



KFIR

YOUNG LIONS CLUB

MIDDLE EAST UPDATE

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ISSACHAR TOUR



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NEWS BITES

Would-be PM Gantz sells himself as the vital antidote to toxic, aloof Netanyahu. In first political speech, ex-army chief depicts PM as a haughty, corrupt monarch, tearing Israeli society apart, and himself as a unifier and healer. Will the electorate be wooed?

"We will not avert our eyes from a regime that chants, 'Death to America,' and threatens genocide against the Jewish people," Trump said. "We must never ignore the vile poison of anti-Semitism, or those who spread its venomous creed. With one voice, we must confront this hatred anywhere and everywhere it occurs."

Russia has delivered S-300 air defense batteries to Syria and placed them beside what is believed to be an Iranian weapons manufacturing facility. So, what are the implications of this? How does this bode for Israel's efforts to stop Iranian entrenchment in Syria? How will this development challenge the Israel Air Force's ability to maneuver in the skies above Damascus?



ULTIMATE DEAL



The U.S. and Poland are sponsoring the Feb. 13-14 conference, which they say is aimed at promoting peace and security in the region. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu plans on attending.

A senior Palestinian official says the Palestinians have not been invited to next week's Mideast conference in Poland and have no desire to participate unless the U.S. changes its policies. The Palestinians accuse the Trump administration of being unfairly biased in favor of Israel. They say they will reject a planned U.S. peace initiative unless it endorses an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, with east Jerusalem as its capital.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has said he hopes the Warsaw conference will allow the world to see "the enormous coalition that is prepared to assist in creating stability and peace here in the Middle East."



ULTIMATE DEAL WATCH



ULTIMATE DEAL WATCH – Palestinians May Be Open to Trump Peace Plan, Official Says – by Michael Arnold: "If the U.S. plan backs a Palestinian state in the pre-1967 boundaries, with its capital in east Jerusalem, 'we are ready to sit at the table and negotiate immediately,' Information Minister and presidential spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeineh told foreign journalists in Ramallah... 'Any plan from Kushner or Trump or anybody will be doomed to fail immediately' if it doesn't meet Palestinian demands... However, he said, 'if they are willing to do this -- believe me, it will solve all the issues in the Middle East.'"





Iran displayed a new cruise missile with a range of 1,300 kilometers (800 miles) on Saturday during celebrations marking the anniversary of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the country's state-run media reported. Iran has expanded its missile program, particularly its ballistic missiles, in defiance of opposition from the United States and expressions of concern by European and Middle Eastern countries, including Israel. Tehran has said the program is purely defensive. Iran's new long-range missile puts Israel at risk. It can reach a range of 1,300 kilometers.

Not only is Israel at risk, the entire world really is. And they can't be stopped if the world does not address the true threat. Iran is the number one state sponsor of terrorism throughout the world. They fund other terrorist organizations. They provide money and weapons. And they are leading the battle against Western values.



IRANIAN THREATS



A senior Iranian defense official warned on Tuesday that his country will hit back at Israel if it continues to carry out airstrikes in Syria.

Ali Shamkhani, the secretary of Iran's National Security Council, made the threat as he held talks with visiting Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Muallem in Tehran.



"If these actions continue, we will activate some calculated measures as a deterrent and as a firm and appropriate response to teach a lesson to the criminal and lying rulers of Israel," Shamkhani said, according to Reuters, which cited a Fars news agency report.



JUDEA AND SAMARIA



The number of people living in Israeli towns in Judea and Samaria surged at a much faster rate than the overall Israeli population last year, said a group that gathers precise Jewish population statistics for Judea and Samaria, predicting even more rapid growth thanks to the policies of the Trump administration.

The Palestinians claim both Judea, Samaria and the eastern section of Israel's capital of Jerusalem, areas captured by Israel in the 1967 Six Day War, for a future independent state.

They say the settlements are illegally gobbling up their land and harming the chances of a two-state solution – a position shared by most of the international community.



PA TAX CUTS



The Diplomatic-Security Cabinet is expected within two weeks to approve a major cut to the tax revenues that Israel collects on behalf of the Palestinian Authority, with the amount the P.A. pays to terrorists and their families to be deducted from the money Israel hands over to the P.A.



The reduction will be enacted under a law passed this past summer by Knesset members Elazar Stern (Yesh Atid) and Avi Dichter (Likud), which requires the Defense Ministry to provide the cabinet with data on the amount the [P.A. pays terrorists and their families](#). The Finance Ministry will then withhold that amount from the tax funds.



BENNY GANTZ



The Palestinians on Wednesday welcomed remarks made by Benny Gantz, the main rival of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the upcoming April elections, who earlier seemed to raise the possibility of an Israeli pullback from the West Bank and said Israel should find a way to end its "control" over the Palestinians.

PA praises Gantz for saying Israel shouldn't rule others Palestinian Authority calls Israel Resilience Party leader Benny Gantz's assertion that continued rule over the Palestinians is not an Israeli interest "encouraging"

Netanyahu warns Gantz will "carry out a second disengagement in Judea and Samaria."



**“The acts we engage in for appeasement today,
we will have to remedy at far greater cost
and remorse tomorrow.”**

Sir Winston Churchill



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**YOUNG
LIONS**

If you know anyone who would be interested in joining our KFIR Global Community, please send them to our website to get signed up. We have had great growth this year but believe God wants to continue growing this Group that seeks to be devoted to the WORD, to PRAYER and to be like the sons of ISSACHAR, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do!

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