouin villages in the Tel Arad area were caught after a brief chase near the town of Neve Ur and found to be in possession of 12 pistols. Police said they had been following the pair for some time as part of an "undercover investigation" into smuggling attempts in the area. Friday's arrest was a joint effort between various police and military units operating in the area. Law enforcement officials have previously indicated that guns smuggled in from Jordan are often sold to Arab Israelis, for both criminal and terrorist purposes. The military and police have stepped up efforts to halt smuggling attempts along the Jordanian border in recent months.

Israeli Leaders Express Shock at Assassination of Shinzo Abe; Prime Minister Yair Lapid and other Israeli leaders expressed shock and condolences on Friday, July 8, at the assassination of former Japanese prime minister Shinzo Abe. "On behalf of the government and people of Israel, I send my condolences to the Japanese people and their government on the tragic death of former prime minister Shinzo Abe," Lapid said in

a statement. "Abe was one of the most important leaders of modern Japan, and a true friend of Israel who brought about flourishing and prosperous relations between Israel and Japan." "His heinous murder will not change his distinguished legacy," Lapid added. "Today, Israel bows its head and mourns the loss of Abe together with the people of Japan." Abe died on Friday of his wounds hours after he was shot from behind during a speech in Nara in western Japan. He was airlifted to a hospital for emergency treatment but was not breathing and his heart had stopped. He was pronounced dead later at the hospital. President Isaac Herzog said he was "horrified by the despicable murder" of Abe, who he called "one of Japan's most preeminent leaders in modern times."

Georgia Guidestones Explosion: Blast has 'Destroyed a Large Portion' of Monument; Police in Georgia are investigating an explosion Wednesday, July 6, targeting the Georgia Guidestones monument, which the state says is known as "America's Stonehenge." The early morning blast "destroyed a large portion of the structure" in northeastern Elbert County, according to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. "The preliminary information indicates that unknown individuals detonated an explosive device at around 4:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 6th," the agency said. The Elbert County Sheriff's Office is among the law enforcement agencies investigating and a bomb squad has been called to the scene.

Jewish Toddler Orphaned at Highland Park Shooting; A deadly massacre at a Fourth of July parade in a Chicago suburb has left a Jewish toddler an orphan. Two-year-old Aiden survived Monday's attack in Highland Park, Illinois, because his father shielded him with his body, local media reported. The toddler was eventually found wandering alone after the attack, and given to his grandparents by police. Aiden will be raised by his grandparents, Misha and Nina Levberg, immigrants from Russia who raised their only child, Irina McCarthy, 35, in the Chicago area, the Chicago Sun-Times reported. The grandfather told the paper that Irina met her husband, Kevin McCarthy, 37, through her job in pharmaceuticals. "He will have a long road ahead to heal," said Irina Colon, who organized a GoFundMe page with the family's permission. The fund had raised over \$827,000 by Tuesday night. At least two Jewish community members, including the boy's mother, were among the seven fatalities who were killed. The other Jewish victim identified in Monday's attack was Jacki Sundheim, 63, the bar and bat mitzvah and events coordinator at North Shore Congregation Israel, a Reform synagogue in Glencoe, Illinois. She attended the synagogue and had worked there for decades. "There are no words sufficient to express the depth of our grief for Jacki's death and sympathy for her family and loved ones," said the synagogue.

Israel, US Sign Last Agreement for Visa Waiver Program; The last necessary agreement for Israel to join the US Visa Waiver Program was signed on Thursday morning, July 7, by Public Security Minister Omer Bar Lev and US Deputy Ambassador to Israel Jonathan Shrier and witnessed by Interior Minister Ayelet Shaked. As part of the agreement, both countries will be allowed to check fingerprints from each other's country's citizens 1,000 times a year and request information on citizens with severe criminal backgrounds. In order for it to come into effect, the Knesset has to pass Israel's entry into the program in three readings. "This agreement is strategically important for Israel," said Bar Lev. "The agreement will organize mechanism to strengthen the cooperation between Israel and the US in everything to do with the war against crime and terror."

Earliest Depictions of Biblical Deborah, Yael Found at 5th-Century Galilee Synagogue; Archeologists working at a dig in the Galilean town of Huqoq have uncovered the earliest known depictions of the biblical heroines Deborah and Yael, in mosaics that are thought to be nearly 1,600 years old. The find, announced by the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill's Prof. Jodi Magness on Tuesday, July 5, joins a growing collection of ancient mosaics discovered over the past decade at the site of a former synagogue in the Lower Galilee. Magness, a professor of religious studies at the university, has overseen a team of students and archeologists excavating the area for more than 10 years. Excavations at the site restarted earlier this year after

they were halted for close to three years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The mosaics depict the biblical story in the Book of Judges when the prophetess Deborah told the Israelite military leader Barak to mobilize the troops of Naftali and Zevulun to fight against Canaan, whose forces were led by Sisera. Barak said he would only go to battle if Deborah joined him, and Deborah in turn prophesied that a woman would defeat Sisera's army. Sisera, fleeing flooding, sought refuge in the tent of Yael, who drove a tent peg through his head, killing him. "This is the first depiction of this episode and the first time we've seen a depiction of the biblical heroines Deborah and Yael in ancient Jewish art," Magness said in a statement. "Looking at the book of Joshua, chapter 19, we can see how the story might have had special resonance for the Jewish community at Huqoq, as it is described as taking place in the same geographical region — the territory of the tribes of Naftali and Zevulun." All of the newest mosaics have been removed from the site for conservation, the university said.



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