

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update June 22, 2023 (Tamuz 3, 5783)

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The image shows two items: on the left, a book cover titled "GOD'S APPOINTED TIMES" by BARNEY KASDAN, with the subtitle "A Practical Guide for Understanding and Celebrating the Biblical Holidays"; on the right, a glass bottle of "Anointing Oil" labeled "Jerusalem of Gold Anointing Oil".

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Biden Admin. Won't Acknowledge Iran Deal Explicitly to Skirt Congress – Analysis; The Biden administration won't say "Iran Deal," apparently because it fears Congress. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman Yuli Edelstein have called it a "small agreement," a "mini-deal" and a "memorandum of understanding," but the State Department is doing the rhetorical equivalent of whistling and saying "nothing to see here". Why is the Biden administration not saying "Iran Deal?" The reason for this is the 2015 Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act (INARA), which requires the US president to bring any agreement relating to Tehran's nuclear program to Congress for a 30-day review period. The law states that "if the President does not submit such 90-day compliance certification" – that Iran complies with the JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) – "or has determined that Iran has materially breached an agreement and not cured it, legislation reinstating statutory sanctions against Iran introduced within 60 calendar days of such event shall be entitled to expedited consideration." In other words, if Iran is violating the JCPOA – which it has been, for years – then Congress can fast-track a bill to reinstate sanctions. Legally though, the president may enter into an executive agreement without approval from Congress, so in that sense, INARA-based congressional review can't stop President Joe Biden from doing what he wants. (JPost / VFI News)

Netanyahu Sends Message to Biden: 'No Agreements with Iran Are Acceptable'; Prime Minister Netanyahu visited the Israel Aerospace Industries complex Sunday, June 18, and asked to send a message to the American government regarding reports about the possibility of reaching a conclusion that bypasses Congress on the Iranian nuclear program. "We are determined to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons. Our strong opposition to returning to the original nuclear agreement contributes to the American decision not to do so." "We have also made it clear to our American friends that even if the agreements are more limited - they are also unacceptable to us," Netanyahu stated. He added, "In any case, as I make clear

to them, make clear to the world and will also make it clear here again: we will do everything we need to defend ourselves, on our own, against any threat." As part of the visit, the Prime Minister was presented with the activities of the aerospace industry by Chairman Amir Peretz and CEO Boaz Levy. The visit was accompanied by National Security Council head Tzachi Hanegbi and Netanyahu's military secretary Major General Avi Gil. (INN / VFI News)

MK Rothman: US and EU Help Palestinian Authority Undermine Oslo Accords; Knesset Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee Chairman MK Simcha Rothman participated on Thursday, June 15, in the Knesset Land of Israel Caucus tour of the Binyamin Region. "We try to raise awareness to the fact that the Palestinian Authority, besides what we already know that they do with 'pay to slay' and paying for terrorists, they are also actively working underground to go against the Oslo Accords," MK Rothman told Israeli media. "The fact that these things happen with the support of the American administration and countries from the EU that actually pay for illegal buildings in Area C, which is not supposed to be a place for unilateral actions by the Palestinian Authority, creates instability in those places." "This creates the backbone of the future Palestinian state, and we all know that the Palestinian state will be a failed state and a terror state. The way they behaved before they even started to plan their state shows that their plan for this area is not peace, and it's not prosperity, and definitely not a solution to anything that we see here in Israel." Meanwhile, according to a poll released by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research (PCPSR), the vast majority of Palestinians see violence as the only solution and few (28%) believe in the Two – State solution. More specifically, when asked about the most effective means of ending the "Israeli occupation" and building an independent state, the public split into three groups: 52% chose armed struggle (55% in the Gaza Strip and 49% in the West Bank), 21% preferred negotiations, and 22% chose "popular resistance." (INN / VFI News)

China Signs 'Strategic Partnership' with Palestinian Authority During Abbas Visit; China said it has established a "strategic partnership" with the Palestinian Authority during a visit to Beijing by PA President Mahmoud Abbas. The announcement marks another step in China's campaign to gain political and economic influence in the Middle East, where it is competing for influence with the United States. Beijing has long maintained diplomatic ties with the Palestinian Authority and Abbas was welcomed with full military honors at the Great Hall of the People in central Beijing. "We are good friends and partners," Chinese president and head of the ruling Communist Party Xi Jinping told Abbas at the start of their meeting. "We have always firmly supported the just cause of the Palestinian people to restore their legitimate national rights. China is willing to strengthen coordination and cooperation with the Palestinian side to promote a comprehensive, just, and lasting solution to the Palestinian issue as soon as possible," he added. Xi called the strategic partnership an "important milestone in the history of bilateral relations," but its financial details were not immediately released. China has also sought close ties with Israel to both expand its diplomatic presence and gain access to high technology.

Neo-Nazi Accused of Stockpiling Weapons, Plotting Mass Shooting at Michigan Synagogue; A Michigan man who spouted anti-Semitic and Neo-Nazi ideals online was busted by federal agents for allegedly stockpiling weapons in preparation for a mass shooting at an East Lansing synagogue. Seann Pietila, 19, of Pickford, was arrested on Friday, June 16, after agents raided his home and discovered several weapons, a Nazi flag, a camouflage ghillie suit, gas masks, and a military sniper manual, according to the criminal complaint filed by the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Michigan. A search of his phone also yielded a note highlighting a synagogue in East Lansing, along with a date and a list of equipment, including homemade bombs. The FBI said it had received a report Tuesday, June 13, about threatening messages Pietila shared online, including praises for previous mass shooters and neo-Nazis. The suspect showed admiration for the 2019 Christchurch shooting, where 51 people were killed in two New Zealand mosques, with the date highlighted in Pietila's phone matching the fourth

anniversary of the massacre. Pietila was ultimately charged with transmitting a communication containing a threat to injure another. US Attorney Mark Totten said in a statement: "Anti-Semitic threats and violence against our Jewish communities — or any other group for that matter — will not be tolerated in the Western District of Michigan." (NYP /VFI News)

Pittsburgh Synagogue Gunman Found Guilty of Killing 11 in Federal Death Penalty Trial; Robert Bowers, who was accused of shooting and killing 11 worshippers at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh in October 2018, was found guilty on Friday, June 16, of all counts facing him. Bowers was charged with 63 criminal counts, including hate crimes resulting in death and obstruction of the free exercise of religion resulting in death. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty. On October 27, 2018, Bowers opened fire with an AR-15 rifle and other guns at the Pennsylvania synagogue, although prosecutors and the defense sparred at trial over the 50-year-old's motive. Seven people were wounded, including five police officers. "I am grateful to God for getting us to this day," Rabbi Jeffrey Myers of the Tree of Life Congregation, who survived the attack, said in a written statement after the verdict was announced, according to American media. "And I am thankful for the law enforcement who ran into danger to rescue me, and the U.S. Attorney who stood up in court to defend my right to pray." Two hours before Robert Bowers burst into the Tree of Life Synagogue and opened fire during a Shabbat service, he posted on a chat site about the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, "HIAS likes to bring invaders in that kill our people. I can't sit by and watch my people get slaughtered. Screw your optics, I'm going in," a message attributed to Bowers said. (FN/VFI News)

Tel Aviv Moves Up to 5th Place in Annual Ranking of Best Global Tech Ecosystems; Tel Aviv moved up two spots to 5th place in an annual survey ranking the world's most attractive ecosystems for startups and innovation by US research firm Startup Genome, rising from the 7th place last time. The study mapped the global startup industry across more than 140 ecosystems worldwide, collating data on 3.5 million startups. According to Startup Genome's model, the higher the ranking of the ecosystem, the better the shot of an early-stage startup at building global success. California's Silicon Valley maintained its first-place position in this year's report, followed by New York City and London, which were tied once again for second place. Boston and Beijing both dropped out of the top five to sixth and seventh, respectively and paved the way for Los Angeles to be lifted to the fourth spot and Tel Aviv to fifth. In the Startup Genome Ecosystem 2023 report, published annually since 2012, it was noted that Israel's ranking improved even though the tech industry worldwide was facing a challenging year. Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Huldai has also commented, "The presence of the city among the top five in the ranking is conclusive proof that the freedom of creativity and thought, along with the values of diversity and liberalism, form the foundation for a thriving and successful tech industry." (TOI / VFI News)

Intel to Open New Factory in Israel with Unprecedented \$25 Billion Investment; Global tech giant Intel will establish a new factory in Israel in the city of Kiryat Gat with a huge investment of about 25 billion dollars. Finance Minister Bezalel Smotritz and Budget Commissioner Yogev Gardos informed Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Economy Minister Nir Barkat of the new factory Sunday, June 18. As part of the investment, the company is expected to employ thousands of additional workers in Kiryat Gat at wages higher than the average in the manufacturing industry. In addition, it was agreed to significantly increase the tax rate that the company will pay to the state from the current 5% to 7.5%. As part of its commitments, Intel is expected to finish the investment and begin operating the plant by 2027 and continue to operate it until at least 2035. This investment is unprecedented in scope. According to the Finance Ministry, it will yield significant macroeconomic benefits to the economy, especially given the slowdown in the global economy and the global competition to attract technology companies in general and chip manufacturing companies in particular. In addition, the investment has direct financial benefits for the state in significantly higher volumes than the grants that will be given. (INN /VFI News)

Source: 'If Iran Enriches Uranium to 90%, Israel Will Attack'; A senior source in Israel responded to the concern of the diplomatic and security echelons following reports that Iran and the West may reach an agreement on a nuclear deal. Speaking to Israeli media, the source said, "Iran knows that if it breaks out uranium enrichment to 90%, there will be an Israeli attack." He added that the US and the West know that Israel's red line is 90% enrichment. In a series of conversations Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu held in European capitals at the beginning of his term, he told the leaders of Germany, Italy, France, and Britain that 90% enrichment would be a red line from Israel's perspective. The Israeli source also estimated that despite great efforts on the part of the US to reach agreements with Iran, there will not be any such agreements, since Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei is not interested in them. However, after the source made his statements, Khamenei spoke in favor of a limited agreement with the West. MK Benny Gantz also addressed the AJC Global Forum 2023 on Tuesday, June 13, "Should a responsible, necessary, and determined action be needed against Iran, and as a party leader in the opposition, I will provide my full support to the government. Unfortunately, we are closer than we have ever been in the past in needing this act and I truly hope that the world will act before that time comes." Meanwhile, Lithuanian Prime Minister Ingrida Šimonytė said earlier on Sunday that her nation stands with Israel in stemming the threat posed by Iran's growing nuclear capability and promised her country would do its part to keep Iran's nuclear ambitions in check. (INN / VFI News)

Lapid to US Administration: Do Not Sign a Bad Deal with Iran; Opposition leader Yair Lapid said on Sunday, June 11, that the specter of a nuclear Iran was an existential threat not just to Israel but the entire Middle East. Speaking with Ted Deutch, CEO of the American Jewish Committee (AJC) during the opening session of AJC Global Forum in Tel Aviv, Lapid warned the US not to sign any agreement with Iran, the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism, and curtail Iran's nuclear ambitions. "On this there is no coalition or opposition in Israel. Everybody's on the same note, telling the American administration: Do not sign a bad deal. We saw what happened last time you did it." "Right now, Iran a couple of months ago has enriched uranium to 84 percent. When they were asked about it, they said it was by mistake. I think I'm on the details of what it is and there's no way of enriching 84 percent by mistake," he said. "This needs to be part of a global mission. This needs to be orchestrated and the Americans are the ones who need to orchestrate it, and just signing "less for less" or some sort of a new version of JCPOA is not good enough," added Lapid. He also made comments about democracy in Israel: "Israel was founded as a democracy. This is the source of our power. It amazes me that there's so many people who do not understand the fact that there is a reason why it is the only democracy in the Middle East, it's also the most successful country in the Middle East." (INN / VFI News)

Khamenei: West Wouldn't Be Able to Block Iran from Nuclear Weapon If We Wanted One; Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Sunday, June 11, that the world could not stop his country from obtaining nuclear weapons if it chose to pursue such a goal, but that Tehran doesn't want them for religious reasons. He also urged cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog while warning against succumbing to "bullying" based on "unfounded claims." Khamenei made the remarks as he met with scientists, technicians, and officials of Iran's nuclear industry. "Talks about Tehran's nuclear weapons are a lie and they [the West] know it," he said, and reiterated that the stance was in keeping with "our Islamic principles." "Otherwise they would not have been able to stop it," he continued, "just as they have not been able to stop our nuclear progress until now." "The nuclear industry is important both in terms of the progress and capabilities of the country in the technical, economic, and health fields — which gives prestige to the country and makes life better for the people — and in terms of its global and international political weight," Khamenei said according to Iranian media. (TOI / VFI News)

Iran Seeks South American Influence with Cuba, Venezuela Tour – Analysis; Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi is heading to South America for what the country is billing as an important tour of Venezuela, Cuba, and Nicaragua. Iran's President is heading to Latin America after speaking with France's president. Iranian media profiled the trip noting that Iran's president believes that the countries of South America want to pursue an "independent" policy. Meaning that they want to be independent of the US. Iran would like to cultivate ties with more countries, such as Brazil and Columbia, and perhaps Argentina as well. Iran is highlighting its ties with Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela. These are countries whose leadership has been hostile to the US. In addition, these countries work with Russia, China, and sometimes Turkey as well. Tehran sees them as prime candidates for drone sales, trade in energy, and also as part of its overall agenda to threaten the West. Iran wants to get around sanctions and has in the past sought to exploit South America by using proxies like Hezbollah and others to engage in drug trade and other illicit activities. Furthermore, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani visited the UAE and met with key European counterparts, he noted in a tweet, "Following diplomatic consultations with regional and extra-regional parties, we met with our German, French and English counterparts in Abu Dhabi and discussed a range of issues and mutual concerns." (JPost / VFI News)

College Grad Delivers 'Sick' Speech Accusing Israel of 'Killing and Torturing Palestinians'; Another college student at a publicly funded school spewed anti-Semitic hate during her recent commencement speech, critics say — and the university even touted part of her talk on Twitter. El Camino Community College student Jana Abulaban, 18, accused Israel of "killing and torturing Palestinians as we speak" during her address at the school's graduation in Torrance, California, on Friday, June 9. The college, which describes its graduates as "Warriors!" on its website, later tweeted out a photo touting Abulaban speaking at the graduation — but included a much more mild quote from her address. "If I was told 7 years ago, as a Palestinian refugee stepping foot for the first time in this country, that one day I'll be standing on this stage — I would not have believed it. I'm extremely thankful to have gotten to this point," said the tweet quoting Abulaban. The student was never actually a Palestinian refugee, although her grandmother was, and Abulaban "identifies as a Palestinian woman," according to an article in the school's newspaper. The teen was born in Jordan and emigrated to the US from there with her family in 2016 at age 12, the article said. The group stopantisemitism.org tweeted Sunday, "Yet another graduation speech is hijacked with false anti-Semitic rhetoric, this time at El Camino Community College, CA. El Camino received approx. \$150 million in federal, state, and local tax dollars for the 2022-2023 school year according to its budget," the tweet said. (NYP / VFI News)

Israel Tests Drone 'Air Taxis' for the First Time; Israel's National Air Drone Initiative (INDI) launched a number of drone flight tests across Israel last week, in preparation for the advancement of flight vehicles, according to a press release published on Monday, June 4. INDI partnered with the Transportation Ministry, the Israel Innovation Authority, Ayalon Highways, and the Civil Aviation Authority of Israel (CAAI). The project has been operating since 2019 and over the last three years, more than 19,000 flight exercises have been conducted. NIS 60 million has been invested to fund test flights for the next two years. The flights will carry both people and goods. One of the companies operating drones carried out the first test flight of an eVTOL autonomous electric aircraft with long-range capabilities. The test was done in a managed urban airspace and carried heavy cargo loads. In another first, Dronery flew from the Pal-Yam landing pad in Caesarea with EHANG's innovative EH216-S aircraft. This craft can carry two passengers with a total of up to 220 kilograms, and fly a distance of 30 kilometers. This was considered a particular accomplishment, despite the comparatively shorter flight distance, as the craft can be flown completely autonomously with no pilot onboard. This was made possible through the use of EHANG's intelligent command-and-control system. (JPost / VFI News)

Israeli Researchers Develop Cream to Treat Chemo Side Effects; A cream that treats the severe side effects of targeted treatment in cancer patients and can significantly improve their quality of life has been developed by researchers at the Hebrew University and Hadassah University Medical Center in Jerusalem. A new study led by Dr. Sharon Merims, a dermatologist and head of the dermato-oncology clinic at the hospital, and Prof. Ofra Benny of HU's School of Pharmacy has now been published under the title "Preventing skin toxicities induced by EGFR inhibitors by topically blocking drug-receptor interactions." Current oncology treatments use on-target strategies that are meant to block a specific receptor on the tumor, leading to a delay in the cancer cells' growth and a regression of the disease. Since this specific receptor is also found in healthy skin cells, skin toxicity is a known side effect of targeted cancer treatment. The result is that while the targeted therapy can be effective in treating cancer, 90% of the patients will develop skin toxicity with severe facial rashes. Prof. Benny noted that "as a result of this new drug, we can continue treating the cancer on the one hand, but on the other hand, we can prevent the negative side effect of the rashes so the patients' quality of life is maintained while they are being treated for the cancer." (JPost / VFI News)

Israeli-Made Robotic Spiderman Cleans Hong Kong Skyscrapers; An Israeli startup that developed a novel artificial intelligence-powered robot to clean and inspect the exteriors of high-rise buildings signed an agreement in Hong Kong amounting to \$5.6 million. Verbotics is the first company to provide a robot cleaning output ten times the capacity of the traditional cleaning performed by humans. Using computer vision and AI, the robot climbs Spider-Man-style the height and width of a skyscraper. The cleaning is dry mechanical and does not use liquid or chemicals. It attaches to the building using a smart nest allowing simple installation. The robot also collects and analyzes visual data giving it the ability to offer important maintenance information such as detecting cracks, heat leaks, and degradation of materials. Founder and CEO Ido Ganosar explained what sparked the idea behind the innovative technology, "I managed the innovation field in the company for a period of time and one of the things that occupied me the most was how the cleaning work is done as it was 100 years ago with the same infrastructure and the same method." "Together, we developed a system that is independent and does not rely on the infrastructure of the buildings, a system that is plug and play, easy to operate and move, compared to the existing systems weighing hundreds of kilograms. We are talking about a market of tens of billions which is in constant growth of demand." (JPost / VFI News)



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