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Middle East Update



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ISSUES

US, Russian envoys fail to reach breakthrough on Syrian crisis

No U.S.-Russia deal on Syria yet as talks continue • U.S. President Barack Obama: "Gaps of trust" not closed "in a way where we think it would actually work" • Russian President Vladimir Putin: All steps forward must take Iran into account.

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud **Abbas said Tuesday he was willing to meet with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Moscow** on Friday, but that the Israeli premier had asked to postpone the meeting.

Teach Zionism in Schools - Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Education Minister Naftali Bennett announced plans to begin instilling Zionist values in a more effective manner throughout the school curriculum. "Our goal is to revolutionize education. This revolution will be based on two things - excellence and Zionism," declared Prime Minister Netanyahu.

Palestinian educators and parents are complaining about the newest official Palestinian Authority textbooks which, they say, do not focus enough on spreading lies about Israel.



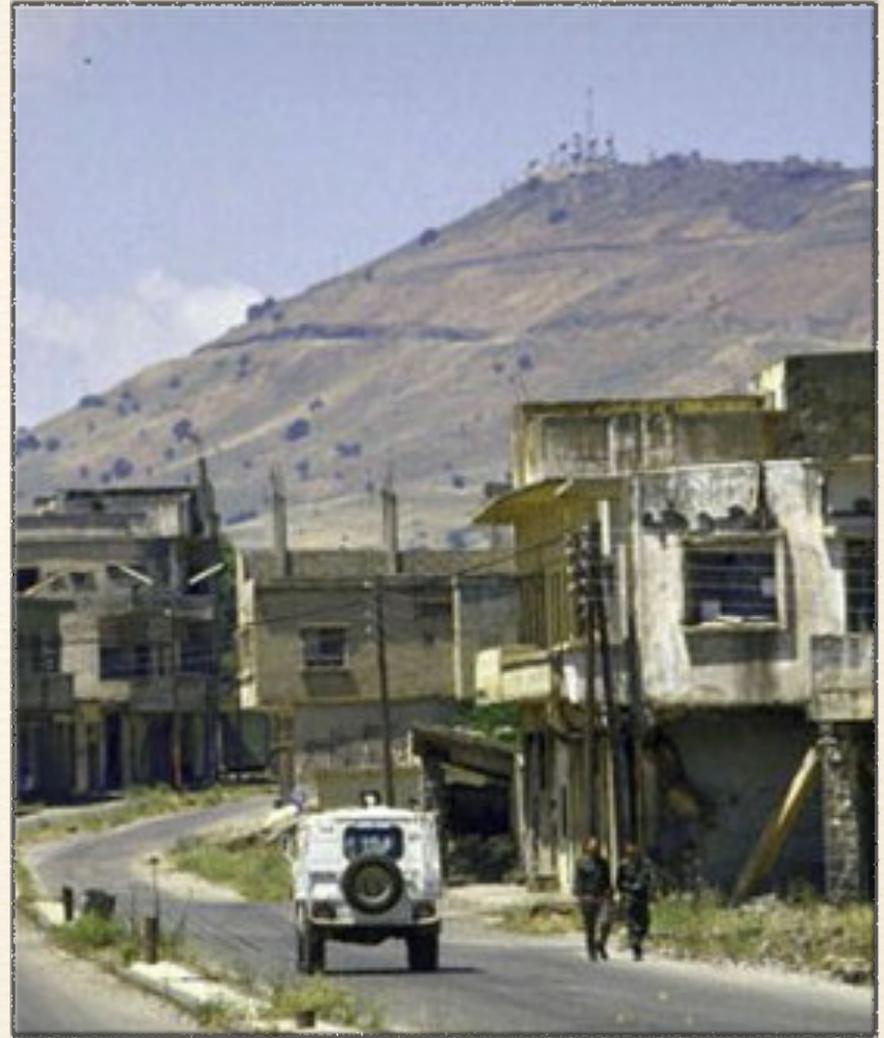
ISIS ON GOLAN BORDER

- ❖ ISIS terrorists are reportedly very close to the northern Israeli border, but for now they seem focused mainly on the war in Syria.
- ❖ A new video released by the Islamic State appears to show ISIS-affiliated groups fighting mere kilometers from Israel's border on the southern Golan Heights.
- ❖ However, the report continues, despite their close proximity to the Israeli border, the terrorists did not appear to pose an explicit threat to Israel; rather, their focus seems to be on the Syrian civil war. Still, Israeli security forces are monitoring the situation closely. Intelligence-gathering within the IDF's Northern Command has greatly increased.



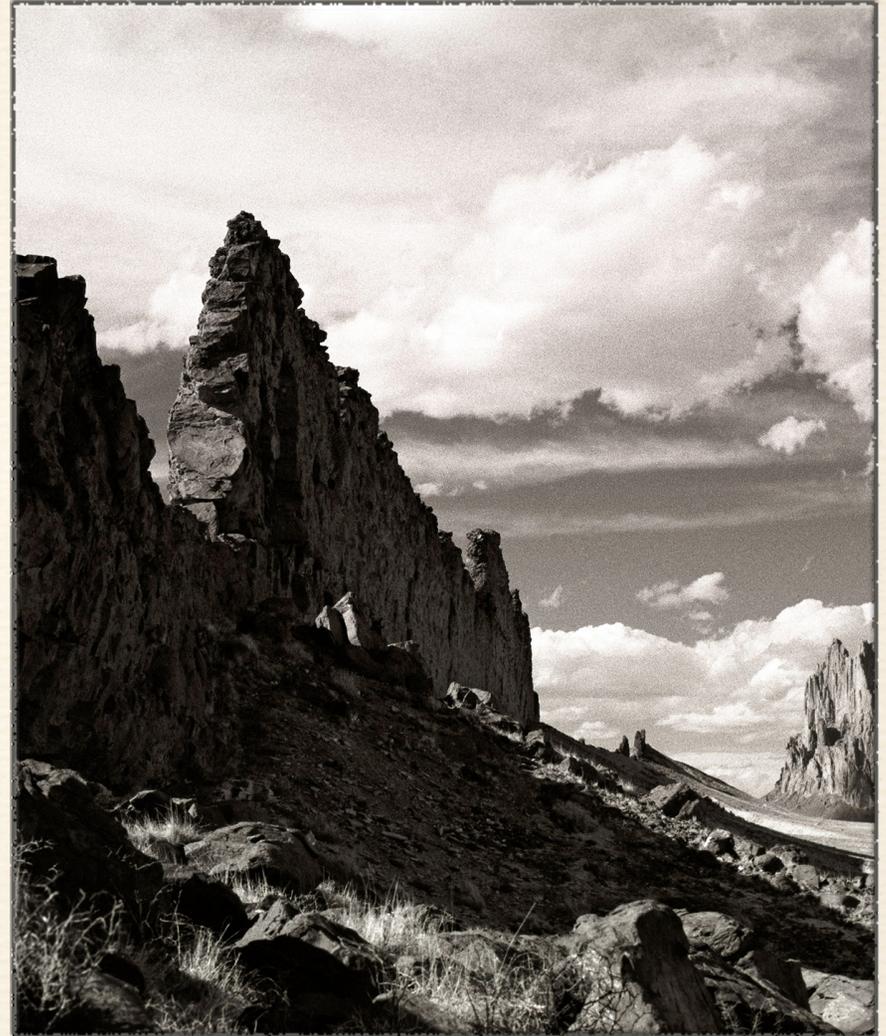
Hezbollah & Assad Forces ON Golan border

- ❖ The Syrian army and Lebanon-based Iranian proxy terrorist organization Hezbollah are coordinating a large-scale “anti-terrorism” operation in southern Syria, near the border with Israel in the Golan Heights, the semi-official Iranian news agency Fars reported on Monday.
- ❖ According to the report, Israel’s assessment is that after the warring sides in Syria achieve understandings, jihadists will turn their attention to and aim their fire at Israel. This possibility was behind a series of drills conducted by the IDF’s Golani Brigade along the Syrian and Lebanese borders earlier in the summer to train for combat against ISIS and Hezbollah terrorists, against which the Israeli military fought a war in Lebanon 10 years ago.



Bologon

"Israel maintains wary eye on Syria as conflict turns to 'balagan'" by Luke Baker:
"There is a debate about whether we are at the beginning of the end or just the end of the beginning," [Avi] Dichter, the former director of Shin Bet and now chair of parliament's foreign affairs and defense committee, told foreign reporters. "I know chaos is a better word for describing what is going on, but really it is 'balagan'," he said, using a Hebrew word with Russian roots that means total mess. "With chaos, you know when it is going to stabilize. 'Balagan' is something that no one really knows when it is going to be stable." [[Reuters](#)]



TORAH GLEANINGS

During his reign, the king was to write for himself a letter-perfect copy of the Torah (mishneh ha-Torah) under the direct supervision of the Levitical priests. The scroll was to always be with him and the king was to read and study it every day of his life. The sages say that when King David wrote, "I have set the LORD always before me; because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved" (Psalm 16:8), he was referring to the scroll of Torah which he kept tied to his arm.



Quotable Quotes

"Men of genius are admired, men of wealth are envied, men of power are feared; but only men of character are trusted." -unknown author

*"My son, do not lose sight of these—keep sound wisdom and discretion, and they will be life for your soul and adornment for your neck. Then you will walk on your way securely, and your foot will not stumble." **Proverbs 3:21***





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