

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update November 10, 2022 (16th Cheshvan, 5783)



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Netanyahu: Israelis Voted for National Pride and a Jewish State; Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu delivered his apparent victory speech early Wednesday morning, November 2, claiming that the Israeli public has decided and granted him the victory, according to the Israeli election exit polls. Netanyahu thanked his supporters for giving him and his bloc a "massive vote of confidence from the Israeli public." He also said that "it was again shown that Likud is the biggest party in Israel". Netanyahu also made his intentions clear regarding the coalition he plans to form, as he said that he will form a coalition of the "national camp." He also said that he has spoken with his partners and congratulated them on their success. Netanyahu demanded that the purity of elections will be kept, perhaps hinting toward a possible difference between the exit polls to the election results. Netanyahu also said that "the Israeli public voted for national pride and a Jewish state."

Two Days after Election: Lapid Calls Netanyahu to Congratulate Him on His Victory; Prime Minister Yair Lapid on Thursday evening, November 3, called opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu for the first time since the elections to the 25th Knesset. Lapid congratulated Netanyahu on his victory in the elections, and informed the Likud chairman that he had instructed all branches of his office to prepare an orderly transfer of power. "The State of Israel is above all political considerations. I wish Netanyahu success for the sake of the people of Israel and the State of Israel," Lapid said. Sources close to the Prime Minister said that he had waited until the counting of votes had concluded and the results were completely clear before calling the Likud chairman. Earlier on Thursday evening, the Central Elections Committee submitted its report with the preliminary results of the election. The results will be finalized during this week, after recounts of contested ballot boxes are conducted and investigations into any claims of fraud completed. After all the votes were counted, the right-wing bloc won 64 seats and the left-Arab camp won 56 seats.

Rockets Fired from Gaza into Israel for First Time Since ‘Breaking Dawn’; Rocket alerts sounded off in Kissufim, Ein Hashlosa and Nirim in the Gaza border area of southern Israel on Thursday evening, November 3. The IDF Spokesperson's Unit confirmed the details and said that they are under investigation. One launch was detected from the territory of the Gaza Strip towards Israeli territory. According to the IDF spokesperson's unit, the Iron Dome was activated and it intercepted the rocket. About 30 minutes later, the IDF detected three more rocket launches from the northern Gaza strip, the rockets likely failed and fell in an open field inside the strip, no sirens were activated, according to the IDF spokesperson unit. Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the rocket launches and claimed that it was "a response to the assassination of the commander of the Al-Quds Brigades in Jenin," according to Israeli media. This is the first time that rocket alerts were activated in Israel since the end of Operation Breaking Dawn on August 7.

Following Rocket Fire: IDF Attacks Hamas Rocket Development Complex in Central Gaza Strip; IDF fighter jets targeted overnight Thursday, November 3, an underground military site in the Gaza Strip, used as a rocket developing and manufacturing complex, belonging to the Hamas terrorist organization. The strike came in response to the rockets launched from the Gaza Strip into Israel earlier on Thursday evening. "This strike will significantly impede the rocket intensification and armament attempts of the Hamas terrorist organization," the IDF Spokesperson's Unit said in a statement. "The IDF holds the Hamas terrorist organization responsible for all terror activity emanating from the Gaza Strip and it will face the consequences of the security violations against Israel," it added. On Thursday evening, after three months of quiet, red color sirens were heard in Israeli communities near the Gaza Strip border. The IDF said the sirens were reported in the towns of Nirim, Ein HaShlosa, and Kissufim, all of which are located near the Gaza frontier in the western Negev.

US Officials: Iran Seeking Russia's Help to Bolster Nuclear Program; US intelligence officials believe Iran is seeking Russia's help to bolster its nuclear program, American media reported on Friday, November 4, as Tehran looks for a backup plan should a lasting nuclear deal with world powers fail to materialize. The intelligence suggests that Iran has been asking Russia for help acquiring additional nuclear materials and with nuclear fuel fabrication, sources briefed on the matter. The fuel could help Iran power its nuclear reactors and could potentially further shorten Iran's so-called "breakout time" to create a nuclear weapon. Experts emphasized however, that the nuclear proliferation risk varies depending on which reactor the fuel is used for. And it is also not clear whether Russia has agreed to help – the Kremlin has long been outwardly opposed to Iran obtaining a nuclear weapon. The Iranian proposal has come amid an expanding partnership between Iran and Russia that in recent months has included Iran sending drones and other equipment to Russia for use in its war in Ukraine, and Moscow potentially advising Tehran on how to suppress a protest movement sweeping Iran, US officials said.

Likud MK Estimates: Netanyahu Will Attack Iran's Nuclear Facilities; MK Tzachi Hanegbi (Likud) said on Friday, November 4, that he believes that Benjamin Netanyahu will act to thwart Iran's nuclear program during his upcoming term in office. "If there's anything that could be critical in the next few months, it is the issue of Iran's nuclear program" he said. "We have already forgotten that there was a negotiation between Iran and world powers, which has in essence ended. If this negotiation does not end in an agreement and the US does not act independently, which is what I believe will happen, Prime Minister Netanyahu will work, in my estimation, to destroy the nuclear facilities in Iran," Hanegbi clarified. "If he does not do this, Israel will face an existential threat." Asked to clarify if Israel, in a government headed by Netanyahu, will physically attack Iran's nuclear facilities with bombs, he replied, "I believe it will have no choice. It's a similar story to 1981 with [Menachem] Begin (who authorized the bombing of an Iraqi nuclear reactor -ed.) and 2007 with [Ehud] Olmert (who authorized an air strike against a suspected nuclear reactor in Syria -ed.)." On the question of whether he heard this from Netanyahu himself or whether this is his own assessment, Hangebi replied, "I'm talking about an assessment, but from an

acquaintance of over 35 years with Netanyahu, I'm basing my assessment on the fact that when there is no choice, someone has to take command, and that someone will be Netanyahu."

FBI Warns of 'Credible Threat' to Synagogues in New Jersey; The FBI in Newark, New Jersey, said on Thursday afternoon, November 3, that it has received "credible information of a broad threat to synagogues" in the state. "We ask at this time that you take all security precautions to protect your community and facility. We will share more information as soon as we can. Stay alert. In case of emergency, call police," a tweet from the office said. In a second tweet, the agency said it was taking a "proactive measure" with that warning, while "investigative processes are carried out." New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy said he is in touch with the FBI, the state's Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness and the state attorney general. The Anti-Defamation League said it was working with the FBI to address the credible threat and advised synagogues and Jewish organizations to "remain calm and in heightened state of alert."

Gantz Speaks with American Counterpart on Arrow 3, After Berlin Moves Forward; As Germany pushes forward in its procurement of Israel's Arrow 3 air-defense system, Defense Minister Benny Gantz spoke with his American counterpart Lloyd Austin on the proposal that, if allowed, would be the largest defense deal in Israeli history, reaching a sum of €3 billion (\$2.93b.). Gantz spoke with Austin late Wednesday night about the developments in the proposal that would see Jerusalem sell the ballistic air-defense system to Berlin, the first time the system would be sold to an international customer. According to a report, Boeing will be responsible for manufacturing certain parts of the interceptor. Germany will also purchase American Patriot surface-to-air missiles as part of the deal. Germany has requested that the first Arrow system be operational in the country by 2025. The acquisition of the system is expected to be part of the European development of a joint air-defense program called the European Sky Shield Initiative. It will include 14 NATO member countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovakia, Slovenia, Romania and the United Kingdom. Finland, whose application to NATO is pending, will also take part. A letter of intent was signed in October in Brussels initiating the development of the Sky Shield, which is being spearheaded by Berlin and aims to create a European air-defense system through the common acquisition of air defense equipment and missiles by European nations. The system would field off threats at close range such as drones, as well as medium-to-long-range threats like ballistic and cruise missiles.

With 86% of Votes Tallied, Netanyahu Headed for Decisive Comeback Victory; As the ballots in the Knesset election were being tallied Wednesday, November 2, all signs were pointing to a resounding victory for opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu and his bloc of right-wing, far-right and religious parties, a result that would end a political crisis that has seen five general elections held in under four years. With some 86 percent of the votes counted, the bloc of parties loyal to Netanyahu was predicted to win 65 seats in the 120-seat Knesset, a comfortable majority. The numbers were expected to shift as officials had yet to begin tallying the so-called double-envelope ballots cast by members of security forces, prisoners, people with disabilities, diplomats serving abroad, and others, but significant change to the balance between Netanyahu's bloc and its opponents was not seen as likely. The coalition shaping up to be Israel's next is made up of Netanyahu's Likud party, ultra-Orthodox parties Shas and United Torah Judaism parties, and the far-right Religious Zionism party led by Bezalel Smotrich, which includes extremist Itamar Ben Gvir's Otzma Yehudit faction. Ben Gvir is seen as the biggest star of the election, having gone from leading a fringe party to becoming a popular leader in a party representing some 10% of Israeli voters.

With 200k New Voters, 6.2 Million Eligible to Cast Ballots in November 1 Election; Some 6.2 million Israelis were eligible to vote in Tuesday's November 1, election, an increase of 196,000 since last

year's vote, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics figures. The number of voters living in Israel has risen by 3.3 percent since the March 2021 election, the CBS said in a statement. Of eligible voters (citizens 18 and up), 77% are Jewish, including 11% who are ultra-Orthodox. Arab voters account for 17% of voters and the remaining 6% are other minorities. The proportion of Arab voters is smaller than that of Arab Israelis in the general population — at 21% — because the community has a relatively large number of children below voting age, the CBS explained. Those aged 18-24 make up 31% of voters, while 29% are aged 25-39. The 40-59 age bracket accounts for another 31%, and those over 65 represent 25% of voters. Israel's total population is just over 9.5 million.

Saudi Arabia Warns that Iran Is Planning Imminent Attacks - WSJ; Saudi Arabia recently warned the US of an imminent attack by Iran, on targets in the kingdom and in Erbil, Iraq, American media reported on Tuesday, November 1. The US military and other militaries in the Middle East have raised their alert level in response to the warnings, according to the report. The planned attacks are aimed at distracting from the protests that have swept Iran in recent weeks. The White House National Security Council said it was concerned about the warnings and was ready to respond. “We will not hesitate to act in the defense of our interests and partners in the region,” said a National Security Council spokesperson. “We are concerned about the threat picture, and we remain in constant contact through military and intelligence channels with the Saudis. We will not hesitate to act in the defense of our interests and partners in the region.”

Iran to Send Hundreds of Combat Drones to Russia in November - Ukraine Intel; Iran is set to send over 200 combat drones to Russia in the beginning of November, the Ukrainian Intelligence Directorate warned on Tuesday, November 1. The shipment would include Shahed-136 and Arash-2 suicide drones and Mohajer-6 reconnaissance drones. Ukrainian intelligence first claimed last Monday that the Arash-2 would be added to Russian arsenals for the first time. Ukraine claimed that the disassembled drones would be delivered by the Caspian Sea to the port of Astrakhan, and would be repainted and given Russian markings. "We will continue to vigorously enforce all US sanctions on both the Russian and Iranian arms trade to make it harder for Iran to sell these weapons to Russia." Ned Price, Spokesperson for the U.S. Department of State said. Pentagon Press Secretary Brig.-Gen. Pat Ryder said on Tuesday that he had no "specific information to provide" on the reports, but that the US was concerned that "Russia may also seek to acquire additional advanced ammunition capabilities from Iran – for example, surface-to-surface missiles – to use in Ukraine." The Ukrainian Intelligence Directorate claims that Kyiv's military forces have downed some 300 Iranian Kamikaze drones since the first detected use of the weapon platforms.

Nikki Haley at Jerusalem Event: “The US Can Never Let Israel Down”; Anti-Semitism should always be called out, Nikki Haley, the former South Carolina governor and U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said at a recent event for the Jerusalem College of Technology. Haley spoke out against the recent wave of anti-Semitism, while reaffirming the need for the US to stand with Israel. Recently, the Canadian Friends of Jerusalem College of Technology (CF-JCT) held its 50th-anniversary gala dinner in Toronto. Haley gave the keynote address and received an honorary degree. The former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, who stood strongly against an anti-Israel bias at the institution, took the opportunity to speak out against anti-Semitism, a problem that has recently skyrocketed in the United States. “We have to call out anti-Semitism every time we see it,” Haley said to the 500 attendees at the event. “It’s not okay. It will never be okay. We have to speak up every time we see it. We have to humiliate those that do it every time they do it. And we have to remind leaders to speak up.” She also addressed the problem of intolerance on college campuses. “We have to remind our leaders that they have to speak up because I don’t want kids going to college wondering if they will be targeted,” she said at the Toronto gala, where she also

commended the Trump administration for taking the matter seriously when they enacted legislation that would pull federal funding from universities if they didn't rebuke anti-Semitism on their campus.

Erdan to UNHRC Special Rapporteur: Your Position is Helping the Anti-Semites; Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, Gilad Erdan, spoke on Monday, October 31, at a meeting where the Human Rights Council's Special Rapporteur on Racism presented its annual report, in which it proposed to suspend or cancel the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition of anti-Semitism. Ambassador Erdan attacked the author of the report and said, "You are exceeding your authority and promoting a political agenda that has no place in the discussion on the fight against racism, and your position is helping the anti-Semites." "Defining anti-Semitism is the first necessary step to combating it; calling on UN member states to reject or suspend the use of the definition is not. When the Jewish people or the Jewish state are held to standards not expected of any other nation, it is anti-Semitism – and it cannot be tolerated," added the Ambassador. The United States, Canada, Hungary, Uruguay, Bulgaria, Albania, the United Kingdom, the Czech Republic, Italy, Greece, Guatemala, Cyprus, Australia, Germany, Romania, Spain and the European Union supported Ambassador Erdan's position and rejected the statement of the Special Rapporteur against the use of the IHRA's working definition of anti-Semitism.

UN Committee Votes for Israel to Dispose of Nuclear Weapons, Allow International Inspectors; The United Nations General Assembly's First Committee voted for Israel to dispose of all nuclear weapons and have any and all nuclear sites under the watch of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Israeli media reported. The resolution passed overwhelmingly on Friday, October 28, with a vote of 152-5 vote, with only the United States, Canada, Israel, Micronesia, and Palau voting against it. The European Union and 23 others abstained. Despite officially being a resolution on the "risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East," the resolution – submitted by Egypt as it does annually – focused mainly on Israel, without mentioning Iran. "That's unfortunate, because all those countries who voted on this resolution should ask themselves what is the source of instability in the region," former Israeli Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon told American media. "It's Israel or Iran? What is the danger and the threat to the region? And I think that they all know that the threat's coming from Iran and not Israel." Iran has been trying to develop its own nuclear program. The Islamic nation, despite having signed the non-proliferation treaty, has been enriching uranium to levels approaching what is needed for weapons.

Qatar's Foray into Lebanon's Gas Could Spell Trouble – or Opportunity – for Israel; Qatar's potential foray into Lebanon's offshore gas project could spell trouble for Israel or, alternatively, present it with a rare opportunity for rapprochement, regional analysts say. State-owned QatarEnergy is in talks with the Lebanese government to get a 30% stake in Lebanon's offshore gas exploration according to British media. The Qatari oil firm also is negotiating with the French-owned TotalEnergies and Italian-owned ENI, which are part of an international consortium seeking to carry out exploration in the Eastern Mediterranean. News of potential Qatari involvement in the gas project comes on the heels of a historic US-brokered agreement signed between Israel and Lebanon, which put an end to a decades-long dispute over the countries' maritime borders. The Qana reservoir, which could be worth billions of dollars, was at the heart of the dispute. If Qana proves to hold gas reserves, which has not yet been determined, then as part of the agreement Israel would receive an undisclosed amount of royalties from whatever is extracted. Some analysts are wary of Qatar getting involved, however. Professor Efraim Inbar, President of the Jerusalem Institute for Strategy and Security, told media that Qatar is looking not only to expand its gas industry but also to bolster the Iran-backed Hizbullah group in Lebanon.

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