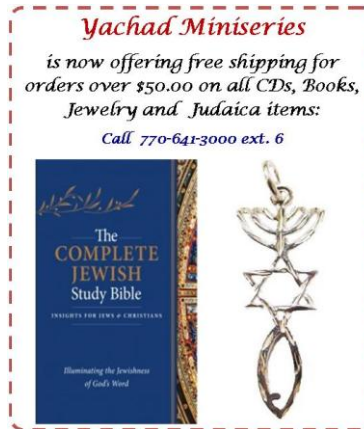


Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update February 12, 2026 (Shvat 24, 5786)



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Israel-Hamas Cease-fire; Trump Shares Report of Second Aircraft Carrier to Be Deployed to Middle East, After Meeting With Netanyahu

- *IDF reservist charged with exploiting classified information for Polymarket bets*
 - *German politician visits Gaza for first time since October 7 attacks*
- *Democrats leader Golan says police enabling crime to set up 'predatory surveillance' before election*
- *Israeli plan to expand control in West Bank violates int'l law, German diplomat says*
 - *Five detained following protests against crime in Arab society in Haifa*
 - *United States issues new sanctions against Hezbollah*
- *Despite claims, Netanyahu was aware of Hamas attack plan as early as 2018*

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Standing with Israel!

Top Hamas Leader Khaled Mashaal Rejects Disarmament or ‘Foreign Rule’; Senior Hamas figure Khaled Mashaal, speaking in Doha, vowed that the terror organization would neither surrender its weapons nor accept any form of foreign administration in Gaza. He characterized disarmament as an attempt to “criminalize the resistance,” asserting that as long as there is occupation, armed struggle remains a right. At the same time, he floated the idea of a long truce a pause measured in years in which Hamas would commit not to use its weapons, with regional mediators acting as guarantors of the arrangement. His stance underscores the core dispute at the heart of postwar planning for Gaza. Jerusalem and Washington insist that verifiable demilitarization is essential to any enduring stability, while Hamas continues to frame its arsenal as non-negotiable. The idea of warehousing or “storing” weapons under international supervision has been hinted at previously, but never in a manner that would amount to surrender. Israeli officials, for their part, maintain that Hamas retains thousands of fighters and a substantial cache of arms despite its losses during the war triggered by the October 7, 2023 massacre. Mashaal also appealed to new diplomatic frameworks to pursue reconstruction and aid, while reiterating that “Palestinians are to govern Palestinians,” signaling categorical opposition to any return to external mandates or trusteeship over Gaza. His remarks point to an ongoing impasse over governance, security guarantees, and the sequencing of reconstruction with demilitarization. *(TOI/VFI News)*

Iran Again Rules Out Giving Up Uranium Enrichment, Suggests US Not Taking Talks Seriously; Iran’s foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi, said Tehran will never abandon uranium enrichment in negotiations with the United States, casting the program as a sovereign right and a matter of national dignity. He dismissed the deterrent effect of US deployments in the region and suggested Washington lacks seriousness in the latest round of indirect talks. While repeating that Iran does not seek a nuclear bomb, he emphasized that sanctions relief must be paired with what he called “confidence-building measures” on the nuclear file. The remarks came after a new round of diplomacy in Oman and a high-profile visit by US officials to the USS Abraham Lincoln, intended to project “peace through strength.” With sanctions tightening and Iran’s domestic unrest still reverberating, both sides publicly maintain that a diplomatic path remains possible, even as the threat of escalation looms over the process. Tehran has also reiterated that its missile program is off-limits, and that domestic enrichment—perhaps with agreed caps is non-negotiable. That position keeps the two sides far apart on verification, limits, and timelines, and leaves open the question of whether a second round of talks will materialize in the near term. *(TOI/VFI News)*

Security Cabinet Okays Deeper Israeli Control In Judea And Samaria; Hamas Urges ‘Escalation’; Israel’s security cabinet approved measures to reshape land registration and property acquisitions in Judea and Samaria, with officials saying the steps remove decades-old barriers and repeal Jordanian-era restrictions. Publishing registries would make ownership records public and enable direct private purchases, including by non-Muslims changes supporters argue align the area’s practices with norms inside Israel. Oversight and enforcement on issues such as environmental hazards and antiquities

damage would be expanded into Areas A and B. The Palestinian Authority condemned the decisions and called for international intervention, while Hamas urged a “rebellion” in [*Judea and Samaria*] and Jerusalem and pressed Muslim nations to sever ties with Israel. Pro-settlement groups hailed the policy as a de facto assertion of sovereignty; critics warned that shifting certain authorizations to the security cabinet could entrench divisive moves and complicate future reversals. The plan would also boost Israeli control at the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron and improve maintenance at Rachel’s Tomb near Bethlehem. Proponents cast the package as long-needed normalization of property rules; opponents say it risks inflaming tensions and undermining existing agreements. (*TOI/VFI News*)

El Al Faces Record \$39 Million Fine For Wartime Price Gouging; Israel’s Competition Authority has notified El Al of its intention to levy the maximum legal fine—NIS 121 million (about \$39 million)—alleging the carrier charged “excessive and unfair” fares during the months when most foreign airlines suspended service to Israel after October 7, 2023. The proposed penalty would go to the state treasury but is not yet final; the airline will have an opportunity to contest the claim in a formal hearing. Regulators said El Al effectively monopolized air travel for roughly seven months and used its dominant position to keep ticket prices unusually high. El Al rejected the allegations, arguing that an average 16% increase in economy and premium fares does not constitute excessive pricing and noting that unprecedented demand and reduced capacity distorted normal market conditions. The carrier has recently reported record revenue and profits, driven in part by near-total control of routes to North America during the period in question. The case now turns on how Israeli law defines and measures “excessive” pricing in emergency conditions and whether El Al’s market dominance amounted to abuse. (*JPost/VFI News*)

Israeli Bobsled Team Says Apartment Was Robbed Ahead Of Milan-Cortina Winter Games; Just before Israel’s Olympic bobsled debut, pilot AJ Edelman said the apartment used by team members during final training was burglarized, with passports, equipment, and other valuables taken. The loss, he indicated, amounted to thousands of dollars. Despite the disruption, the athletes resumed training as local authorities opened an investigation, and supporters rallied around the team. The setback adds an emotional twist to a history-making moment: Israel is fielding bobsled entries in both the two-man and four man events at the 2026 Winter Olympics. The squad’s journey spanning logistical hurdles, limited funding, and the challenge of building a niche winter sport program has become a point of pride across communities in Israel and the diaspora. Even amid geopolitical tensions and heightened scrutiny, the team’s message has been one of perseverance and unity. Edelman and his teammates emphasized they would not allow the theft to define their Games, committing to compete with determination and represent Israel with dignity on the world stage. (*NYP/VFI News*)

Israel Museum Celebrates 60 With Towering Art, Color-Drenched Canvases And Historical Prints; Visitors entering the signature exhibition marking the Israel Museum’s 60th birthday are greeted by a faint smell of mildew part of “Ages of the World,” a monumental installation by artist Anselm Kiefer. The towering four meter high pyramid piles canvases in varied stages of decay among old photo albums, history books, dried sunflowers, dust and paint chips, and mid-sized rocks. Many of the 140 canvases were previously stored in shipping containers and left to the elements, a hallmark of Kiefer’s process and the source of the scent. The work reflects Kiefer’s ongoing themes of destruction and reconstruction, and the legacy of World War II and the Holocaust, inviting reflection as the country’s foremost cultural institution marks six decades since its 1965 founding near the Knesset. Curator Orly Rabi, who coordinated with the artist’s Paris team to reassemble the piece after it was donated by collector Martin Margulies, noted the connection to Kiefer’s influential 1984 solo exhibit at the museum, which engaged Hebrew Bible and Kabbalah motifs. Museum director Suzanne Landau said the museum began marking its 60th in 2025 during wartime and that the new exhibits offer a chance to consider the institution’s achievements and generosity of donors over time. The museum is also renovating its Isamu Noguchi sculpture garden and

displaying the entire Great Isaiah Scroll in the Shrine of the Book for the first time since 1968. (TOI/VFI News)



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