

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update June 15, 2023 (Sivan 26, 5783)

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The image shows two items: on the left, the cover of 'The Complete Jewish Study Bible' with the subtitle 'INSIGHTS FOR JEWS & CHRISTIANS' and the tagline 'Illuminating the Jewishness of God's Word'; on the right, a silver menorah.

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Assessment: Cabinet Will Approve Strike on Iran If Netanyahu Seeks It; The political-security cabinet is expected to give its approval to a plan to attack Iran if such a proposal is raised by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, Israeli media reported Thursday morning, June 8. Netanyahu said in regard to Iran on Sunday during a cabinet meeting, “The reality in our region is changing rapidly. We are not stagnating ... We are committed to acting against the Iranian nuclear program, against missile attacks ... and against ... what we call a multifront campaign.” Tensions between Iran and Israel have grown in recent weeks following Iran's unveiling of its new "Fateh" missile, which the Iranian regime claims has a range of 1,400 kilometers and is capable of striking Israel. The commander of the Aerospace Force of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, Amir Ali Hajizadeh, claimed that no missile defense system in the world can intercept its new hypersonic missile, in a clear reference to Israel's multi-layered missile defense system, which includes the Iron Dome, David's Sling, and Arrow systems. A decade ago, Netanyahu failed to secure enough votes in the Cabinet to approve a strike on Iran's nuclear program. The assessment is that he would be able to secure a majority now due to the greater immediacy of the Iranian threat and the greater hawkishness of the current government ministers compared to 10 years ago. The prime minister would not only receive support from the government for a strike against Iran but from parties in the opposition as well. National Unity Party chairman Benny Gantz said on Monday at a conference in New York that all of Israel would unite behind the government if a strike against Iran was necessary.

US to Iran: You Will Pay A Heavy Price If 90% Uranium Enrichment Continues; US and Iranian officials held indirect talks in Oman last month, with Omani officials shuttling between their separate rooms to deliver messages, three sources briefed on the issue told American media on Friday, June 9. The “proximity talks,” which haven't been previously reported, represent the first known indirect engagement

between the US and Iran in this way in several months. They took place amid growing concerns in the White House about Iran's nuclear advances. American media reported last week that White House Middle East coordinator Brett McGurk traveled to Oman secretly on May 8 for talks with Omani officials on possible diplomatic outreach to Iran regarding its nuclear program. According to the three sources briefed on the issue, an Iranian delegation also arrived in Oman at the same time. Iran's top nuclear negotiator Ali Bagheri Kan was part of the delegation, one of the sources said. McGurk and the Iranian officials didn't meet, according to the sources. The two sides were in separate locations with Omani officials going between them and passing messages. According to the sources, one of the main messages from the US focused on deterrence. The sources said the US made it clear that Iran will pay a heavy price if it moves forward with 90% uranium enrichment — the level needed to produce a nuclear weapon. On Thursday, the United States and Iran both denied reports that they were nearing an interim deal under which Tehran would curb its nuclear program in return for sanctions relief. (INN / VFI News)

5 Shot Dead at Carwash in Town near Nazareth in Apparent Gangland Massacre; Five people were killed in a mass shooting Thursday, June 8, in a town near Nazareth, one of the most deadly incidents of apparent criminal violence in recent years. The five were evacuated to the hospital after being critically hurt at a carwash in Yafa an-Naseriyye but were later pronounced dead. The fatalities were not immediately identified but reports said the killings were linked to a running feud between the Bakri and Hariri crime families that claimed 26 lives. The shooting appeared to be the deadliest non-terror mass killing since 2009 when six members of the Ushrenko family were murdered at their home in Rishon Lezion. In a separate incident about 20 minutes earlier, a 3-year-old girl and her 30-year-old father were shot and seriously injured in Kafr Kanna, also a town near Nazareth. Medics from the Magen David Adom ambulance service took the pair to Poriya Hospital near Tiberias. The medical center said the girl had been intubated and that her father's condition was critical and unstable. Police launched an investigation into the Kafr Kanna shooting, which they said was part of a criminal dispute. (TOI / VFI News)

Syrian Refugee Injures 4 Children, Adult in Knife Attack in French Alps Town: Report; A Syrian national was arrested Thursday, June 8, after allegedly stabbing four children and an adult in the French Alps town of Annecy in a knife attack that President Emmanuel Macron is decriing as an act of "absolute cowardice." A witness told French media following the stabbing spree that he saw first responders working on "little bodies, 3 or 4 years old, perhaps." The suspect has not been publicly identified, but a police official told British media that he is a Syrian national with legal refugee status in the country. "Attack of absolute cowardice this morning in a park in Annecy. Children and an adult are between life and death," Macron said on Twitter. "The Nation is in shock. Our thoughts are with them as well as their families and the emergency services mobilized." "The individual was arrested thanks to the very rapid intervention of the police," French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said on Twitter. Police say two children and one adult have suffered life-threatening injuries, while the other two children were slightly hurt. The children were attacked on a playground close to a primary school. "He jumped [in the playground], started shouting, and then went towards the strollers, repeatedly hitting the little ones with a knife," one witness was quoted by British media. The motive for the attack is unclear. The suspect is believed to be in his thirties, police said. (FN / VFI News)

Nides Approved Nearly \$1 Million Grant to Support Delegitimizing Israel; Thomas Nides, the outgoing U.S. ambassador to Israel, personally signed off on nearly \$1 million in grants to fund investigations of Israel for "documentation of legal or security sector violations and housing, land and property rights," Adam Kredo reported in an American media outlet. Citing documents the America First Legal Foundation received in a Freedom of Information Act request, Kredo reported that Nides approved the U.S. State Department to provide \$987,654 for organizations accusing Israel of human-rights abuses. A congressional investigation last year centered on these tax-payer-funded monies with critics claiming that

it fit hand-in-glove with the BDS movement's tactics and objective. "As a policy matter, it is wholly unacceptable for the State Department to fund NGOs to delegitimize and isolate Israel," critics wrote last year. At the time, Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) said that the Biden administration was using "American taxpayer money to subsidize the international NGO campaign to demonize and isolate Israel." "The ambassador's involvement in the funding effort is certain to attract congressional scrutiny as Israel's defenders on Capitol Hill worry the Biden administration is alienating the Jewish state," Kredo reported. (I365N / VFI News)

California University Hosts Screening of Trans Director's 'Anti-Israel' Film; The University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) professor hosted a screening Wednesday, June 7, of a film that many activists believe is anti-Israel, created by a Jewish transgender director. The film "Israelism" follows the story of two American Jews who go from staunch supporters of Israel to "battling the old guard to fight for Palestinian equality and against the alleged human rights abuses committed by the Jewish state," according to the event page's description and the IMBD. The film has been criticized for its "anti-Israel" views by some in the Jewish community. David Suissa, the editor-in-chief of the Jewish Journal, wrote that the film portrays an intentionally biased portrait of Israel. "I felt bad for the filmmakers because I could feel the exertion they must have gone through to stick to only one side of the story," Suissa wrote. "There is no mention, for instance, of the UN role in the creation of Israel, Arab aggression at the birth of the state, chronic Palestinian terror and rejection of peace offers, the denial of any Jewish connection to Jerusalem, and on and on." Abraham Foxman, former director of the Anti-Defamation League, called the film both "anti-Israel and anti-American Jewish community." UCLA has a history of hosting anti-Semitic and anti-Israel events in the past. The university invited George Washington University professor Lara Sheehi, who is under investigation for allegations of anti-Semitic discrimination, to an event earlier this year. The school was also listed in the top 10 worst schools for antisemitism, according to a report from StopAntiSemitism. (DC / VFI News)

Israel Comes Third Place in FIFA U-20 World Cup After Victory over South Korea; Like in Eurovision, Israel got third place again, but this time in the under-20 FIFA World Cup after winning 3-1 to South Korea on Sunday night, June 11. During the game, the three goals were scored by Ran Binyamin in the 19th minute, Omer Snior in the 76th minute and Anan Khalaily in the 85th minute. Shortly after Binyamin's goal in the game's first half, South Korea was able to equalize the match five minutes later, but ultimately the game was handed to Israel after their next two goals in the second half. Israel played against South Korea for the third-place title after losing to Uruguay in the semifinal round 1-0. A few hours later, the South American team defeated Italy in the finals to win the entire tournament. One of Israel's most memorable victories in the tournament was in the quarterfinals when the blue-and-white team defeated Brazil 3-2. Israeli president Isaac Herzog tweeted shortly after Israel's victory: "Congratulations to the Israeli youth soccer team for a historic achievement - third place in the World Cup! You are ending a wonderful and exciting journey and we are all proud of you!" Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also tweeted: "Huge achievement! We're all proud of you!" (JPost / VFI News)

Archaeologists Discover and Replicate Earliest Musical Instrument in the Middle East; Archaeologists are hearing for the first time how humans made music some 12,000 years ago, by recreating a flute that was likely used to hunt ducks and other small birds in northern Israel. A team of Israeli and French archaeologists discovered fragments of seven different flutes, dating to around 10,000 BCE, which is the largest collection of prehistoric sound-producing instruments ever found in the Levant. The pieces were found at the Eynan/Ain Mallaha site, a small village some 35 km (20 miles) north of the Sea of Galilee. The site was inhabited from 12,000 BCE to 8,000 BCE, around the time when humans were undergoing a massive revolution from nomadic hunter-gatherers to more sedentary, semi-settled communities. Dr. Laurent Davin, a postdoctoral fellow at Hebrew University, was examining some of the

bones recovered from the site when he noticed tiny holes drilled at regular intervals along a few of the bones. At first, experts had dismissed the holes as regular wear and tear on the delicate bird bones, but Davin examined the bones more closely and noticed that the holes were at very even intervals, and clearly created by humans. “One of the flutes was discovered complete, and so far as is known it is the only one in the world in this state of preservation,” Davin said. Dr. Hamoudi Khalaily, a senior researcher with the IAA, spent 10 years excavating at the Eynan site and was instrumental in creating a replica of the extant flute. “The sound could have attracted predator birds, which creates chaos with the other birds, and then it’s very easy to catch them, even with your hands,” explained Khalaily. (TOI / VFI News)

Clashes Erupt as Palestinians Hold Funeral for Toddler Mistakenly Shot by IDF; Hundreds of Palestinians gathered Tuesday, June 6, for the funeral of a 2-year-old boy who died this week after he was mistakenly shot by Israeli troops during a shootout in the West Bank. On Thursday, June 1, Mohammed Tamimi and his father were hit by gunshots as Israeli soldiers returned fire at Palestinian gunmen who had shot at the settlement of Neve Tzuf. It appeared that “as a result of the gunfire by the [Israeli] forces, two Palestinians were hurt,” the military said in a statement. Tamimi’s mother, Marwa, 32, told the media during the funeral that soldiers had fired on her husband while he was in the car with their son. She said he had gone out to move his car because he feared it would be damaged by nearby Israeli soldiers. “My husband started the car and my son was next to him, and the shots were fired at him when he turned on the car’s lights,” she said. “They [Israeli soldiers] fired at them for a while, and they could not get out of the car... so I hid inside [the house].” The Israel Defense Forces said in a statement after the shooting that the pair was likely hit by mistake, adding that it “regrets harm to [non-combatants] and works to prevent such incidents.” The father, Haitham Tamimi, was taken by Palestinian medics to a hospital in Ramallah, and the toddler was rushed to Sheba Medical Center in Ramat Gan by a military helicopter in critical condition. The boy succumbed to his wounds at Sheba on Monday, according to the hospital. Shortly after the funeral Tuesday, several Palestinians were wounded during clashes with the Israeli military near the nearby village of Nabi Saleh. A spokesperson for the Israel Defense Forces told Israeli media that “a violent riot developed near Nabi Saleh,” prompting troops to use riot dispersal means and live fire in some cases. (TOI / VFI News)

What Lessons Can Israel Learn from Egypt Border Terror Attack? – Analysis; The serious incident that unfolded on Saturday morning, June 3, and resulted in three dead soldiers is one of the worst attacks to occur on the Egyptian border in two decades. Israel has complex borders, and it is never possible to prevent every scenario. One aspect of the incident is the diplomatic side. Egypt claims the officer who crossed did so in pursuit of drug smugglers. Clearly, this is a sensitive issue now and that is a reminder of other times that we have seen our complex borders and relations challenged. In April, a Jordanian Member of Parliament was stopped for smuggling weapons. He was then released back to the Jordanian authorities for investigation. Dr. Udi Balanga, an expert on Egypt from Bar-Ilan University’s Department of Middle Eastern Studies, describes the Sinai Peninsula that borders Israel as the “Wild West” which is full of terrorist organizations that continuously challenge the government of Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi. “The peace is very very cold; there is almost an ocean of ice separating between the peoples,” Balanga said. However, “the relations between the regimes are excellent strategically and there is close security cooperation.” Also, a question arising from the incident is whether the IDF failure during this episode was tactical, and mostly limited to the unusual particular circumstances, or strategic, exposing a much greater threat that has been ignored until now. The details that have come out so far include that there was a small border opening that was poorly secured, but that was done on purpose to make it easier for IDF forces or maintenance workers to quickly get through to complete a short and specific mission. (JPost / VFI News)

Israel Can Best Any Iranian Weapon, Gallant Says after Hypersonic Missile Claim; Defense Minister Yoav Gallant brushed aside Iranian claims that it had developed a new hypersonic missile Tuesday, June 6, saying Israel would always have a solution to counter it, as tensions remained high over Tehran's nuclear program. Iran claimed earlier on Tuesday that it had created a hypersonic missile capable of traveling at 15 times the speed of sound. Iranian officials did not release any footage of a successful launch of the new missile, called Fattah, or "Conqueror" in Farsi. "I hear our enemies boasting about weapons they are developing. To any such development, we have an even better response — whether it be on land, in the air, or in the maritime arena, including both defensive and offensive means," Gallant said during a visit to the military's Northern Command, amid a major drill. "We will know how to protect the citizens of Israel, and how to strike our enemies with a crushing blow if, God forbid, they start a war against us," he said in a video statement. Gallant met with senior military officers leading the drill in northern Israel, as part of the Israel Defense Forces' two-week-long "Firm Hand" exercise. The drills are focused on a potential multifront war with Iran and its terror proxies across the Middle East, such as the Lebanese Hezbollah. Gallant warned that "if Hezbollah makes a mistake and starts a war against Israel, we will hit it hard, and send Lebanon back to the stone age." (TOI / VFI News)

IDF Attacked Secret Iranian Weapon Factories in Syria – Report; The alleged attack by the Israeli Air Force in Aleppo, Syria at the beginning of May targeted sites belonging to a secret Iranian unit operating in Syria, according to media reports in Saudi Arabia on Monday evening, June 5. The sites were used by the Iranian Unit 18340, which operates in Syria secretly, as weapons factories to produce precision missiles, as per the reports. In Unit 18340, Iranian and Syrian officers work together under the command of the Iranian Jawad Soleimani. The unit also assists the "Syrian Corps" within the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Quds Force to produce, supply, and test new weapons. In the attacks in May, one Syrian soldier was killed and seven other individuals were injured in airstrikes targeting the Aleppo International Airport and other sites nearby, according to Syrian state media. The strike came a day before a planned visit to Syria by the president of Iran. The Aleppo International Airport was temporarily closed due to the damage caused by the airstrikes. Footage reportedly from the area showed that a fire broke out at the scene. According to Lebanese media, the airstrikes also targeted sites near as-Safirah. (JPost / VFI News)

US, UK Respond After Iranian Fast-Attack Boats Harass Commercial Vessel; US and UK naval forces responded to a distress call from a commercial vessel in the Strait of Hormuz between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman after Iranian fast-attack boats began harassing the ship on Sunday, June 4, according to the US Navy's 5th Fleet. Three fast-attack boats assessed to be from the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) with armed personnel approached the ship and began following it at a close distance on Sunday afternoon. US Navy guided-missile destroyer USS McFaul (DDG 74) and UK Royal Navy frigate HMS Lancaster (F 229) both received the distress call, with Lancaster launching a helicopter to provide surveillance and the US 5th fleet directing a P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft to monitor the incident. After about an hour, the fast-attack boats departed and the commercial vessel transited the Strait without further incident. "US 5th Fleet remains vigilant and is bolstering defense around the key strait with partners to enhance regional maritime security and stability," said the 5th Fleet. According to the Fleet, Iran has harassed, attacked, or interfered with the navigational rights of 15 internationally flagged merchant vessels over the past two years. (JPost / VFI News)

A Cure for Nuclear Radiation May Be Available Soon; A nuclear attack might be one of the biggest and scariest threats facing humanity, and will probably stay that way for the coming year. Even so, in the US, a medical experiment was recently carried out that aims to prevent the harmful effects of radiation on the body in the case of a nuclear attack. Possibilities of prevention and treatment of radiation damage are very limited today, so a drug that can efficiently remove radioactive contamination from the body would be a milestone in the defense against a poison that until today, is thought to be unstoppable. HOPO 14-1 is

an experimental medicine that might, if the experiment succeeds, protect and treat victims of nuclear fallout by binding (which is also called chelating) and expelling contaminated heavy metals from the body. It is supposed to be effective against uranium and other substances that are used in nuclear weapons, like "dirty bombs" (conventional bombs with added nuclear waste or radioactive substances) or ballistic missiles. The medicine might also be effective against lead poisoning. The first clinical trial on humans will include 42 participants, who will be treated with various doses to determine the safety of the medicine. The results will be published in 2024. As of now, HOPO 14-1 doesn't have FDA approval and isn't available even in an emergency. (JPost / VFI News)

Israeli Hospital Offers Cancer Patients New Hope Thanks to New Tech; When asked about the ingredients that make Hadassah Medical Center's Oncology Department one of the best in the world, Hadassah Director General Prof. Yoram Weiss points first to the staff, "Our priority is having the best clinicians, the best researchers, and the best educators, which informs our financial decisions." Also, to maximize the potential offered by new technologies and Israeli innovation, Hadassah has created additional tools, "For example, we have established a Proton Center, the first in the Middle East, in cooperation with a start-up called P-Cure," Prof. Aron Popovtzer, director of the Sharett Institute of Oncology said. Regular radiation works through particles known as photons, he explained. A treatment based on photons is very powerful in curing the disease, but at the same time causes many unwanted side effects. "Protons work in a different way, thanks to a specific feature that they present called 'Bragg peak'", Popovtzer added. "This property allows the radiation beam to stop abruptly after it reaches its target, which means significantly limiting the toxicity of the treatment." Hadassah's Proton Center, which is running several clinical trials sponsored by P-Cure, offers other unique features: instead of receiving treatment while lying down, the patient sits up and this allows the physicians to angle the radiation beam even more accurately. The hospital is also working on offering cancer patients the possibility to undergo Alpha radiation, as opposed to regular radiation, in partnership with a company called Alpha Tau. Among others, the initiative is supported by the Health Ministry. The hospital is already administering this innovative treatment to some cancer patients. (JPost / VFI News)

Israel Under-20 to Face Off Against Uruguay in the Semifinals; The Israel national soccer team will be playing against Uruguay in the semifinals of the FIFA Under-20 World Cup, which is being hosted in Argentina. The announcement of Israel's match against Uruguay was confirmed once the Latin American team defeated the United States on Sunday, 2-0 in the quarterfinals - with goals scored by Uruguayan players Anderson Duarte and Joshua Wynder, despite ESPN statistics showing that the USA held possession of the ball for two-thirds of the game. Israel had their quarterfinal match on Saturday, June 3, where they achieved a historic victory over Brazil 3-2 in overtime. The other semifinal match is between Italy and South Korea, meaning that if Israel wins their Thursday game, they will play against one of those two teams in the finals. Regarding the blue-and-white's match on Saturday, Dor Turgeman, the Israeli who scored the winning goal, spoke about the murder of the three IDF soldiers at the Egyptian border, saying that he and his team wanted to "dedicate this win to their families and the entire country. We hope that this gives them a bit of comfort." Israel's win over Brazil had Israelis all over the country celebrating, with politicians President Isaac Herzog, Opposition Leader Yair Lapid, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. (JPost / VFI News)

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