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Bring them home
Gad Haggai, age 73, kidnapped from Kibbutz Nir Oz

Helping newcomers
Working to simplify Israeli real estate for olim
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Spaghetti straps, side curls
Ishay Ribo sells out at Madison Square Garden
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Exploding pagers wound thousands in Lebanon

Targeted Hezbollah threatens major response • At least eight killed, over 3,600 injured



HUNDREDS OF BYSTANDERS surround the American University of Beirut Medical Center as ambulances arrive with casualties from the pager explosions that went off in several Hezbollah strongholds around Lebanon yesterday. (Anwar Amro/AFP via Getty Images)

• By YONAH JEREMY BOB, JACOB LAZNIK and Reuters

In the most significant hit Lebanese terrorist and Iranian proxy group Hezbollah has taken in recent years, in an event that rocked Lebanon, over 3,600 people were wounded throughout the country on Tuesday – a large majority of them Hezbollah members – at around 3:30 p.m., when the pagers that they used to communicate exploded. Additional Hezbollah operatives in Syria and Iraq fell victim to the attack as well.

Lebanon's Health Minister Firass Abiad said that around 200 people were critically wounded, and the ministry was closing in on a dozen who had already died.

The Iranian ambassador to Lebanon, Mojtaba Amani, was reportedly wounded in the explosion, according to Iranian state-owned Mehr News Agency, as were a variety of senior Hezbollah officials and relatives of the terrorist group's parliamentary MPs.

Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah was reportedly unharmed – or at least still was in command – and the group's public relations arm issued multiple messages blaming Israel, threatening a powerful counterstrike.

Later in the day, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav

ISRAEL AT WAR



Shin Bet thwarts Hezbollah plot to kill former defense official,
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Palestinian poll finds big drop in support for Oct. 7 attack,
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Gallant met with other top defense officials to evaluate the state of play between the sides.

Likewise, IDF Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Herzi Halevi later held a situation assessment with the IDF high command.

At around 8:15 p.m., the IDF Home Front Command said that there was no change in defensive guidelines or movement restrictions, though virtually all Israeli defense officials were expecting a significant response from Hezbollah.

In an initial statement, Hezbollah said, "This afternoon, several messaging devices known as 'pagers,'

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Blasts imply strategic shift against Hezbollah

ANALYSIS
• By HERB KEINON

At 2:36 a.m. on Tuesday, the Prime Minister's Office sent out a statement saying that the security cabinet updated the objectives of the current war to include "returning the residents of the North securely to their homes."

The brief statement concluded: "Israel will continue to act to implement this objective."

Fourteen hours later, hundreds of wireless pagers exploded across Lebanon and even in Damascus in the pockets and bags carried by members of Hezbollah, wounding more than 2,800 and delivering a substantial physical and morale blow to the terrorist organization.

Coincidence? Probably not. As of Tuesday evening, Israel has not taken responsibility

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Chaos created in Lebanon is Hezbollah's worst nightmare

ANALYSIS
• By SETH J. FRANTZMAN

Hezbollah is known to be a disciplined group. Highly trained, the group invests heavily in its recruits and is not known to waste them as cannon fodder. It views itself as an elite organization, and within its structure there are centers of terrorist excellence, such as the Radwan Force.

Hezbollah has achieved this through decades of fine-tuning its capabilities. It has built itself up slowly, first in the 1980s and then in the past two decades as it came to dominate Lebanon. It now faces its worst nightmare: chaos.

Hezbollah is in disarray because a large number of its members were wounded on September 17 by exploding communi-

cations devices. Footage out of Lebanon showed men with wounds on their hands and faces.

The devices were allegedly pagers. Videos showed one man pulling his pager from his pocket only to have it explode in his hand. Gruesome videos from hospitals in Lebanon showed a large number of men missing parts of their hands, or wounded on their legs, stomach, or face.

This large loss may not be crippling to Hezbollah, but it clearly will harm a swath of its key members. Some who were injured and hospitalized might go back to serving Hezbollah, but they will not have one of their hands. Additionally, these were likely their dominant hand, meaning the hand

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Hezbollah blindsided by coordinated attack

ANALYSIS
• By YONAH JEREMY BOB

Mid-afternoon on Tuesday, Hezbollah pagers exploded across Lebanon.

The Lebanese organization had no idea what hit it. Whoever planned and set up this simultaneous multifront strike had doubtless been holding this capability in check, waiting for months – if not years – for the right moment to strike.

In recent years, there have been tremendous advances in cell phone hacking capabilities, which can be incredibly damaging.

Already between the years 2009-2010, the US and Israel hacked and destroyed over 1,000 Iranian nuclear centrifuges. The US later hacked a critical Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) intelligence-gathering

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Dismissal of Gallant put off due to precarious situation in North

Eisenkot: Sa'ar is not qualified to serve as defense minister

• By ELIAH BREUER

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's move to fire Defense Minister Yoav Gallant and appoint MK Gideon Sa'ar in his stead will likely be delayed due to Tuesday's hacking attack in Beirut, according to a number of reports.

Several leaks on Monday afternoon indicated that negotiations between Netanyahu and Sa'ar had advanced significantly and that a deal was nearing in which Sa'ar would become the defense minister, his number two MK Ze'ev Elkin

would also become a minister and a mechanism would be implemented that would enable him to rejoin the Likud and contend in the next election.

Former minister MK Gadi Eisenkot said in an interview with KAN Reshet Bet on Tuesday morning that Sa'ar was "unqualified" to serve as defense minister. The comment came a day after a flurry of reports indicated that Sa'ar was nearing a deal with the prime minister to enter the government and take over as defense minister, replacing Gallant.

Fellow former minister and Sa'ar colleague, MK Benny Gantz, said later on Tuesday that the deal "endangered Israeli security in the most concrete way."

In his speech at a con-

ference of the Moshavim Movement council, Gantz commended the security cabinet's decision late Monday night to include the return of evacuees from the North to their homes in the official goals of the war, albeit half a year too late. "But replacing a defense minister on the eve of a possibly intense campaign in the North that could turn into a regional war, is, in my eyes, reckless," Gantz underlined.

"When we joined the emergency government we put politics aside for the sake of the war, and now Netanyahu and Sa'ar are putting aside the war for the sake of politics," Gantz said.

New details emerged in a number of reports on Tuesday

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US urges Iran not to escalate tensions

Security cabinet adds safe return of northern residents to its war goals • Blinken to Egypt

• By TOVAH LAZAROFF

The United States warned Iran not to increase risks for a regional war in the aftermath of an unusual attack in which hundreds of Hezbollah pagers exploded in Lebanon, killing at least eight and wounding over 2,700 people.

"We would urge Iran not to take advantage of any incident, any instability... to further increase tensions in the region," State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller told reporters in Washington on Tuesday.

Both he and White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre denied any United States involvement in the attack, which appeared to return the region to the brink of a larger Israel-Lebanese war.

The attack came after Israel

See IRAN, Page 7



MEDICS COLLECT blood donations in Beirut's southern suburbs yesterday after explosions hit locations in several Hezbollah strongholds around Lebanon, killing at least eight people and wounding Iran's ambassador, in blasts Hezbollah blamed on Israel. (AFP via Getty Images)

UNGA seeks to deny Israel's right to self-defense

• By TOVAH LAZAROFF

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) is expected to vote on Wednesday on a resolution that seeks to strip Israel of the right to self-defense in Gaza, the West Bank, and east Jerusalem.

This text "ignores the Hamas terror attack of October 7, ignores Israel's legitimate security concerns, and seeks to remove Israel's ability to protect itself," Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon told the plenum at a Tuesday debate prior to the vote.

The document was submitted by over 40 countries and is part of an effort by the Palestinian Authority to give teeth to July's International Court of Justice advisory opinion that Israel's occupation of territory over the pre-1967 lines was illegal. Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia were all cosponsors of the resolution.

The resolution calls on the IDF, which has military control of the West Bank and Gaza, to fully withdraw from those territories within 12 months as part of an extensive list of 19 demands. This would include evacuating all West Bank settlements and outposts. As part of that evacuation, Israel will be asked to withdraw from all parts of east Jerusalem, including the Old City.

Israel must remove "all its military forces from the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including its airspace and maritime space," the text stated.

The resolution bans arms sales to the IDF of any equipment that might be used in territory over the pre-1967 lines, namely in the West Bank, Gaza, and east Jerusalem. It also calls to boycott all products produced in those territories.

It asks UN member states to "take steps towards ceasing the importation of products originating in the Israeli settlements, as well as the provision or transfer of arms, munitions, and related equipment to Israel... in all cases where there



ISRAEL'S AMBASSADOR to the UN Danny Danon presents a photo showing the tunnel where six hostages were imprisoned and eventually killed, at the United Nations General Assembly in New York yesterday. (Eskinder Debebe/ UN Photo)

are reasonable grounds to suspect that they may be used in the Occupied Palestinian Territory."

The extensive text, which is one of the more onerous anti-Israel resolutions to be presented to the General Assembly, makes no mention of Israeli security concerns or the potential of Palestinian attacks against Israel such as the Hamas-led invasion from Gaza in October 2023.

It comes before the UNGA amid a protracted Gaza war. Hamas asserts that over 40,000 Palestinians in Gaza have been killed in that war. Israel has said that over 17,000 of the dead were combatants.

Palestinian Authority Ambassador Riyad Mansour recalled the ICJ's "historic" advisory opinion when he told the UNGA the time had come for it to "uphold

its mandate and for all [UN member] states to uphold their own obligations to ensure Israel compliance" with international law.

He assured the Palestinian people that the time had come for the international community to back their just claim to self-determination.

"I stand on this podium... to tell the Palestinian people that a change is going to come, that their fate is not endless suffering and agony, that freedom is their birthright and their destiny."

"The world is watching us to see if we can live up to the commitments we undertake and to the principles we claim as ours at this historic and crucial juncture for humankind," Mansour said to the UN member states.

He urged them to "please stand on the right side of history" by voting for inter-

national law, freedom, and peace for the Palestinian people.

"The alternative is what you witness every day on your TV screen," Mansour said, explaining that "a different reality is possible. It starts now and here. Free Palestine. Peace for All."

Danon had harsh words for the UNGA for considering a resolution that did not mention October 7, Hamas, or the 251 hostages.

The UNGA has passed two resolutions on the conflict since October 7, "yet there has not been one word about Hamas and barely a word about the hostages. Those who contribute to this circus are not simply bystanders, you are participants," he stated.

Danon held up a photograph of the tunnel in which six of the hostages were executed earlier this

month, noting that the chamber had been hidden under a child's bedroom.

"This resolution distorts the flawed advisory opinion of the ICJ. It ignores the truth, twists the facts, and replaces reality with fiction," he stated.

The text, he said, "is not a quest for legal clarity, but a predetermined attempt to delegitimize Israel on the world stage."

The UN, he said, has confused the victim with the victimizer as he recalled that Hamas's charter seeks the destruction of Israel.

"Instead of condemning the killers - the ones who want to commit genocide - you condemn the victims," Danon said.

"This resolution seeks to deflect blame for Hamas's own atrocities onto Israel who is forced to defend itself," he stated.

Poll shows big drop in Palestinian support for Oct. 7 massacre

• By ALI SAWAFTA

RAMALLAH, West Bank (Reuters) - A majority of Gazans believe that Hamas's decision to launch the October 7 massacre on Israel was incorrect, according to a poll published on Tuesday pointing to a big drop in backing for the attack that prompted Israel's offensive.

The poll, conducted in early September by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research (PSR), found that 57% of people surveyed in the Gaza Strip said the decision to launch the offensive was incorrect, while 39% said it was correct.

It marked the first time since October 7 that a PSR poll found a majority of Gazan respondents judging the decision as incorrect.

It was accompanied by a drop in support for the attack in the West Bank, though a majority of 64% of respondents there still thought it was the correct decision, the poll found.

PSR's previous poll, conducted in June, showed that 57% of respondents in Gaza thought the decision to be correct.

PSR said it surveyed 1,200 people face-to-face, 790 of them in the West Bank and 410 in Gaza, with a 3.5% margin of error.

PSR polls since the October 7 attack have consistently shown a majority of respondents in both Gaza and the West Bank to believe the attack was a correct decision, with support generally greater in the West Bank than Gaza.

PSR said the poll released on Tuesday marked the first time since October 7 that its findings had shown simultaneously in the West Bank and Gaza a significant drop in the favorability of the attack and in expectations that Hamas will win the current war.

Overall, the poll found a majority of 54% of respondents in Gaza and the West Bank thought the decision was correct.

In August, the IDF accused Hamas of mounting an effort to falsify the results of PSR polls to falsely show support for Hamas on October 7, though the military said there was no evidence of the PSR cooperating with Hamas.

PSR said it had taken the allegation seriously and investigated it. PSR said on Tuesday its analysis of the data did not flag any inconsistencies that would arise when data is arbitrarily altered, and that a review of quality control measures "convinced us that no data manipulation took place."

Support for October 7 did not necessarily mean support for Hamas or killings or atrocities committed against civilians, PSR said, adding that "almost 90% of the public believes Hamas men did not commit the atrocities depicted in videos taken on that day."

The poll showed a drop in the number of respondents in Gaza who said they supported Hamas to 35% from 38%. But the Islamist movement remained more popular than Fatah, led by President Mahmoud Abbas, in both Gaza and the West Bank.

Shin Bet thwarted Hezbollah plot to kill former defense official

• By AVI ASHKENAZI

The Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency) said on Tuesday that it foiled a plot by Hezbollah to assassinate a former senior defense official.

The Shin Bet declined to name the official. It said in a statement that it had seized an

explosive device attached to a remote detonation system, using a mobile phone and a camera, that Hezbollah had planned to operate in the coming days from Lebanon.

The targeted individual was informed by security forces and briefed according to the developments. According to

the Shin Bet, the infrastructure behind the plot is the same one responsible for last September's failed attack at Hayarkon Park in Tel Aviv. The device that was discovered bears similarities to the bomb used in last year's attempt, which intended to target a senior Israeli official. The explosive was equipped with a

remote activation mechanism based on a camera and cellular system, meant to be triggered from Lebanon by Hezbollah operatives.

The Israeli security establishment believes that Hezbollah was also behind the attack in September 2023. "It should be emphasized that this infrastruc-

ture has been under surveillance for some time," the Shin Bet said.

This is the third Hezbollah explosive device discovered in Israeli territory in the last two years. In March 2023, an explosive detonated at the Megiddo Junction, severely injuring 21-year-old Shareef ad-Din

from Salem. Details later emerged about how the terrorist managed to infiltrate Israel: he used a ladder to bypass the fence and then traveled dozens of kilometers into Israel without being detected.

After the bomb went off, the terrorist was apprehended in the Western Galilee, likely

on his way back to Lebanon, carrying a significant amount of ammunition. The driver who transported him was also arrested but later released when it became clear that he was unaware his passenger was an armed terrorist.

Reuters contributed to this report.

'Iran is continuing to deceive IAEA'

• By YONAH JEREMY BOB

Israel Atomic Energy Commission chief Moshe Edri told the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Tuesday that Iran has continued to manipulate inspectors and the West, even as it has drawn dangerously close to crossing the nuclear weapons threshold.

Speaking at the organization's annual meeting on Tuesday, he said, "There is no doubt that Iran established a military nuclear program with the goal of developing a number of nuclear weapons. Iran continues to advance this program by obtaining relevant technology and knowledge, along with a worrying volume of enriched uranium."

Edri said that Tehran "has been carrying out clandestine nuclear activities at undeclared sites for many years. The IAEA found decisive evidence of the existence of these activities, including the use of undeclared nuclear materials and related equipment."

The Islamic Republic is getting away with these continued violations of its various international commitments "despite

repeated decisions of the IAEA Board of Governors," said Edri. It also failed to "provide credible technical explanations for these activities, and it continues to deceive the IAEA [and] the international community."

He additionally warned that Iran, Hezbollah, and Hamas have also tried to execute plans to attack Israel's nuclear facilities (Israel admits that it has such facilities, such as at Dimona, but does not discuss possible military dimensions.)

Moreover, he cautioned that Tehran is using and distributing ballistic missiles, including to its Yemeni proxy group, the Houthis, who have threatened global maritime travel and trade.

In 2018, the Mossad seized Iran's secret nuclear archive in Tehran. Afterwards, it provided voluminous evidence to the IAEA of Iran's plot to develop five nuclear weapons, including the five potential sites for testing such weapons.

Since 2019, the Islamic Republic and the IAEA have been at loggerheads over a refusal to fully answer questions posed by the international nuclear watchdog.

Netanyahu demands criminal probe into 'Bibi Files' leak

• By ELIAV BREUER

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu demanded in a letter on Sunday that Attorney General Gali Baharav-Miara and Israel Police Commissioner Daniel Levi open a criminal investigation into the leaks of video footage of interrogations of the prime minister, his family, and other witnesses, which aired for the first time in the documentary *The Bibi Files* at the Toronto International Film Festival last week.

The letter was attached to a filing by the prime minister's legal team in Netanyahu's corruption cases, requesting that the footage be placed under a gag order. The filing was directed to Channel 13 reporter Raviv Drucker, who was listed as a member of the documentary's production team.

Publishing video or audio footage that is being used as evidence in a criminal trial is illegal in Israel. However, since the film was released in Toronto and will not be aired in Israel on any platform, the legal application of the request for



BENJAMIN NETANYAHU (Mar Israel Sellem/The Jerusalem Post)

a gag order is unclear.

Netanyahu's lawyers, however, argued in the letter that Drucker's participation in the film's production, while knowing that the content of the film was illegal for publication in Israel, constituted a criminal offense. Drucker argued in the defense of his own filing that he had no control over publishing decisions made by director Alex Gibney and that his participation amounted to helping set up interviews in Israel and sitting for an interview himself.

The footage includes police interrogations of the prime minister, his wife Sara, son Yair, friends and confidantes of the prime minister, and past members of his housekeeping staff, which were conducted between 2016 and 2018, and leaked to producer Alex Gibney in 2023.

In the footage, viewers reported that Netanyahu claimed he did not remember the events presented before him. In another segment, Sara was seen verbally attacking police investigators, accusing them of dealing with "bastards" and "trying to topple the prime minister."

Other than Drucker himself, the documentary includes interviews of former prime minister Ehud Olmert, former Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency) head Ami Ayalon, former Netanyahu communications adviser, and a key witness in one of the cases, Nir Hefetz, and more.

Netanyahu was indicted in 2019 in three cases known as 1000, 2000, and 4000. All three charges are for fraud and breach of trust, while 4,000 also includes a bribery charge.

Bennett not ruling out Netanyahu as coalition partner

• By ELIAV BREUER

Former prime minister Nafali Bennett did not rule out forming a coalition alongside Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Asked on the matter in an interview for the German newspaper *Bild* published on Tuesday, Bennett said that "the most important thing for Israel right now is to unite the people," which could only be achieved with a "broad unity government, left and right, religious and secular, with a focus on rebuilding Israel."

From the interview, it was unclear whether or not Bennett would agree to join such a government if it was led by Netanyahu and not by him.

Bennett stressed that he had not yet made an official announcement about his return to politics. However, a source close to him said several weeks ago that the decision had already been made. Bennett has outperformed Netanyahu in polls, specifically in both number of seats and suitability to

serve as prime minister.

Bennett criticized Netanyahu's intention to replace Defense Minister Yoav Gallant with MK Gideon Sa'ar, saying "The Israeli public does not feel that this is the case, and I would hope that Israel's leaders remember why they are there: to defend Israel, not to pursue personal interests."

Bennett also criticized the prime minister's leadership of the war, saying that Israel's strategy should have been to use more force to shorten the campaign in Gaza, which has lasted for nearly a year.

"Win the war seriously, or make a deal and fight another day," Bennett said, adding that the "war of attrition is exactly what Iran wants." According to Bennett, Iran wants to "slowly drain Israel of its energy and resources," but Israel "should not play by their script."

Bennett also called for crippling international sanctions on Iran, which he said, if done correctly, could topple the Ayatollah's regime within three years.

Returning northern residents – a war objective

ANALYSIS

• By SETH J. FRANTZMAN

Israel's Security Cabinet updated the objectives of the war to include "returning the residents of the North securely to their homes." This comes two weeks after Israel's defense minister demanded that the war goals be extended to include this demand. Up until now, the evacuation of the North, around 60,000 people in numerous small communities and the city of Kiryat Shmona, was not a goal of the war effort. It remains a key question why it wasn't always a goal to return the residents to the North. To understand why, it's worth looking at the wider picture of the war goals.

When the war began on October 7, the country's goals were unclear. Israeli leaders claimed Hamas was similar to ISIS and that "there won't be Hamas" after the war. However, it quickly became clear that Israel did not have a day after strategy for Gaza and that the war would be conducted by raiding Hamas in Gaza, instead of taking over Gaza and removing Hamas. Therefore, the war goal was actually to eliminate Hamas' governing and military capabilities and to return the hostages.

While returning the hostages is a specific goal, reducing Hamas's capabilities is up for interpretation. It could be argued that eliminating 17,000 Hamas members has reduced its military capabilities and it no longer poses a threat to Israel. In the past Israel has fought numerous wars with Hamas; Israel declared that it had succeeded each time. Each time, Hamas emerged stronger, leading to key questions about whether the goals of past conflicts were met.

During the 2021 war against Hamas, reports in Israel claimed that Hamas's underground metro in Gaza might have been set back years. This assessment now appears to be incorrect. Hamas did not suffer much of a setback in 2021. This concern now looms over the current war in Gaza and the declared war aims. In addition, it appears Prime Minister Netanyahu also wants long-term control over the Philadelphi corridor. This could be another war goal.

Hezbollah began its attacks on Israel on October 8. Israel responded by evacuating residents of the North within a mile or two of the border. This affected more than a dozen small communities. Several days later, Israel also evacuated Kiryat Shmona, sending 24,000 people to seek refuge elsewhere.

The evacuation of border communities was unprecedented in its scale because it also involved the communities on the Gaza border. When Israel fought past wars, it sometimes evacuated children, or people chose to leave their homes, but Israel never evacuated so many communities for so long. Evacuating some people in the lead-up to the Six Day War, for instance, is a lot different than evacuating 100,000 people and disrupting their lives for a year. Some 14,000 children in the North are now spending a second year away from home in unfamiliar schools.

It's puzzling why the return of the residents to their homes wasn't always a war goal. It's also confusing why they were kept away from their homes for so long. Hezbollah has been allowed to terrorize northern Israel every day for 11 months. All it receives in response is proportional precision airstrikes and some artillery fire. Hezbollah takes some losses but it is not deterred. It is difficult to see now how Israel will get its deterrence back. There is intense pressure on Israel not to escalate against Hezbollah. This means that Israel is expected to accept the status quo, keep people evacuated, and allow Hezbollah to attack whenever it wants. This is a big difference from the past, such as in 2006, when Hezbollah attacked and received a major war in response. That war, although it didn't initially go as planned, created

almost two decades of peace in northern Israel. Hezbollah understood it couldn't carry out attacks.

This all changed in 2022 with the maritime deal. After Israel was pushed to sign a maritime deal with Lebanon, which was dictated by Hezbollah threats, the Iranians believed they could pressure Israel more. What Hezbollah understood after the maritime deal is that it can always threaten Israel and then be rewarded. It isn't only rewarded by Israel but also by the US pressuring Israel to make deals that allow Hezbollah to dictate things at the point of a gun. Instead of making sure that Hezbollah didn't gain by making threats, the maritime deal showed that Israel could be forced to make deals.

Hezbollah is now emboldened. Israel faces an uphill

struggle to achieve the war goals and it faces this struggle on multiple fronts. For instance, the goal of returning hostages seems very difficult without a ceasefire. There were already four hostages in Gaza before October 7; the bodies of soldiers Hadar Goldin and Oron Shaul; and living hostages Avera Mengistu and Hisham al-Sayed. They had been left in Gaza since 2014. It's unclear if Israel can achieve the goal of returning hostages, considering history.

Israel's goals, ranked in difficulty, now include returning hostages, returning evacuees from the North, and reducing Hamas' military and governing capabilities. It's unclear if adding more goals will become a form of mission creep, especially if there is a lack of seriousness about achieving them. Returning the evacu-

ees to the North should have been a goal from the first day; they should never have been evacuated in the first place. Once Israel begins evacuation as a policy, it leads to negative outcomes. This is why Israel's former leaders such as David Ben-Gurion never wanted to evacuate people. He understood it was a sign of weakness and Israel's enemies would keep pushing for more people to be evacuated. Israel faces an unprecedented challenge in the North with Hezbollah. Evacuating people also sent a message to the international community that Israel was willing to remove people and cave into threats. The United States would never evacuate parts of Arizona and Texas due to cartel threats. Only Israel is expected to evacuate its population under the threat of the gun.



A BOY swims in the Kinneret at Kibbutz Ein Gev in northern Israel last week. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

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IN MEMORIAM

Supporters participate in a protest in memory of the Iranian victims of the Woman, Life, Freedom Movement in Toronto on Sunday. Nationwide protests started in Iran this week honoring Mahsa Jina Amini, a 22-year-old girl who died under the custody of the Islamic Republic's Morality Police two years ago in Tehran. (Pouria Afkhami/Middle East Images/AFP via Getty Images)

Iran rallies proxy groups against Israel before president's UN speech

• By SETH J. FRANTZMAN

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian is heading to New York to attend the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). Prior to his departure, the Iranian regime was seeking to rally its proxy groups and others against Israel.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held a meeting with the Lebanese Amal Movement in Tehran on Monday evening. During the meeting, Iran's state media said that "he called for the continuation of the principled policy of the Islamic Republic in supporting the resistance against the occupying Zionist regime."

During the meeting, the Iranian foreign minister received a message from Nabih Berri, the Speaker of the Lebanese Parliament and the head of the Amal Movement.

"Araghchi, for his part, thanked Berri for sending warm greetings. He also hailed his actions in supporting the resistance and the sacrifices made by fighters of his Amal Movement alongside Hezbollah in the battle against the Zionist's aggression against Lebanon and Palestine," the IRNA Iranian state media reported.

It appears Iran is seeking to increase the number of groups involved in fighting Israel in Lebanon. Iran wants to tie the Amal Movement to Hezbollah

and use both against Israel. This is part of Iran's plan in Lebanon as it monitors Israel's statements about a possible operation in Lebanon against Hezbollah. Clearly, Iran wants to make sure it has enough supporters for Hezbollah so that any of the organization's losses can be replaced.

Meanwhile, the head of Iraq's National Wisdom Movement, Ammar al-Hakim "has emphasized the need for an immediate end to the war on Gaza, return of the refugees, and rebuilding the devastated Palestinian territory," IRNA also reported.

Iran has many allies in Iraq and it is seeking to use them against Israel and the US. "The stability of the region and pre-

venting escalation requires the end of the Zionist war against the defenseless nation," the report noted that Hakim said while he held separate meetings with Russian and Syrian ambassadors in Baghdad on Monday.

"In his meeting with Elbrus Kutashev, the Russian envoy, Hakim discussed the political situation in Iraq and the region as well as bilateral ties between Baghdad and Moscow."

This is important for Iran. It shows how groups in Iraq are rallying against Israel and working with Russia and Syria. It is part of the wider Iranian regime context as it also works with Russia and backs the Syrian regime. "While pointing to the

central and positive role of Iraq in calming the situation in the region, Hakim called on other Arab and Islamic countries to unite to end the massacre of Palestinians by the Zionist regime," the report said.

Iran has been working with a multifront axis of groups to fight Israel over the last 11 months. It is now trying to mobilize them as the Iranian president heads for the UN meeting. While Iran's president is not as outspoken on this issue and is portrayed as more moderate at home, it is clear that Iran's policy remains unchanged and it seeks to continue to create destabilizing activities in the region.

Houthis make up story about US 'recognition'

ANALYSIS

• By SETH J. FRANTZMAN

The Iranian-backed Houthis claim that they have rejected a proposal from the US and UK. According to the Houthis, the proposal would include them stopping their attacks in exchange for some kind of "recognition" of their "government." This would run contrary to international norms and would basically reward the group for terrorizing ships and illegally attacking ships and attacking Israel.

It's unlikely that the US and UK would have offered the Houthis a deal like this. The reports have been picked up by several media. They have been reported by pro-Hamas media and also by Iran's state media. "There is always communication after every operation we conduct," Mohammed al-Bukhaiti, a member of the Houthi movement's political bureau, told Al Jazeera Mubasher TV. "These calls are based on either threats or presenting some temptations, but they have given up to achieve any accomplishment in that direction," the official said, according to Reuters.

A US official quoted by Reuters said the claims were a "fabrication." Reuters noted that "the Houthis have damaged more than 80 ships in missile and drone attacks since November, sinking two vessels, seizing another and killing at least three crew members."

There are several possibilities regarding the Houthi claims. It may be a complete fabrication designed to muddy the waters and create controversy. It could also be the Houthis way of leaking details about back-channel talks in inventing some details about the talks in order to launch a kind of trial balloon. The other option – least likely – is that the Houthis are telling the truth.

The overall goal of the Houthis is to seek legitimacy for their

attacks. They launched a long-range missile at Israel on September 15. They want to show that this kind of illegal attack results in gains for them.

The group has been attacking ships and attacking Israel for 11 months and so far it thinks it has gotten away with most of this. It wants to show – as part of the Iranian axis – it can achieve numerous goals through its attacks. One goal would be legitimacy for its regime.

In 2015, when the Houthis tried to take over Aden and most of Yemen, they were confronted by a Saudi-led intervention in Yemen's civil war. Later, the Saudis were pressured into a ceasefire. Then the Chinese brokered a deal between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

With the Saudis out of the way in 2023, the Houthis felt confident to take part in the war on Israel that began with the Hamas attack in October. The Houthis feel empowered. They feel they have achieved their goals in Yemen and are trying to export their power around the region.

The Houthis today are as much of a danger to the region as Hezbollah. However, their attempt to achieve more legitimacy appears to be a way for them to seek a path that is more confident than that of Hezbollah.

They are trying to achieve what the Iranian-backed militias in Iraq achieved in 2019 when they became an official force underneath the government. The Houthis though, don't want recognition from Yemen's government; they want to supplant it.

They are now leaking information that they think will call into question the consensus regarding their status in Yemen. They hope that the recent launch of a long-range missile can help accomplish this, even if it means inventing details about a US and UK offer.

'Germany delaying delivery of tank shell consignment'

• By ASSAF UNI

BERLIN – Germany newspaper *Bild* yesterday featured an article criticizing the German government for not yet approving the export to the Israeli army of thousands of precision tank shells. According to the report, Israel requested the export of the shells last November including the possibility that the German army would take the necessary shells from its warehouses, and replace them over time. The reports referred to 10,000 shells manufactured by German company Rheinmetall, which Israel needs, among other things, due to the possibility of an escalation in Israel's North.

WEAPONS TO QATAR BUT NOT TO ISRAEL

The headline of the article was "Weapons to Qatar but not to Israel?" The article said, "Already last year, the Israeli government requested to procure several thousand units of ammunition for its battle tanks, and forwarded additional requests for military equipment."

At the time, the magazine *Der Spiegel* reported the request, saying that the government and military in Germany were positively considering approving it. Now, according to the report in *Bild*, based on security sources, it has become clear that "Berlin has not yet made a decision on the sale."

The pro-Israel newspaper resented the fact that, contrary to the delay in question, Berlin has approved the export of weapons to Qatar

worth €100 million in the first half of 2024. "For the Jewish state, which is currently in an existential battle on several fronts against terrorist organizations such as Hamas and Hezbollah, the military procurement is particularly important," the newspaper wrote. "The Jewish state has been left alone to defend itself," it says.

American Jewish Committee Berlin Director Remko Leemhuis told *Bild*, "Everyone should remember this the next time German politicians talk about Germany's special responsibility towards Israel." He expressed outrage that Germany was selling weapons, including artillery cannons to Qatar "where they celebrated the October 7 attacks."

'WE HAVEN'T MADE A DECISION NOT TO SELL WEAPONS TO ISRAEL'

However, Israeli officials made it clear to *Globes* that there has been no decision by Germany to halt arms shipments to Israel. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz reiterated recently that Germany would continue to assist Israel militarily, and this was said after Germany stood by Israel in international forums, expressed support for Israel's position in The Hague, and helped fend off possible criticism and sanctions within the EU. "We have supplied weapons to Israel, and we did not make any decision not to do so again," the chancellor said in July.

There is apparently an internal debate within

the German government regarding the nature of the military aid and its composition, with the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs headed by Annalena Baerbock expressing more critical positions than the Chancellor's Office and the other ministries involved in the approval (Ministries of Economy and Finance). Germany is facing a possible lawsuit from Nicaragua in the International Court of Justice for "assisting genocide" due to the provision of military aid to Israel.

"There has been no German declarations about an arms embargo on Israel," Israeli officials told *Globes*. "If there is any problem, it is a delay in exports, not a halt in them." Germany sharply increased arms shipments to Israel after October 7, according to data provided to the representative of Germany's BSW faction (The Sahra Wagenknecht Alliance – Reason and Justice) by the government recently, and total German defense exports in 2023 totaled over €320m. (10 times the previous year's exports). About 75% was approved over the last three months of 2023, after the October 7 terrorist attack. BSW is demanding an arms embargo on Israel.

Since the beginning of the year, however, defense export approvals have decreased and totaled €15m. Israeli officials explained that the procurement of the shells is a complicated procedure involving approvals and budgets from various bodies in Germany. (Globes/TNS)



LONE RESERVISTS at a Wings healing retreat in Cyprus. (Wings)

From Gaza to Cyprus: Lone IDF reservists heal at retreat amid war

• Jerusalem Post Staff

Lone reservist soldiers who immigrated to Israel after months of reserve duty during the Israel-Hamas War, have participated in a healing retreat in Cyprus as part of the Wings program.

The initiative, led by the Aliyah and Integration Ministry, the Jewish Agency, and Merage Foundation Israel, provides essential support for immigrant soldiers who serve in the IDF without family in the country. The retreat offered the soldiers and their partners a much-needed opportunity to reflect, recuperate, and build connections after more than 100 days of reserve service.

The Wings program has been a lifeline for these soldiers, providing them with critical emotional and practical support

during and after their military service.

In a statement on behalf of the event organizers, the Aliyah and Integration Ministry emphasized the importance of giving back to the soldiers, describing them as "models of unparalleled courage and commitment."

They noted that these soldiers had not only served as lone soldiers during their regular service but also continued to fulfill this role during the Israel-Hamas war, with the Wings program supporting them every step of the way.

Nicole Hod-Stroh, CEO of Merage Foundation Israel, highlighted the unique challenges these soldiers face: "These young people, who immigrated alone to defend the country, carry their immigration experience with them throughout their lives." She

noted that the Wings program continues to support these soldiers even after their military service, offering life-changing experiences like this retreat, which included activities designed to help participants process war-related PTSD and reconnect with their partners. The couples participated in group workshops, mindfulness sessions, and reflective discussions. They also took a boat trip to the Blue Lagoon, shared Shabbat dinner, and spent time relaxing. Hod-Stroh said she was proud to accompany these soldiers through critical moments in their lives, and added that the Cyprus retreat offered "a meaningful experience for both the soldiers and their partners."

Aliyah and Integration Minister Ofir Sofer lauded the soldiers' dedication and expressed his "deep gratitude" to the

organizations that supported the initiative. He stated, "The lone soldiers who arrived in Israel to serve and defend the country are an extraordinary example of commitment and bravery." Sofer acknowledged the crucial role played by the Jewish Agency, the Merage Foundation, and the Dovik Foundation in ensuring that these soldiers are never alone, even after their military service ends.

The program has become more than just a safety net; it serves as a support system from when these soldiers arrive in Israel, throughout their IDF service, and into their post-military lives. Through this retreat, these soldiers and their partners could take a collective breath and reflect on their challenging experiences while building relationships with others who have faced similar struggles.

Working to simplify Israeli real estate for Olim

• By MICHAEL STARR and EVE YOUNG

Life in Israel has drastically changed since its establishment as the country developed from a former colonial backwater to a modern Western state. With its advancement, emigration to Israel has changed as well, and real estate entrepreneur Alberto Shemaria has folded this new reality into his business model to facilitate contemporary and innovative aliyah.

"Many years ago, coming to Israel was a completely super Zionist thing to do and extremely sacrificing," Shemaria said. New immigrants often had to exchange a "comfortable life outside of Israel for a country that was emerging."

Shemaria described modern aliyah – immigration to Israel – as a staggered process with steady steps into the deep end of the Middle East, rather than a decisive plunge into a new state, one that doesn't demand complete abandonment of the community and environment that one was accustomed to.

He is working with his company Isracap Grand to enable this modern aliyah, alongside investment in Israel with his real estate vision that includes building housing projects designed especially for olim, as

well as facilitating real estate investment in Israel from the Diaspora.

Shemaria expressed the belief that his project will serve as a bridge for Diaspora Jewish communities to live in Israel.

"The big thing is that many people are accustomed to many things outside of Israel, as are many of us," such as "types of buildings, types of people," Shemaria explained.

He added, "The culture here is completely different. We started brokering a lot of apartments to people outside of Israel as an investment, and they were extremely excited about it. But when you talk to them, the first question is, what type of people are going to be there? Okay, it's an investment, but if I someday want to go and live at my home, who's going to be my neighbor?"

Shemaria originally sought to develop his projects for the Israeli market, but two years ago, he started speaking with buyers and investors from an American Jewish community about adapting the building to their needs.

"We're constructing a very exciting [building for a] Jewish community from America with all the luxury facilities that they are accustomed to – the synagogue exactly the way they are



ENTREPRENEUR ALBERTO SHEMAIRIA points to his dream projects that aim to establish housing facilities that will ease new olim into getting accustomed to life in Israel. (Isracap Grand)

accustomed to, and apartment sizes double the size of the apartments that were supposed to be there," said Shemaria.

FROM THE beginning, the building was designed to cater to non-Israelis, he continued. "They will go down to the garden and they'll see people as they see in America, with the same type of people, even the

retail – we're trying to have retail that they are accustomed to in America. So it's going to be like a soft landing to Israel."

Shemaria does not necessarily want to transplant whole communities into Israel, but to find like-minded people to form new communities. He said that he had been getting inquiries about a building project geared toward traditional

religious Sephardim communities from New York, New Jersey, Mexico, Panama, and Brazil. The building would be in the same neighborhood as the American-centric building.

"I think that the neighborhood could turn into something very, very amazing for foreigners," said Shemaria.

While the neighborhood serves as a soft landing for new-

comers, there also exists the possibility that similar projects could create bubbles in Israeli cities. Many a nation has faced the challenge of integrating immigrants into its society. Ethnic enclaves in which residents create identities in opposition to the rest of society or cannot interact with fellow citizens because of gaps in language and culture often result in pronounced tensions in states. Shemaria did not think that bubbles would be created by his projects, and instead would result in a "beautiful merging."

Some of the tenants would be Israeli, and the general neighborhood would still be "super Israeli." He argued that there were cities and towns in which there were many residents with different backgrounds, such as Ra'anana, where he said he barely heard Hebrew in the restaurants. Israel has a strong and "not very changeable" culture, said Shemaria, and the olim would become part of it.

Yet not all of those who would purchase homes in Shemaria's projects would move to Israel – at least not immediately.

"It doesn't mean that they're going to move [to Israel]. It means that it's a start. It's starting the whole process of [aliyah], little by little starting as a vacation home and then mov-

ing – like this happens in many places," said Shemaria.

He contended that many Jews felt that the US had been a good place to live. They had their businesses and families there. They needed suitable infrastructure to match their needs in Israel before they made a full move to the Jewish state.

"I think people are interested in setting afoot here, putting money here, having a roof... [The] ones that are investing in our developments [want] to start producing money in Israel," said Shemaria. "I'm sure that it's very scary to say: 'I'm buying because I want to move.' So I think people have that in the back of their minds, that 'eventually we will all end up here.'"

He felt that many of those who inquired about his projects may have sought to build themselves an escape hatch, especially since the October 7 massacre and the rise in antisemitism in the Diaspora.

"After October 7, every minute they see pro-Palestinian rallies from their office in Manhattan, and the police don't do anything. So it's not so cool to live like that. And it's also uncomfortable," said Shemaria.

Alex Winston contributed to this report.

Cyprus backs multi-billion electric cable link from Europe to Mideast

NICOSIA (Reuters) – Cyprus will support a multi-billion euro electric transmission cable linking the power grids of Europe to the Middle East, a source close to the matter said on Tuesday.

The so-called Great Sea Interconnector (GSI) seeks to link the transmission networks of Greece via Crete, Cyprus, and eventually Israel in a project costing \$2.7 billion.

The government decided to support the project at a cabinet meeting on Tuesday, the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said. The level of Cyprus's participation was unclear with the source saying

that would be decided later.

Cyprus's Energy Minister George Papanastasiou was due to make statements later Tuesday, according to an announcement from Cyprus's presidency.

On completion, it will be the longest, at 1,240 km, and deepest, at 3,000 meters, high voltage direct current (HVDC) interconnector in the world. The European Union has said it is willing to finance part of it, which, at present, is slated to be complete by around 2030.

The ambitious project touches upon a complex patchwork of overlapping jurisdiction claims between Greece, Cyprus, and regional rival Tur-

key in the Mediterranean.

Cyprus had sought clarity over what it would pay towards the project, and what would happen if 'geopolitical risks' – the potential opposition of Turkey – arose, leading to delays and possible additional costs.

"We are talking about international waters, so in this respect, countries are allowed to lay pipes and cables and so forth," said Harry Tzimitras, an academic and director of the PRIO Cyprus Centre who has researched extensively on the subject.

"But there are certain areas that Turkey is claiming as its own continental shelf and that being the

case, Turkey's argument is that prior consent is required," he said.

Although that claim – of prior consent – would be 'hard to sustain in the international legal order,' Turkey was not pursuing that route, Tzimitras said.

"To my mind, the countries concerned are often less focused on legal processes; it all seems to be boiling down to political measures and to military power posturing," Tzimitras said.

Turkey had sent naval assets in June to shadow a ship carrying out cable-related survey work close to a Greek island and has on occasion obstructed ships tasked with gas surveys offshore Cyprus.

Israel still ranked top as suicide drone exporter

• By DEAN SHMUEL ELMAS

Israel has been the world's biggest supplier of loitering munitions (suicide drones) over the past 28 years according to research by the Center for New American Security.

The report surveys trends between 1995 and 2023 and found that while demand for the various types of military drones grew, Israel took first place in the field of loitering munitions, while Turkey was the world's leading supplier of armed drones. While armed drones operate weapons designed to attack a target, suicide drones explode on them.

Turkey only entered the market only in 2018, and according to the study made more deliveries of armed drones than any

other country (47), followed by China (34), the US (12), Iran (8), and Israel (6). The major purchasers of armed drones over the period reviewed in the report were the UK (9), Nigeria, and the UAE (7 each), Algeria (6), Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia (5 each).

Turkey has benefited from the impact of the Russia-Ukraine war, which began in 2022 with Kiev procuring extensive numbers of Bayraktar TB2 armed drones, with 98 deliveries in armed drones, more than any other year in 2022. The number of deliveries in 2023 fell to 56, while a decade earlier in 2012 there were only 27 deliveries of armed drones. Since then, wars like the Libyan civil war have broken out as well as Azerbaijan's conflict with Armenia in Nagorno Karabakh. (TNS/Globes)

The housing market paradox

• By ARIK MIROVSKY

The least relevant item in the Central Bureau of Statistics' figures for home prices is the annual rise between June-July 2023 and June-July 2024, the latest period for which information is available. In that year, home prices rose 5.8%. But the Israeli real estate market after November last year is quite unlike the market as it was before then. The relevant datum for the current market is that after eight successive monthly rises in the Home Price Index, it has shot up 7%, representing an annualized rise of 11%, and there's more to come.

If we connect the price data to the number of transactions in July and the figures for mortgage taking in July and August, we can see that we are promised a continuation of the weird movie in which the Israeli real estate market stars: rising prices at the same time as the supply of homes grows. To state that in numbers: the Central Bureau of Statistics puts the number of unsold new housing units at the end of July at 69,430, 19% more than at the end of July 2023, 47% more than at the end of July 2022, and 53% more than three years ago. At least since the 1990s, Israel has not known such a large supply of unsold new homes. And yet prices are galloping ahead uncontrollably.

Our view at *Globes* is that this paradoxical phenomenon is not caused by a breakdown in the effect on prices of supply and demand, but by large gaps between the supply of homes

on paper and the supply of homes actually in demand.

MOST NEW HOMES IRRELEVANT TO BUYERS

The supply of homes on paper includes all the unsold new homes and all the secondhand homes offered for sale, which altogether amounts to about 100,000 housing units, but the public selects from these the homes that are relevant to it. In the case of new homes, people mainly seek those that will soon be complete, and in the case of secondhand homes, those that have protected spaces against air raids. When potential buyers discount the homes that are irrelevant to them, they take into account homes on the plan that, with all today's labor problems, have unpredictable completion dates, and homes with no protected space, that is, most secondhand homes in Israel.

Long-term failures of Israeli governments, which did not expedite urban renewal and TAMA 38 reinforcement and expansion programs, and short term failures of the current government, which have caused a drastic decline in the construction workforce, have led to a situation in which, despite the large supply numbers, there's a shortage of homes.

The market's hunger for homes that people actually want to buy finds its strongest expression in the proportion of new homes sold. For the first seven months of this year, they represent 47% of all transaction in the market. The secondhand homes market, which is mostly

based on old apartments with no protected spaces, is in the doldrums.

This is especially so in Tel Aviv, where the average monthly number of new homes sold has tripled within seven months. Two-thirds of the home buyers in Tel Aviv are buying new homes. In Ramat Gan, the proportion is 52%, while in Petah Tikva purchases are evenly divided between new homes and secondhand homes. In the southern cities of Ofakim, Netivot, and Sderot, where the trauma associated with homes without protected spaces is especially strong, there is practically no secondhand homes market, while these cities are at the top of the tables for new home purchases.

The geographical districts pulling the Home Price Index upwards are Haifa, where prices have risen since last November by 9.7%; the central district, where prices have risen 7.8%; and Tel Aviv, where prices have risen 7.2%. After them comes the northern district, with a 6.8% rise; the southern district, with a 4.4% rise, and the Jerusalem district, with a 2.9% rise.

Prices of new homes in this period have risen by just 3%, indicating that the price rise is mainly in the secondhand sector, which strengthens the hypothesis that secondhand homes with protected spaces are in short supply, and those that do have them are rapidly becoming more expensive.

Rents are also rising, although more moderately. The rentals index rose by 0.7% in August, and is up 3.5% since November.

Over-priced Fed rate cuts make T-bills unattractive, Federated Hermes says

• By ALUN JOHN

LONDON (Reuters) — Market expectations of substantial US rate cuts this year are making short-dated debt unattractive as the Federal Reserve is unlikely to be as aggressive in easing monetary policy, said Deborah Cunningham, a money market fund manager for Federated Hermes, on Tuesday.

The Fed delivers its decision on policy on Wednesday and is all but certain to cut interest rates from their 23-year high.

Investors currently think it more likely to begin with a 50-basis-point cut than with a 25-basis-point one and are pricing around 120 bps of cuts across the three meetings by year end.

Federated Hermes, in contrast, expects a 25-bp cut on Wednesday and two more such cuts by year end, Cunningham said.

"Short term (US) paper at this point looks unattractive," Cunningham, chief investment officer for global liquidity markets, told reporters.

"The best strategy in the short term is to invest in the longer end of our yield curve – out to 13 months – but it is hard to do that when you're looking at a yield curve that at the short end is expecting way more [cuts] than we are."

Cunningham's view differs from market pricing

"because there are quite a few market participants that expect a recession, which is not our expectation."

Money market funds are mutual funds that invest in very liquid short-term debt products issued by governments or highly rated companies.

Companies and investors have traditionally seen them as safe places to park cash, but poured funds into this asset class as central banks raised rates, taking advantage of the higher returns on offer.

Retail investors have gotten in on the act and in total, \$6.3 trillion is currently invested in US money market funds, according to data from the Investment Company Institute.

The yield on a three-month Treasury bill has fallen around 56 bps in the last three months. There has been a full percentage point decline in two-year yields in that time.

Cunningham said there were more opportunities to invest in short-dated government bonds in Britain,

where markets are pricing fewer rate cuts than in the US, as well as short-dated tranches of asset-backed securities, which had been unattractive when rates were rising.

Other asset managers are watching to see whether money flows out of money market funds as interest rates fall, but Cunningham said low interest rates on bank accounts meant she saw them continuing to attract inflows and that assets under management would peak over \$7 trillion.



The Technion community mourns the passing of

Dr. JOSEPH CIECHANOVER

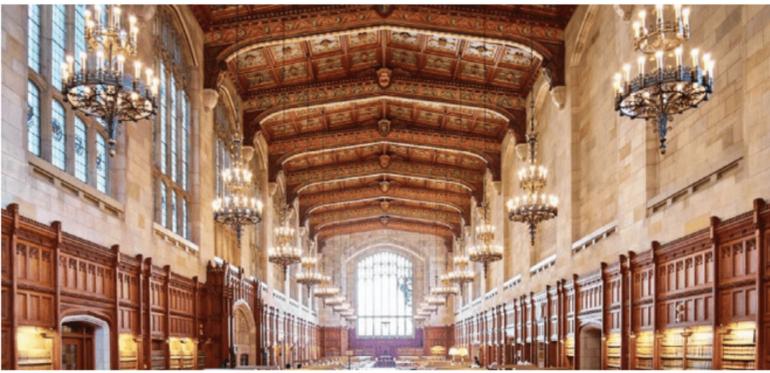
Israel Prize Laureate
Technion Honorary Doctor
jurist, economist, and statesman

We extend our deepest condolences to his brother,
Distinguished Professor Aaron Ciechanover, and the family

Prof. Uri Sivan
President
of the Technion

Scott Leemaster
Chairman
of the Board of Governors

Gideon Frank
Chairman
of the Council



A VIEW OF THE Interior of the Law Library at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. The institution has condemned the recent racist attack against a student who was assaulted because he was Jewish. (Cadopa via Creative Commons)

UoM condemns assault of Jewish student on campus

• By ANDREW LAPIN/JTA

ANN ARBOR – Leaders at the University of Michigan have condemned the reported assault of a 19-year-old student who was confronted about his Jewish identity.

According to police reports, the victim said he was assaulted over the weekend by a group of men who were walking behind him and “asked if he was Jewish.” When he said that he was, they attacked him, the report said.

The victim suffered minor injuries and did not require hospitalization, according to the police, who are referring to the investigation as a “bias-motivated assault” and an instance of “ethnic intimidation.” Police have not yet released any other information about the victim or assailants.

The alleged incident is the latest report of a Jewish student being attacked on a college campus this semester, nearly a year after student activism exploded and reports of antisemitism spiked following the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas War. Two Jewish students at the University of Pittsburgh were attacked last month while walking to their Hillel building; the suspect in that case was not a student.

The victim in Sunday’s alleged assault was attacked on a stretch of campus that is home to both Michigan Hillel and the Jewish Resource Center, an outpost of the Orthodox student outreach group Olami, as well as some Jewish fraternities and sororities. The Olami center was the site of antisemitic graffiti painted by student-athletes last fall, before the October 7 attack on Israel;

those students later offered a public apology.

Michigan Hillel director Rabbi Davey Rosen wrote in a statement to the community that he was providing an “update that no Hillel director wants to send out,” and that he had been in touch with the university, law enforcement, and a Jewish security agency.

“The safety of our students is our highest priority, and we appreciate law enforcement’s quick response. We know this is difficult news to hear especially as we are just beginning the school year,” he wrote. “In hard times, we at Michigan Hillel draw strength from this incredible community – students, parents, alumni, and friends – and that strength powers our pride and joy in being Jewish and, in particular, being Jewish at the University of Michigan.”

Michigan, which has large Jewish and Arab populations, has been a particular focal point of pro-Palestinian student activism that Jewish students said had made them feel unsafe. Student government leaders declared this year they would not fund any student activities unless the university divested from Israel, and the school were among the first this fall semester to see activists, who were not students, arrested for disruptive campus activities.

Last week, Michigan’s Democratic Attorney-General Dana Nessel, who is Jewish, announced pressing criminal charges against 11 people related to a spring encampment at the school, including Jewish anti-Zionist protesters as well as two counter-protesters.

Jordan Acker, a Jewish regent at the university whose own

business was physically targeted by protesters in recent months, wrote on X/Twitter that he was “appalled” at what he called a “despicable hate crime.” And university president Santa Ono condemned the alleged assault in a statement on the social network X, as well as in a letter to the university.

“We strongly condemn and denounce this act of violence and all antisemitic acts,” Ono wrote in the letter, sent Monday early afternoon. “Antisemitism is in direct conflict with the university’s deeply held values of safety, respect and inclusion and has no place within our community.”

A study published by the Anti-Defamation League on Monday reported a massive increase in anti-Israel activity on US campuses during the last academic year. The report included 28 instances of assault, most of them at rallies or student encampments surrounding the Israel-Hamas War. Whether Sunday’s alleged assault was connected to Israel is as yet unknown.

In addition to condemnation from Jewish groups and the university, the local branch of the Council on American-Islamic Relations – an organization that has criticized and clashed with Jewish and pro-Israel campus groups – denounced the attack and offered a reward of \$1,000 for information that could lead to the perpetrator’s arrest.

“Everyone in Ann Arbor should be safe to express their ethnic and religious identity without fear of being assaulted nor menaced,” Dawud Walid, CAIR-MI’s executive director, said in a statement.

‘Man accused of plotting to harm NY Jewish center to fight extradition’

• By ANNA MEHLER PAPERNY

TORONTO (Reuters) – A Pakistani man accused of plotting to attack a New York City Jewish center in support of the Islamic State will contest his extradition hearing to the United States, his lawyer told Reuters.

Muhammad Shahzeb Khan, 20, was arrested in Canada earlier this month as he allegedly tried to enter

the US. He was charged with attempting to provide material support and resources to a designated foreign terrorist organization, namely the Islamic State, or ISIS.

The United States wants to extradite him.

“I have the mandate to contest the extradition hearing,” Khan’s lawyer, Gaetan Bourassa, told Reuters.

“He is a young person who was arrested, and we will see

what their proof is to ask that he be extradited.”

He would not comment on the case without seeing evidence from the US, which has not yet been presented.

Khan was in Canada on a student visa, having entered the country in June 2023. His lawyer would not say what he was studying, or where.

The US Department of Justice accused Khan of plotting

a mass shooting at a Jewish center in Brooklyn around October 7, 2024, about a year after Hamas’s attack in Israel which triggered the ongoing war in Gaza.

According to the US Department of Justice, Khan began posting his support for ISIS on an encrypted messaging application in November 2023. He allegedly communicated his attack plans to undercover agents.

Protester sets himself alight outside Israeli consulate in Boston

• By JACKIE HAJDENBERG/JTA

A man was rushed to the hospital with severe burn wounds after setting himself on fire outside the Israeli consulate in Boston.

Matt Nelson said in a video he uploaded to YouTube before arriving at the consulate that he was about to engage in an “extreme act of protest” due to “the ongoing genocide in Gaza.”

Nelson’s identity and motive were not immediately apparent following the incident, which took place Wednesday evening. The video surfaced on Friday.

The incident marks at least the third instance of self-immolation in the United States outside of an Israeli consulate or embassy in protest of the Israel-Hamas war.

In late February, Aaron Bushnell, a US airman wear-

ing his military uniform, died after setting himself on fire outside the Israeli Embassy in Washington, D.C. Bushnell uploaded a since-removed video to the video game streaming platform Twitch declaring his views on the war and saying he “will no longer be complicit in genocide.”

Bushnell’s death came nearly three months after a still-unknown protester engaged in a similar act at the Israeli consulate in Atlanta, where she suffered critical injuries.

Security camera footage from Boston shows Nelson pacing backward and forwards outside a hotel near the consulate before pouring gasoline on himself and setting himself on fire, local station NBC10 reported. Witnesses then ran over to help put out the fire.

Suffering from severe burn wounds, Nelson was then transported by ambulance to Massachusetts General Hospital, according to a police report. A spokesperson for the Boston Police Department declined to comment further on the case, saying only that it was an “active investigation.”

Neither the Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office in Massachusetts nor the Israeli consulate in Boston immediately responded to a request for comment.

In his video, Nelson said he specifically sought to end US arms sales to Israel and to back a potential International Criminal Court case against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

“The protest I’m about to engage in is a call to our government to stop supplying Israel with the money and weapons it uses to imprison and murder innocent Pales-

tinians, to pressure Israel to end the genocide in Gaza, and to support the ICC indictment of Benjamin Netanyahu and other members of the Israeli government,” he said.

“I urge any of you who are of the same mind to call your senators and representatives and demand that they introduce and advance legislation to achieve these goals. If sitting lawmakers won’t, vote for those who will,” Nelson added.

He concluded, “A democracy is supposed to serve the will of the people, not the interests of the wealthy. Take the power back. Free Palestine.”

Bushnell has emerged as a folk hero for some pro-Palestinian activists. Nelson, too, was drawing support in some corners after his identification on Friday, with social media posts amplifying his comments and responses praising his actions.

California passes law allowing residents to recover possessions looted by Nazis

• Jerusalem Post Staff

California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill (AB 2867) into law, enabling California residents to recover art and personal belongings stolen during the Holocaust, his office announced on Monday.

The bill was introduced following a ruling by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, which allowed a Spanish museum to retain possession of a painting stolen from the Cassirer family by the Nazis during the Holocaust.

The bill is aimed to ensure that California law applies

in lawsuits related to the theft of artwork or property during the Holocaust or other acts of persecution.

“For Holocaust survivors and their families, the fight to reclaim art and other personal items stolen by the Nazis continues to reopen traumatic wounds,” said Gov. Newsom. “It is both a moral and legal imperative to return these valuable and sentimental pieces to their rightful owners. I am proud to strengthen California’s laws to help secure justice for these families.”

Assembly member Jesse Gabriel praised the governor’s decision, stating,

“Governor Newsom’s signature on this bill is a victory for morality and justice, ensuring that California stands on the right side of history. AB 2867 will empower Holocaust survivors and other victims of persecution to reclaim stolen property, sending a clear message to those who refuse to return stolen art.”

“I applaud Governor Newsom for his long-standing leadership in supporting Holocaust survivors and thank him for his partnership on this important new law,” Gabriel added.

Present at the bill-signing event were Guy Lipa, grand-

son of Holocaust survivors and board chair of Holocaust Museum LA; Daniel Gryczman, grandson of Holocaust survivors and board vice chair of the LA Jewish Federation; and Beth Kean, CEO of Holocaust Museum LA.

David Cassirer, a member of the family seeking the return of stolen art, commented, “California, through AB 2867, has drawn a clear line, enabling families like ours to recover priceless works and protecting the rights of all victims of stolen art, including Holocaust survivors and their descendants.”

CIIA calls on Canadian parliament to act immediately against antisemitic threats

• Jerusalem Post Staff

The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) formally requested the Canadian government increase its efforts to protect its Jewish citizens from the rising threats posed by Islamist terror groups since October 7, the center said on Monday.

“The Jewish community in Canada faces an unprecedented and growing threat from extremists emboldened by radical ideologies. Recent arrests have underscored the need for the Canadian government to act decisively to stop the overt pattern of radicalization within our own borders,” said Shimon Koffler Fogel, president and CEO of CIJA.

The center called on the Canadian government to classify Samidoun – Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network – as a terrorist entity, banning the organization which CIJA claimed to have ties with the terror group the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

CIJA also demanded that the government criminalize the display of symbols that glorify acts of terrorism, including Nazi imagery and imagery affil-

iated with Hezbollah, Hamas, PFLP, Three Percenters, and ISIS.

It asked that the government reassess the Gazan Visa Security Process protocol which will see 5,000 Gazans enter Canada. The organization acknowledged that while humanitarian efforts are important, there must be assessments to see if the individuals entering Canada have ties with Hamas or Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

“Canada is in the middle of an extremism crisis – one that puts Canadian lives in danger. Stopping radicalization and the normalization of extremist ideology should be the priority for Parliament for this coming session,” said Fogel. “We call on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to enhance security measures, including banning Samidoun as a terrorist organization, criminalizing the glorification of terrorism, and reassessing the security risks in our immigration screening process. The safety of all Canadians, especially vulnerable communities like ours, must remain a top priority.”

Giving cause for the aforementioned demands, CIJA noted a wave of recent incidents threatening internation-

al civilians, particularly global Jewry.

In one such incident, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police apprehended a father and son with links to ISIS who were in the “advanced stages of planning a serious, violent attack in Toronto,” the organization said.

In another incident highlighting the threat of terrorism in Canada, an Alberta man was neutralized in Israel after he attempted to attack border police with a knife.

More recently, a Pakistani national based in Canada was arrested as he made plans to carry out an attack on the Jewish community of New York on behalf of ISIS. He had planned this attack around the same date as October 7, when Hamas attacked southern Israel and brutally murdered some 1200 people.

The psychological impact of these attacks has been significant on Canadian Jewry, a poll commissioned by CIJA found.

Canadian Jews are concerned about antisemitism and believe that both the federal government (85%) and local police (75%) should be doing more to combat it.

Over the past year, there have

been attacks on Jewish neighborhoods, including firebombings of synagogues in Montreal and Vancouver, shots fired at Jewish schools in Toronto and Montreal, and a dramatic increase in hate crimes against Jews.

The result of these increased attacks, according to the poll, left 82% of Jews expressing the belief that Canada is less safe for them now than it was before October 7.

The large majority, 80%, said they were concerned about antisemitism in their communities and 79% said they felt anxious about large anti-Israel protests.

Over 1 in 3 of those polled said that either they or a family member had received antisemitic remarks since October 7 and 31% said they or a family member had been personally blamed for the civilian casualties incurred as Israel battles against Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

Nearly a quarter, 23%, reported that they or a family member had felt alienated from friends or coworkers due to their religious identity and 20% said they are more likely to hide their Jewishness now to avoid confrontation.

Argentina registers 44% rise in antisemitic incidents in 2023

• By JUAN MELAMED/JTA

BUENOS AIRES — Argentina experienced a 44% increase in reported antisemitic incidents in 2023, mostly after the October 7 attack on Israel, according to a report issued Monday by the country’s Jewish umbrella organization.

The report makes Argentina the latest country to record a spike in antisemitism following the Israel-Hamas war. Antisemitism watchdogs in the United States and Europe have all recorded steep rises.

According to DAIA, which unveiled the report at the Buenos Aires City Legislature, 57% of all antisemitic incidents last year took place in the three months after the attack.

The organization found that Israel shot up as the cause of antisemitic incidents. In 2022, about 11% of antisemitic incidents in Argentina related to Israel. Last year, the proportion was 40%.

And the rate at which antisemitic incidents took place in person also rose. (Most incidents that DAIA recorded took place online.)



REPRESENTATIVES OF DAIA, Argentina’s Jewish umbrella organization, present data about 2023 antisemitic incidents at Buenos Aires City Legislature on Monday. (Courtesy DAIA)

In the nine months before the October 7 attack, 72 in-person incidents were recorded. In the three months after, there were 150.

Among the in-person incidents that DAIA logged in its report were the word “Hamas” and a crossed-out Star of David that was drawn on a student’s desk, and a building that hung a sign reading, “Zionists out of Palestine. This did not start on 7/10. Hitler fell short.”

For incidents before October 7, it included the inclusion on a restaurant’s menu of an “Anne Frank” hamburger and “Adolf” fries; the restaurant changed the

items’ names after members of the Jewish community, including DAIA, criticized the menu for trivializing the Holocaust.

Marisa Braylan, the report’s author and the director of DAIA’s Center for Social Studies, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the tally reflected a sad reality for Argentine Jews since October 7.

“The attack did not generate empathy towards the victims. There was silence, there were justifications and in the worst cases, there was admiration,” she said. “On October 7, a latent antisemitism was dusted off.”

'THESE ARE OUR CHILDREN':

Knesset speaker highlights hostages in Paraguay

• Jerusalem Post Staff

Knesset Speaker Amir Ohana, while speaking at Paraguay's Parliament on Tuesday, held up a photo of Ori Danino, who was kidnapped and murdered by Hamas. "These are our children – the world must pressure Hamas so we can bring them home," Ohana urged.

Ohana also addressed Israel's security situation: "For nearly a year, Hezbollah has been firing on Israeli citizens and destroying homes. No one in Asun-

ción, Paris, or New York would tolerate this – and neither will we. We've exhausted non-military solutions; now we must say – enough."

The Knesset Speaker was met with applause from Paraguay's parliament. Ohana thanked Paraguay for its defense of Israel in international forums and signed a cooperation agreement between the two parliaments.

"True friendship does not depend on comfort – and the relationship between Paraguay

and Israel flourished despite crises," Ohana said.

Speaker Raúl Latorre emphasized that Paraguay stands firmly with Israel, saying, "Mr. Speaker, when you return to your country with your delegation, deliver a message from us to the parents of the victims and the hostages – you are not alone. We support you. Even if we are the only ones to support you, we will support you and stand by our brother, Israel."

During his address, Ohana presented Elhanan Danino and

shared Ori's story of bravery, followed by a tribute to Naor Hasidim, who was murdered by Hamas in Kibbutz Kfar Aza. Naor's father also attended, and the two fathers received applause from the parliament members. This coming Wednesday, Ohana and President Santiago Peña will inaugurate Israel's embassy in Paraguay. Later, Ohana is scheduled to meet with Argentinian President Javier Milei and top officials to strengthen ties between Israel and Argentina.



KNESSET SPEAKER Amir Ohana holds up a photo of murdered hostage Ori Danino, yesterday in Paraguay's parliament. (Knesset Speaker's Office)

PAGER

Continued from Page 1

which are owned by a number of workers in various Hezbollah units and institutions, exploded."

It said that it was carrying out an investigation to determine the causes of the blasts, with many different theories surfacing.

A senior Lebanese security source told Al Hadath that Israel infiltrated the communication system of individual devices and detonated them.

According to reports, the beepers and communications devices were called before they exploded, increasing the chances that whoever received the call would pick it up and be maximally wounded.

The pagers that detonated were the latest model brought in by Hezbollah in recent months – well into the 11 months of cross-border fire with Israel – three security sources told Reuters.

A Hezbollah official cited by *The Wall Street Journal* (WSJ) said that hundreds of members had such pager devices, and speculated that malware could have caused them to heat up and explode. The same official cited by the WSJ said that some people felt the pagers heat up, disposing of them before they exploded.

The report also quoted Hezbollah officials as stating that the number of casualties was rising too quickly for them to keep track of the count.

One such official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the detonation of the pagers was the "biggest security breach" the group had been subjected to in nearly a year of war with Israel.

Another Lebanese security source claimed that Israel hacked into Hezbollah's radio communication system and caused the explosions.

According to Al Hadath, the IDF detonated the communication devices remotely, using advanced technology. However, Israel has not taken responsibility for the explosions.

Ambulances rushed through the southern suburbs of the capital, Beirut, amid widespread panic. Residents said explosions were taking place even 30 minutes after the initial blasts.

Lebanon's Health Ministry urged health workers to head to hospitals, according to the Arab media channel NBN.

Hussein Mortada, a Hezbollah-affiliated journalist who works for the Syrian news agency Al-Alam, warned individuals and media in Lebanon not to post any videos or photos of the event, especially of the wounded, on X/Twitter.

Israel has struggled – for a year now – with the challenge of creating a new security situation in the North. 60,000 border residents were evacuated in October 2023 following an unprovoked rocket attack by Hezbollah, and have since been unable to return to their homes.

From October until December, Israel mostly kept its responses very limited.

From December and through February, the IDF started to actively hunt down Hezbollah aggressors and potential attackers, targeting them as they hid in populated villages, and killing a range of Hezbollah commanders.

From March until July, there were ups and downs in the conflict with Hezbollah, with some days seeing single digits of rockets or drone attacks, and others seeing as many as 200 rockets

in a single day.

Further, as time went on, both Israel and Hezbollah started attacking areas in the other side's territory further from the border and larger cities. Hezbollah attacked Safed and Nahariya, and the IDF attacked as far as Baalback, which is 100 kilometers into Lebanese territory.

However, on July 30, Israel killed Hezbollah military chief Fuad Shukur in Beirut.

When Hezbollah prepared to launch several hundred – up to 1,000 – rockets on Israel on August 25, the IDF carried out a massive preemptive strike, eliminating the vast majority of the threats. The terrorist group did manage to launch between 250-350 aerial threats, causing minor damage.

But with the IDF completing its defeat of Hamas's last battalion in Rafah on August 21, Israel has turned its attention toward resolving the conflict with Hezbollah by diplomacy if possible. However, the more probable option of using military force was increasing.

The Jerusalem Post has received a number of indications in recent days that the chances of a much larger battle with Hezbollah were now the highest they have been since the start of the war.

Hours after the Shin Bet revealed a Hezbollah plot to assassinate a top former Israeli defense official, and after a reported meeting between Mossad director David Barnea and Netanyahu, the beeper explosions started to go off.

Despite announcing his upcoming resignation, the *Post* has learned that IDF Brig.-Gen. Unit 8200 Commander Yossi Sarel was still in command of Israel's prized cyber attack unit at this time.

There have also been reports that whoever designed this beeper operation may have set this plan in motion going back four years, which would have crossed over with the era of Yossi Cohen being the Mossad chief.

CHAOS

Continued from Page 1

they'd use to hold the trigger of a rifle or push a button to launch a missile. The men will be visibly markable going forward to special forces.

In the 11 months since Hezbollah initiated aerial attacks on northern Israel, the group has lost around 450 fighters. While Hezbollah can replace losses, it doesn't have an endlessly deep batting order – not only because it has to invest in training and security ahead of recruitment, but it draws its recruits from a narrow spectrum of Lebanese society. Hezbollah is based on the Shi'ite population of Lebanon, a minority in itself. Even among Shi'ites, it can't recruit all of them. There are other Shi'ite movements, principally Amal, which has 14 seats in Lebanon's parliament while Hezbollah has 15.

Yet the overall challenge for Hezbollah is not just replacing wounded and dead fighters. The group will be challenged to rapidly roll out some other way to communicate with its men. Using pagers may seem archaic, but Hezbollah must have chosen this system because it assumed the network could not be penetrated. It issued the pagers, the way a drug gang might, and secured the network itself.

Hezbollah has long sought to maintain its own complex and secure communications network in Lebanon, which was controversial in 2008. Hez-

bollah was accused of killing former Lebanese prime minister Rafic Hariri and then dragging Lebanon into the Second Lebanon War against Israel in 2006. At the time, France24 noted that "security sources say Hezbollah has an extensive fixed-line telecommunications network that covers South and East Lebanon as well as Beirut's southern suburbs." Lebanon's government, which at the time had elements opposed to Hezbollah's increasing control of Lebanon, opposed the private communications network. Hezbollah eventually won out.

In 2011, reports indicated that phone records of Hezbollah terrorists had led to indictments of its members for Hariri's murder in 2005. "Four Hezbollah suspects in the killing of Rafik Hariri were linked to the attack largely by circumstantial evidence gleaned from phone records, according to an indictment published on Wednesday after a six-year investigation which polarized Lebanon," *Gulf News* reported at the time.

Hezbollah would have known from the 2005-2011 experience, that its communications systems were in the spotlight. The group prides itself on operational security and has been viewed by experts as one of the more successful Arab military structures in the region. Kenneth Pollack, in his 2019 book *Armies of Sand*, examined the relative success of Hezbollah compared to other Arab armies in the region. In essence, he argues that Hezbollah is a more successful military structure, albeit a terrorist army, than many Arab armies in the region. This is evident from how it has not only been able to consistently confront Israel but do so while stockpiling more rockets, missiles, and drones than many armies in second- or third-world countries. Hezbollah has pioneered drone threats against Israel and carried out numerous attacks in this war.

The chaos that will follow the exploding pagers is already evident. Hezbollah scrambled to tell its members not to use communications devices, according to Iranian reports. It will now have to scramble to put its organization back together.

Effective groups – militaries, terrorist groups, cartels, gangs, or corporations – need to have good communication to mobilize people and coordinate attacks. It can't coordinate the launch of large numbers of missiles if it can't get men to the launchers. Hezbollah needs a way to get in touch with its fighters. It will scramble to replace its pagers or other communication devices.

Hezbollah will additionally now be concerned about the penetration of its operational security. When groups like Hezbollah are in chaos, they are more vulnerable to making mistakes. This reminds me of the story of the penetration of the KKK in the film *Mississippi Burning*. It took time for the FBI to cause the "rattlesnakes to commit suicide," but in the end, the KKK was defeated. Similarly, when the US-led coalition defeated Saddam's army in Iraq in 1991, it set about destroying its command and control nodes. This is how terrorist groups and militaries are defeated.

Hezbollah faces a difficult challenge now. It is in chaos and may want to lash out and strike back. But it has suffered a major setback, quite an embarrassing one. Hezbollah rests on its allure, its sense of being an

elite group that is untouchable. Now it feels vulnerable.

ATTACK

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naval vessel.

On May 9, 2020, Iran's Shahid Rajaei seaport was shut down, causing massive delays and economic damage for months, and on October 30, 2021, 4,300 Iranian gas stations nationwide were hacked and shut down.

In the hard-hitting conflicts of the 21st century, whoever wields the latest cutting-edge technological weapons can run circles around their otherwise formidable enemies.

Tuesday's events occurred only hours after the Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency) revealed that Hezbollah had tried to assassinate a top Israeli ex-defense chief. Shortly before the explosions, there were reports of a special meeting between Mossad director David Barnea and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Given the juxtaposition in the timing and the last few hysterical hours in Israel about a security situation with Lebanon, is it possible that Israel carried out its second attack on Hezbollah in Beirut? And, could this be in direct retaliation for Hezbollah's failed assassination attempt, or rather, on the heels of nearly a year of the origination firing at Israel?

The last time the Jewish state attacked Beirut was on July 30, when it assassinated Hezbollah military chief Fuad Shukur in retaliation for the Majdal Shams rocket attack, which killed 12 Druze children.

This nearly exploded into a full-scale war between the sides on August 25. Still, the IDF managed a preemptive strike that substantially reduced Hezbollah's ability to fire more than a fraction of the rockets that it had intended to direct at Israel, including at northern Tel Aviv.

Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah has pledged that any attack on Beirut would be met with a massive counter-strike.

Will he keep his promise, or will Hezbollah back down, given that it started this round with an attempted assassination, and given the IDF's success against Hezbollah on August 25?

Another question that remains is: What is the endgame for the entity standing behind the explosive devices incident in Beirut? Will this be a knock-out punch on its own, or will this be a bloody hit that will leave Hezbollah still standing, the dilemma of war between Israel and Lebanon still rearing up in the air, though possibly closer than ever?

IRAN

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said it had foiled a plot by Hezbollah to assassinate a former senior defense official in the coming days.

Israel is widely believed to have masterminded the pager attack, but has not claimed responsibility for it.

Miller said that "the US was not involved in it [the pager attack]. The US was not aware of this incident in advance." He underscored the US's commitment to a diplomatic resolution to both of Israel's wars with Iranian proxy groups – Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

US special envoy Amos Hochstein was in Israel on Monday in efforts to secure a diplomatic resolution to the constrained

IDF-Hezbollah war, as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant appeared to pivot toward a military solution.

Netanyahu held a series of security consultations on Tuesday, after the security cabinet met late Monday night. According to the Prime Minister's Office, the cabinet "updated the objectives of the war to include... returning the residents of the North securely to their homes. Israel will continue to act to implement this objective."

Already on Monday, Gallant said that a military solution was the only way to end the almost year-long cross-border war with Hezbollah. Netanyahu said that the security situation along the northern border had to change before the residents could return.

Israel and Hezbollah had appeared to be on the verge of a larger war in August – with the possibility of Iranian involvement – after Israel assassinated Hezbollah commander Fuad Shukur. The tension, however, had eased over the last month, but ratcheted up on Tuesday as Hezbollah said Israel would receive "its fair punishment" for the blasts.

Lebanese Information Minister Ziad Makary condemned the detonation of the pagers – used by Hezbollah and others in Lebanon to communicate – as an "Israeli aggression."

A Hezbollah official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the detonation of the pagers was the "biggest security breach" the group had been subjected to in nearly a year of conflict with Israel.

Various media outlets reported that Lebanon plans to file a complaint against Israel with the United Nations Security Council.

UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said that the developments in Lebanon were extremely concerning, especially given the "extremely volatile" context, adding that the UN deplores any civilian casualties.

Many of those wounded included Hezbollah fighters who are the sons of top officials from the armed group, two security sources told Reuters.

One of the fighters killed was the son of a Hezbollah member of the Lebanese parliament, Ali Ammar, they said.

"This is not a security targeting of one, two, or three people. This is a targeting of an entire nation," senior Hezbollah official Hussein Khalil said, while paying his condolences for Ammar's son.

Iran's ambassador to Lebanon, Mojtaba Amani, suffered a "superficial injury" in Tuesday's pager blasts and was under observation in the hospital, Iran's semi-official Fars news agency said.

Miller said that the US wanted to see a diplomatic resolution that would allow the thousands of displaced civilians on both sides of the northern border to return home.

"That's what we are continuing to pursue," he said.

"We are always concerned about escalation," he said, adding that "it remains our message to both Israel and to other parties that they needed to do everything they can to try and reach a diplomatic resolution."

He stressed that many diplomats have said – that ultimately a peaceful resolution to the constrained IDF-Hezbollah war rests on a Gaza hostage and ceasefire deal, which the US is pushing to conclude.

"It is very difficult to get a diplomatic resolution in the North – absent a resolution to the

conflict Gaza, absent a ceasefire in Gaza – which is why we continue to push for that ceasefire because we think it'll help make it much easier to reach a resolution," Miller said.

He took issue with Israel's assessment that the only plausible solution was a military one, explaining that diplomacy was the fastest way to return civilians to their border homes.

"If you look at what a military conflict would entail. It's hard to see how that gets those families on either side of their border back to their homes quickly," he said.

Miller said he had no timetable for the conclusion of a Gaza hostage and ceasefire deal, but noted that US Secretary of State Antony Blinken was traveling to Egypt Tuesday to advance it.

Egypt and Qatar have been the main mediators for the deal to return the remaining 101 hostages.

"The Secretary is on his way to Egypt right now. We'll be meeting with Egyptian officials about a number of things, but squarely on the agenda is how we get a proposal that we think would secure agreement from both parties.

"Ultimately, we want a proposal that's going to get to 'yes,'" Miller said.

Reuters contributed to this report.

AGAINST

Continued from Page 1

for the attack, which is the stuff of which action movies are made, yet Lebanon, Hezbollah, and others are pointing their fingers squarely at Israel.

If indeed Israel was behind the innovative attack, and even before it becomes clear whether this is a prelude to a much bigger Israeli military action – this sowed chaos inside Hezbollah, neutralized hundreds of their fighters for at least several days if not longer, and created disarray regarding the organization's ability to communicate – it does demonstrate several factors:

First, the security cabinet updating the war's aims was not without significance.

Israel did not need to declare that returning the 60,000 displaced Israelis to their homes was a war aim to go after Hezbollah men carrying pagers via those pagers, but that declaration does put the attack into a certain context: what was for the last 11 months is not what will be.

After nearly a year of tit-for-tat exchanges with Hezbollah – during which Israel has had the upper hand, killing more Hezbollah fighters and inflicting far greater damage on their strategic and military sites than they did on Israel – this action signals that Israel is taking off the gloves and escalating to a new level of operation.

The public's patience with the status quo in the North has run out, and the government understands this – one of the reasons why it updated the aims of the war – and this action, so soon after the war aims were updated, sends a message to Hezbollah that the government is serious about more aggressive steps to return its citizens home.

That message is not only for Hezbollah but also for the international community, first and foremost to the US: get Hezbollah to stand down, meaning to move significantly north of the border with Israel and cease firing missiles and drones, or Israel will indeed take the steps it has been threatening to take for months.

Second, this action shows

awesome, jaw-dropping capabilities that will be seen throughout the region.

Rigging pagers so that they explode in the hands of hundreds of Hezbollah fighters and operatives simultaneously from Beirut to Damascus is obviously something not done overnight.

This shows that whoever was responsible for this had been planning it for a long time. The message in that is also clear: even though Hezbollah may be expecting an Israeli attack, they have little idea of what form it will take.

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said months ago that Israel has new capabilities that will surprise Hezbollah and Israel's enemies. This comment was lost among endless other "we-will-send-Lebanon-back-to-the-stone-age" threats he has issued since Hezbollah began attacking Israel on October 8.

Yet this attack, if carried out by Israel, shows that Gallant's words about surprises were not empty.

The level of pre-planning involved is also significant. Given that this war of attrition has dragged on for months and the government has now declared its readiness to go to war to change the situation in the North, Israel has lost the element of surprise in any conventional attack on Hezbollah.

In other words, if the IAF were to strike Beirut tomorrow or tanks rolled into southern Lebanon, it would neither be surprising nor preemptive. The enemy is expecting something.

Tuesday's pager explosions, however, show that there are other, non-conventional ways to surprise the enemy and gain a tactical advantage. And this leads to a third lesson: the next war is never fought like the previous one.

Following the security cabinet's declaration Tuesday night, the mind immediately went to tanks moving into Lebanon like they did during the First Lebanon War in 1982, or planes bombing Hezbollah's Dahiyeh stronghold in Beirut as they did in the Second Lebanon War in 2006. And all that still might materialize if a full-blown Third Lebanon War now erupts. But those are both elements of yesterday's war.

Monday's action shows that the next war with Hezbollah will be fought differently and in an innovative and creative way: two traits with which Israel has been amply blessed.

TENSE

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morning.

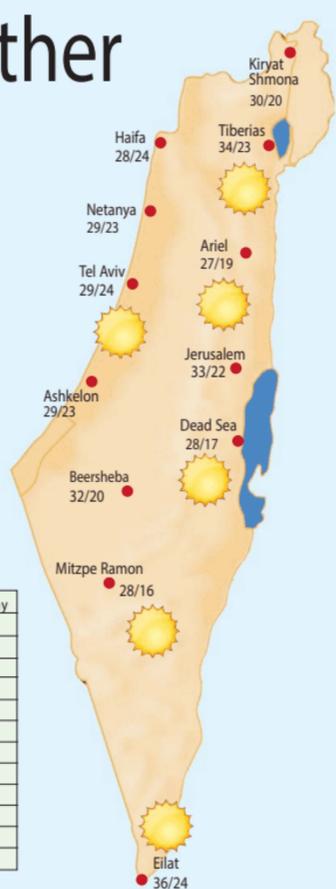
According to a report in *Haaretz*, Sa'ar demanded to receive veto power over any legislation regarding changes to the judicial system and also agreed that he would only consider candidates for the next IDF chief of staff that were pre-approved by Netanyahu.

The Israel Business Forum, which includes the heads of the 200 largest companies in Israel's economy, said in a statement that firing Gallant would "weaken Israel in the eyes of its enemies, and deepen even further the divisiveness in the nation of Israel." It called on Netanyahu not to follow through with the move, adding that this would also cause further deterioration to the Israeli economy, which was "sinking into a deep recession."

The forum participated in a strike in March 2023 against Netanyahu's first attempt to fire Gallant and enabled its workers to skip work in order to attend protests.

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At 94, legendary NJ sports columnist Jerry Izenberg is still 'fixing the world'

SPOTLIGHT

• By ENRIQUE LAVÍN

This week, New Jersey's *The Star-Ledger's* iconic sports columnist Jerry Izenberg celebrated his 94th birthday. What did he do? He showed up to work. Well, technically, he talked about his career as a newspaper man and a philanthropist during an enthralling one-hour virtual interview hosted by the New Jersey Hall of Fame, which will post the video later this year on its site.

"Two Hebrew words moved me all through life, 'Tikkun Olam,' which means 'Fix the world,'" Izenberg said about his approach to his work.

His rabbi was Joachim Prinz, who later introduced Martin Luther King Jr. on the Washington Mall before his "I Have a Dream" speech. "He hammered those two words in me," said the Newark native. "That's the reason I help young people."

Helping young people, he said, was the impetus behind forming Project Pride, the nonprofit he created in 1979 to help disadvantaged Newark high school seniors with financial assistance, SAT prep and sports programs.

As a sports columnist, Izenberg has no rival. He covered the first 53 Super Bowls, 55 consecutive Kentucky Derbies, and the rise of such iconic athletes as Muhammad Ali, Willie Mays and Joe Namath.

This year, Izenberg celebrates his 60th year writing for the paper and holds the title Columnist Emeritus for *The Star-Ledger*. Over the last quarter century, his columns have also appeared on NJ.com, where he has found new readers from all over the world.

Aside from being inducted into the New Jersey Hall of Fame in 2018, he's a member of 17 other Halls of Fame.

Those who tuned in to the birthday interview on September 10, conducted by former *Star-Ledger* columnist Mark Di Iorio, were treated to Izenberg's captivating stories of his exploits as a young and then senior sports journalist — though he'd rather you call him a newspaperman.

With more than 70 years as a professional sportswriter and commentator, Izenberg is a living institution. He told viewers about the days when he had to use manual type-



JERRY IZENBERG, 94, a Hall of Fame sportswriter who has written for New Jersey newspaper *The Star-Ledger* for decades and authored 15 books, pictured in his home in Henderson, Nevada, on July 2. (Rachel Aston/Las Vegas Review-Journal/TNS)

writers at ringside as he covered boxing matches. He'd then have to run with his article in hand to have it tapped through on a Morse code telegraph.

In conversation with Di Iorio, Izenberg spoke of his early years as a cub reporter and the editors who not only influenced him but pushed him along on his path.

Speaking glowingly about his boss and mentor at the *New York Herald Tribune*, Stanley Woodward, a sports journalist legend in his own right, he said: "He was the most important factor in my life, professionally."

Woodward groomed Izenberg to become a columnist, sending him to cover a full gamut of sports: rodeo, boxing, college and pro basketball, pro football, among others.

Woodward fired Izenberg at the bar in the newspaper's lobby, becoming part of *Ledger* lore.

As Izenberg tells it, Woodward poured him a glass of Wild Turkey bourbon, which he despises to this day, and had him gulp it down, before telling him, "I want you to take the job in New Jersey." *The Star-Ledger* had sought to recruit the young talent and word had gotten back to his boss.

"I said, 'Stanley, you can fire me if you want, I'm not taking it. I'm staying here. I

want to work with you,'" said Izenberg, who lives in Henderson, Nevada, with his wife Aileen.

"I'm firing you right now, right here in the bar," the late Woodward told him. "It's done. Get out of here. But first understand one thing, I'm getting fired by the new manager in 10 days."

Woodward, who died in 1965, would eventually join Izenberg at the *Ledger* for a brief stint in the late 1950s as a sports editor. Years later, Izenberg would join Woodward as an inductee of the National Sports Media Association Hall of Fame.

If you've read any of his columns or heard him spin a yarn, you'd recognize his sharp wit and humor as he peels back the layers of the newsmakers he covered. Throughout his illustrious career, he not only had a front-row seat to sports history, he penned some of the first stories now referenced in history books.

Along with Muhammad Ali, whom he started covering in 1960 and developed a close relationship with, other notable mavericks in the sports world he's covered and interviewed are: Pete Rozelle, the influential NFL commissioner who shaped the modern league, Josh Gibson, the legendary Negro League baseball player, Hall of Fame Giants coach Bill Parcells, and his friend

Larry Doby, the second Black player to break Major League Baseball's color barrier.

Doby is the subject of Izenberg's 2024 book, "Larry Doby in Black and White: The Story of a Baseball Pioneer," the 16th book he's authored over the years.

His career is also marked by holding those in power accountable, while addressing racial injustice along with other urgent contemporary issues.

In his 2023 book, "Baseball, Nazis & Nedick's Hot Dogs: Growing up Jewish in the 1930s in Newark," he wrote about his formative years in his native Newark, detailing being raised during the Great Depression and WWII. To escape the pogroms in Lithuania, his father's family had immigrated to Paterson. He wrote about the Nazi influence on antisemitism in America before the war, and how his family coped.

In his columns, he'd never hold back punches when he saw injustices.

"I named all kinds of people who took advantage of people. And I said, that's where I'm staying, because I got a platform where I can expose people — and nobody else seems to want to do it," he said.

"You know, it's amazing," he continued, "I got 4,000 letters the first week defending Ali... They had one thing in common. The salutation was 'Dear Jew bastard.' It didn't bother me."

Occasionally, he said, he writes back reminding the haters he enlisted in the US Army during the Korean War. "I was in the Army. We didn't lose the war. I'm not going to take that crap."

Still, Izenberg said, he's had to contend with many disparaging letters in recent years.

"With the current political climate, I have written pieces that created karma over [NFL quarterback Colin] Kaepernick. And I'll never forget the neo-Nazis, the people that are racist, the white supremacists," he said. "They still send me letters. I don't read them anymore."

From "morse code" and Muhammad Ali, TV to Paul Robeson, and Kaepernick to online video and podcasts, Izenberg is living history — a legendary newspaperman.

"I never thought I'd be a writer, a newspaperman or a columnist," he said. "It's been such a many-faceted, extremely happy life that I'm living at 94." (Advance Local Media/NJ.com/TNS)

City's Rodri: Players close to striking over congested schedule



MANCHESTER (Reuters) — Players could be close to striking action over the amount of games they are required to play, Manchester City midfielder Rodri warned on Tuesday on the eve of the side's Champions League opener against Inter Milan.

Expanded Champions League and FIFA Club World Cup formats, alongside enlarged national team competitions, has made for a greater number of games for top teams and players, and Rodri is the latest to say the workload is too great.

"I think we're close to [striking]," Rodri told reporters. "It's the general opinion of the players, and if it keeps this way, we'll have no other option. I really think it's something that worries us. We are the guys who suffer."

The optimal number of games "in which a player can perform at the highest level," the Spaniard said, is between 40 and 50.

"After that, you drop because it's impossible to sustain the physical level," he added. "This year, we're going to go until 70, maybe 80 [games], depends on how far you go into competitions."

"I think it's too much. We have to take care of ourselves, because we are the main characters of this sport or business. Not everything is money or marketing, it is also the quality of the show. When I rest, when I'm not tired, I perform better. And if people want to see better football, we need to rest."

Last season, the 28-year-old's campaign extended through to

Spain's European Championship victory on July 14, along with City teammates Kyle Walker and Phil Foden, who finished runners-up with England at the tournament in Germany.

City defender Manuel Akanji half-joked recently that he may have to retire at 30 because of the gruelling schedule.

"It's so tough," the Swiss player said. "You don't just think about this season — but also next season. Let's say we win the league or cup, then go to the final of the Club World Cup; the Community Shield is three weeks after. So when do we have holidays?"

City hosts Inter Milan in a repeat of the 2023 Champions League final, won by the English side as part of its first-ever treble. It is one of eight first-phase games, followed by a potential playoff before the last-16 kicks off.

City manager Pep Guardiola said his tactics for the new format will be to simply "win our first game, then the next one, then we will see."

City's Erling Haaland could overtake Cristiano Ronaldo as the fastest player to reach 100 goals for a single club, having scored 99 goals in 103 appearances in all competitions — including nine in four league games this season.

Ronaldo netted 100 in 105 matches for Real Madrid.

"I played for 11 years and scored 11 goals. This guy [Haaland], in four games he's scored nine," Guardiola said with a laugh.

Rodri said Haaland's blistering start to the season is a great example of the importance of rest. The striker had much of the summer off as Norway did not qualify for Euro 2024.

The new 32-team Club World Cup in the United States, meanwhile, ends on July 13, about a month before the next Premier League campaign kicks off, which will then lead into the 2026 World Cup.

Who joins Chiefs in top 5 after chaotic weekend?



POWER RANKINGS

• By NATE DAVIS

Here are our latest National Football League power rankings entering Week 3 of the 2024 season (records in parentheses):

1. Kansas City Chiefs (2-0): The bid for an unprecedented Super Bowl three-peat remains on track — even with an average margin of victory of four points, albeit against two perceived AFC contenders. And when you've got backup OT Wanya Morris snatching TDs, it doesn't matter if TE Travis Kelce is averaging fewer than 20 receiving yards per game. Still, this does feel like a flimsy perch given the serious injuries to WR Hollywood Brown and RB Isiah Pacheco.

2. Houston Texans (2-0): They've got two middling wins against apparently middling competition (Colts, Bears). But the defense looks especially good, and no other team has a two-game lead over its entire division.

3. Buffalo Bills (2-0): Among the reasons the retooled AFC East champs should be encouraged? How about OLB Von Miller collecting nine pressures, including a pair of sacks after two weeks? He had five pressures and zero sacks in 12 games all of last season, when he was on the mend following ACL reconstruction.

4. Tampa Bay Buccaneers (2-0): Maybe this feels like a little too much respect for merely winning two games. But maybe the three-time defending NFC South

champs are owed a little extra given their body of work here in the roaring '20s. And how about QB Baker Mayfield, who has four of the Bucs' rushing first downs?

5. Detroit Lions (1-1): Per ESPN Research, their six red-zone drives without a TD were the club's most in one game in 43 years. One of those was the failed march at the end of the first half, which Dan Campbell took the blame for and cited as the reason his team lost its playoff rematch with the Bucs.

6. New Orleans Saints (2-0): They destroyed a bad team in Week 1, then destroyed a decent one Sunday. New OC Klint Kubiak's system has certainly suited QB Derek Carr (league-best 5 TD passes and 142.4 passer rating while leading team to points on his first 15 drives of the season) and RB Alvin Kamara (league-best 5 TDs and 290 yards from scrimmage). Amazing how apparently declining vets can be revived by a fresh approach.

7. Minnesota Vikings (2-0): They destroyed a bad team in Week 1, then edged an excellent one Sunday. But old friend Danielle Hunter returns to the Twin Cities this weekend, and his Texans are sure to put the Vikes' humming Sam Darnold-to-Justin Jefferson connection to the test.

8. San Francisco 49ers (1-1): RB Christian McCaffrey is on IR, WR Deebo Samuel is going to be inactive the next few weeks with a calf strain, and WR Brandon Aiyuk has only been a notch better than inactive after summer spent on angling for his new contract. And Pro Bowl S Talanoa Hufanga (ACL) still hasn't been quite ready to return. Otherwise? All's splendid here.

9. Philadelphia Eagles (1-1): They looked more comfortable in South America than they did in South Philly given the ways HC Nick Sirianni's decision-making, RB Saquon Barkley's hands, the secondary's general "coverage" and QB Jalen Hurts' game-sealing interception produced a collective failure Monday night.

10. New York Jets (1-1): On the plus side, DE Will McDonald IV had a career-best three sacks, matching the total from his rookie year (2023), in Sunday's win. On the down side, DE Jeremiah Johnson is lost to a torn Achilles. Sure seems like time to forge a breakthrough with hold-out LB Haason Reddick.

11. Green Bay Packers (1-1): One of the league's oldest franchises became its first to win 800 regular-season games. That century-plus of history side, for the second straight year, the Pack feature the league's youngest roster — the players with an average age of 24.91 years in 2024 ... including a 25-year-old quarterback (Jordan Love) who doesn't seem like he'll be sidelined by his MCL injury for very long.

12. Pittsburgh Steelers (2-0): If they continue to lead the league in turnover differential (+5) while surrendering 8 points per week, it may not matter if they play a quarterback at all.

13. Atlanta Falcons (1-1): QB Kirk Cousins looked infinitely more comfortable — both in terms of his repaired Achilles and on the prime-time stage — after Monday night's sudden turnaround to beat Philadelphia and level his team's record heading into a brutal three-week homestand (Chiefs, Saints, Bucs).

14. Los Angeles Chargers (2-0): The schedule's been Charmin soft yet conducive to launching redemption tours for RB J.K. Dobbins, WR Quentin Johnston and OLB Joey Bosa. The Bolts are half the equation to a .500 start from the Harbaugh brothers in 2024.

15. Baltimore Ravens (0-2): They're the underside of the Harbaughs' 2024 record, John's crew suffering another of its infamous fourth-quarter meltdowns Sunday after squandering a double-digit lead yet again. A near miss against the Chiefs and a faceplant against an inferior team mean a 0-2 record.

16. Cincinnati Bengals (0-2): A faceplant against an inferior team and a near miss against

the Chiefs mean an 0-2 record in Cincy. Yet the issues here have the potential to linger much longer if disgruntled WR Ja'Marr Chase continues to come unglued.

17. Arizona Cardinals (1-1): Their 69 points scored rank second only to the Saints. Given their weapons and the injuries plaguing the rest of the NFC West, the Cards are a squad to keep a close eye on.

18. Dallas Cowboys (1-1): So much for home cookin'. "America's Team" has been shockingly outscored 92-51 in its past two outings at AT&T Stadium ... and the next visitor will be a salty Ravens outfit Sunday.

19. Cleveland Browns (1-1): Care to venture a guess how many 300-yard passing games QB Deshaun Watson has had since coming to Cleveland? Answer: Still waiting for the first.

20. Seattle Seahawks (2-0): A fortuitous 2-0 start featured WRs DK Metcalf and Jaxon Smith-Njigba on Sunday becoming the first Seattle teammates to each have at least 10 catches for 100 yards in the same game.

21. Las Vegas Raiders (1-1): If you're going to make a pass rusher the face of your organization, may as well be one like Maxx Crosby, who has yet miss a snap this season.

22. Indianapolis Colts (0-2): Easiest path to a highly disappointing 0-2 start? Turn the ball over four times and field a defense that's surrendering — by far — the most rushing yards per game (237) in the league. Indy hasn't yet possessed the ball for 40 minutes over two games.

23. Jacksonville Jaguars (0-2): "TrEverBank Stadium?" At least the one-week title sponsor is an honest broker. "We suck right now," QB Trevor Lawrence said after dropping his seventh consecutive start.

24. Chicago Bears (1-1): Bumpy a start as it's been, rookie QB Caleb Williams still doesn't have to average even 250 yards per game to become the franchise's first 4,000-yard passer in a season.

25. Miami Dolphins (1-1): Between WR Tyreek Hill and QB Tua Tagovailoa, sure haven't been many opportunities to focus on football for a franchise with a very uncertain outlook moving forward after Tua's latest concussion.

26. Los Angeles Rams (0-2): The strength of this team at the start of the season, the receiving corps may now be LA's weakness with Demarcus Robinson and Tyler Johnson now in line to be the starting wideouts for an indefinite period.

27. Washington Commanders (1-1): Jayden Daniels' 132 rushing yards through two games surpassed former Washington star Robert Griffin III for the most by a quarterback in his first two NFL games during the Super Bowl era (since 1966).

28. New England Patriots (1-1): Their run game is outpacing their pass game by 55 yards a week thus far, yet that division of labor is working fairly well. No Pats wideout has more than 28 receiving yards, yet the team came this close to a 2-0 start.

29. Tennessee Titans (0-2): Rookie HC Brian Callahan didn't get into this business to entertain, but his unsparing criticism of football-irresponsible QB Will Levis has at least been refreshing.

30. Denver Broncos (0-2): To recap, Sean Payton's offense is averaging 7.7 points and 48 yards fewer per game since QB Russell Wilson was banished late last season.

31. New York Giants (0-2): Unclear if it's possible to overuse a rookie wideout, but the G-Men might be testing that notion — the Rams' injured Cooper Kupp the only one in the league with more targets than Malik Nabers's 25.

32. Carolina Panthers (0-2): If Joe Flacco could come off the couch to save the Browns at age 38 a year ago, why shouldn't Andy Dalton be able to do it at age 36 by simply turning his clipboard over to Bryce Young after the team stunningly pulled the cord on him after two 2024 starts? (USA Today/TNS)

COMMENT & FEATURES

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Don't forget the North

The Lebanese terrorist organization Hezbollah was rocked on Tuesday when several of its members were killed and thousands were wounded when pagers issued to group operatives exploded close to them.

While this is a positive development in Israel's overarching battle against terrorism, it doesn't mean that it bodes well for the citizens of Israel's North.

Dozens of videos popped up all over social media showing terrorists in public areas, going about their lives when suddenly, the beepers they were carrying exploded.

While Israel has not taken credit for the attack at the time of publication, a senior Lebanese security source told *Al-Hadath* that Israel infiltrated the communications system of individual devices and detonated them. *Al-Hadath* also claimed that the IDF remotely detonated the devices using advanced technology.

A Hezbollah official speaking to Reuters on condition of anonymity, said the detonation of the pagers was the "biggest security breach" the group had suffered in nearly a year of war with Israel.

The beeper works by receiving radio waves on frequencies assigned to each device. When a message is received, the device emits a beep, prompting the user to call back. As technology has advanced, the devices became smaller, and short messages (numbers or a few words) could appear on the beeper's small screen.

The method employed to cause the explosions is a mystery, and may only be discovered after the remnants of the devices are analyzed.

Whatever forces operating against the evil that is Hezbollah must first and foremost be congratulated. If it is Israel, that is something that should bring us great pride, as it reflects incredibly well on the security systems we have touted as superior to all others in the world.

If it is any other force in the world, Israel must see them as an ally to our cause to eradicate terrorism and extremist hate towards Jews and the Jewish State.

This is undoubtedly a time to mark the new warfare that we are seeing worldwide, in particular in the Middle East, not only in this specific war but in the past few years. We have seen attacks being carried out that embody the term "out of the box."

In Operation Guardian of the Walls in May 2021, for example, the IDF tweeted, "IDF air and ground troops are currently attacking in the Gaza Strip."

That was not accurate, in fact. Three hours prior, soldiers had been gathering along the Gaza border. That is a far cry from attacking within Gaza. Nevertheless, the tweet went out, and international media outlets unleashed a wave of unprecedented articles.

While no ground invasion was launched, in the air, 160 aircraft had assembled for a massive bombing run over the Gaza Strip, and due to the deployment along the border, and the news coming out in the foreign media of a ground incursion, Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad sent their first line of defense into their tunnels to start taking up positions. Once they were out of the tunnels, they were exposed to the Israeli aircraft.

While the IDF at no point directly confirmed that this was a tactic, it undoubtedly gave the IAF a head start in the attack.

In the case of the exploding pagers, while different in method, is similar in nature to that attack in 2021, in that it is the new face of war. The world has moved forward since mere guns and trenches; today, there are cyberattacks, drones, and now, exploding electronic devices.

There is one thing we cannot forget, however, and it is the residents of Israel's North that have faced the brunt of the war with Hezbollah and taken hit after hit.

While this new advancement gives Israel an advantage – or at least makes a bold statement in its name – it is undeniable: Hezbollah will retaliate, and Israel's North will suffer the consequences.

To whoever devised yesterday's cunning attack, good job – but always bear in mind that broad repercussions are inevitable.

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Harris's alarming election campaign appointments

• By ABRAHAM KATSMAN

If there is one reliable political rule, it is: "Personnel is policy." In a US presidential election, a candidate's appointments to important campaign posts are the most accurate indicators of how an administration will govern. Candidates may spew soundbites reflecting all manner of half-baked proposals during a campaign, but the appointed executive staff fleshes out those policies and brings them to life post-election.

These appointees are particularly influential where a candidate, like Kamala Harris, is no master of policy detail. Contrast Harris with, say, policy wonk Hillary Clinton, and Harris's policy shortcomings appear stark. Thus, Harris's advisers will have an outsized role in shaping her administration's policies.

Harris's own Israel-related record, statements, political allies, and vice-presidential choice are already unsettling, and her party's unmistakable de-Zionization is already problematic; but her campaign appointments have ominous implications for a Harris-administration US-Israel relationship.

However she now repackages herself, Harris has a decidedly left-leaning ideological orientation: support for government-imposed price controls, reparations for slavery two centuries ago, and lukewarm support of Israel. Her impeccable progressive credentials are reinforced by her Senate voting record: according to nonpartisan GovTrack.us, she was the single-most left-wing senator – to the left of socialist Bernie Sanders. On the political landscape, that is "squad" territory.

But while she may assert hazy Israel-related platitudes along with her policy reversals calibrated to sound more palatable to centrist, her newly appointed aides and Mideast advisers are not similarly coy about their own Israel orientation. Theirs is clear, and it is menacing.

Brenda Abdelall is Harris's newest appointment to lead



US VICE PRESIDENT Kamala Harris is flanked by French President Emmanuel Macron and her national security advisor, Phil Gordon, during a briefing at NASA Headquarters in Washington, in 2022. (Kevin Lamarque/Reuters)

outreach to the Arab-American community. She is an Egyptian-Muslim, Arab, and Gaza-related issues." Her tenure corresponds with Harris's increased criticism of Israel, including statements implying that Israel "intentionally" targets civilians.

Bargie has worked closely with Hamas-affiliated CAIR and vocally defends Students for Justice in Palestine, the radical campus thugs making Jewish university life intolerable and celebrating Hamas terror. (SJP was recently banned from several campuses).

While Jewish students warily navigate "anti-Zionist" campuses, Bargie has argued that even investigations of SJP hostilities violate free speech, and that complaining Jewish students and organizations engage in "organized legal bullying." She was one of the attorneys who caused the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights to close three investigations against University of California schools regarding whether Palestinian rights activism created an antisemitic climate. In other words, she has worked to block efforts to combat campus antisemitism and protect Jewish students from

hostile environments. Harris might have balanced those appointments with her choice of director of Jewish outreach. Alas, quite the opposite; she appointed Ilan Goldenberg, who, on the Zionist spectrum, falls on J Street's left-most fringe. His history is of zealous advocacy on behalf of Iran's Islamist regime and the JCPOA (the Iran nuclear agreement).

Plus, he is the architect of the administration's pernicious sanctions on growing numbers of Jewish Israelis – including US citizens – whose political persuasions are at odds with the administration's. Under the guise of combating "settler violence," the sanctions have metastasized to entwine non-settlers and non-violence. Sanctions summarily imposed with no due process against Jews. "Outreach," indeed.

More worrisome, such campaign liaison/outreach positions are usually filled by junior staffers who maintain contact with community organizations and federations. But Harris's appointments are senior level and already steer policy. They are in line for administration policymaking positions.

Others in Harris's shadow administration cause further concern. Her national security advisor, Phil Gordon, an advocate of rapprochement with the Islamic Republic, has worked so closely with pro-ayatollah lobbyists and likely Iranian agents that he is the subject of a congressional investigation.

Harris's presumed director of national intelligence is Palestinian-American Maher Bitar, a former leader of Students for Justice in Palestine who worked for UNRWA and for the rabidly anti-Israel Foundation for Middle East Peace.

In any normal year, people with such radical records wouldn't be allowed near a presidential campaign, let alone given senior appointments, but radical anti-Zionism is unremarkable in today's Democratic Party. Whatever one's usual party preference or feelings about the Republican nominee, it is crucial for Israel sympathizers to face this election alert to developing dangers and be appropriately alarmed.

The writer is an American attorney and political commentator living in Israel. He serves as counsel to Republicans Overseas Israel.

Fear of heaven or pathological anxiety?

• By JACOB L. FREEDMAN

For so many of my patients, finding balance in life is the key to their recovery journey.

A depressed patient must rediscover happiness as part of their treatment. But if in their search for positivity and optimism they are too raw to connect with the pain and suffering of others, then something is clearly missing. An addict who is drug-free is on the right path. But an alcoholic who cannot attend a family wedding due to the fact that there will be wine and liquor served doesn't yet have the strongest sobriety.

And what about my patients who have struggled with pathological anxiety and related disorders such as obsessive-compulsive disorders, trauma, and panic attacks? On one hand, so many of them want to live a life that is worry-free. On the other hand, the fear center of our brain can be a lifesaver when it comes to avoiding dangerous situations.

Furthermore, healthy anxiety is interconnected with being an effective, mature adult by reminding us to stay on top of our daily responsibilities. With this in mind, harnessing the productive aspects of anxiety while working to say goodbye to unhealthy anxiety and its symptoms is a major focus of the therapeutic process.

For a person with a history of anxiety, the High Holy Days



SLIHOT PRAYERS are recited ahead of Rosh Hashanah last year. 'Among my patients, their families, and their teachers, the deluge of questions can be overwhelming at this time of year,' says the writer. (David Cohen/Flash90)

of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur can represent quite a conundrum. Much of the language used throughout the Bible and our rabbinical tradition revolves on *yirat shamayim*, which is most commonly translated as "fear of heaven."

For example, over a thousand years ago, Rabbi Saadia Gaon taught, "The sounding of the shofar instills a sense of trepidation and fear that leads us to humble ourselves before God, as the verse (Amos 3:6) states: 'If the shofar is sounded in the

city, will people not tremble?'" Between my patients, their families, and their teachers, the deluge of questions can be overwhelming at this time of year. A teenage student is nervous that his previous sins will result in divine retribution and cannot sleep at night. A young mother with a history of OCD is terrified that her repentance will be incomplete and has been unable to stop reading Psalms in hope of salvation. A local rabbi is bombarded by phone calls from a father who feels

that God hates him because his children don't want to pray at synagogue on Rosh Hashanah. All of these questions revolve around a fundamental distinction: What is the difference between a healthy fear of heaven and pathological anxiety? To help my patients and their loved ones think this through, I offer these three thoughts:

1. Fear of heaven brings us closer to the ones we love and improves our relationships; pathological anxiety makes us

feel farther away from the ones we love and strains our relationships.

2. Fear of heaven makes us feel whole and connected to our innate spirituality; pathological anxiety makes us feel broken emotionally and disconnected spiritually.

3. Fear of heaven gives us strength to do good in our lives and within our communities; pathological anxiety makes us feel weak and is often associated with physical symptoms such as headaches, upset stomach, poor sleep, and muscular pain.

Many of my patients and their loved ones find these three rules to be quite helpful in both finding spiritual satisfaction and identifying their symptoms. High-quality and culturally sensitive mental health interventions combined with thoughtful spiritual guidance can ensure that everyone has a meaningful growth experience during the High Holy Days.

Shana Tova – a Happy New Year!

The writer is a psychiatrist and business consultant based in Jerusalem. After completing his training at Harvard Medical School, he and his family immigrated to Israel. His new book, *The Things I Told My Patients*, is available from Menucha Publishers. He can be reached via his website: drjacobl Freedman.com.

'To resist the academic intifada'

'Letters to my students on defending the Zionist dream'



CENTER FIELD
• By GIL TROY

Last month, the JPPI – Jewish People Policy Institute – published *The Essential Guide to October 7th and its Aftermath: Facts, Figures, History* – my how-to-defend-Israel guide. This week, Wicked Son is publishing *To Resist the Academic Intifada: Letters to My Students on Defending the Zionist Dream* – my why-to-celebrate-Israel manifesto. The story of that book is the story of a changing agenda over three years.

Back then, after my first post-COVID American speaking tour, I was struck by how troubled my peers and my students were. We were raised in Generation Hope – yet everyone seemed stuck in despair. We knew our lives were better than our parents' and grandparents' lives – yet took responsibility to roll up our sleeves and make them even better. Too many students – and their parents – while living safe, comfortable lives, lost that confidence. Feeling the same need to try reframing the conversation I had in 2001 when I wrote "Why I am a Zionist," I wrote a manifesto: "Cancel Me! Un-Woke and anti-Trump."

I sought a middle path, rejecting the all-or-nothingness and violence of the post-George Floyd riots and January 6. Few Americans, Black and white, want either extreme.

I started writing about Franklin D. Roosevelt's Four Freedoms, analyzing his expansive, visionary, and relevant liberal-democratic nationalism. This was my nerdy historian's response to our strange world filled with progressives who don't believe in progress – and conservatives who don't conserve institutions.

You can retrace America's history through these four freedoms. Freedom of Religion replaced God with the people as the basis of sovereignty – the 18th century revolution. Freedom of Speech invigorated democracy – the 19th century breakthrough. Freedom from Want made America fairer – the mid-twentieth-century breakthrough, creating the first mass middle-class civilization. But we're still seeking Freedom from Fear.

ULTIMATELY, this scheme felt too abstract for the pressing challenges of the moment. I started writing personally, telling my story and my family's story to illustrate the transformation of millions of Americans from being "Eastern European Boat People" fleeing Old World oppression, liberated by the New World's opportunities. Writing in the first person made it more compelling –

although I felt awkward writing a memoir: I write about history, I don't make it. "You're a teacher," my astute editor Adam Bellow at Wicked Son urged – "write letters to your students." So I did, using my life-story to champion Americanism, liberalism, and Zionism.

After October 7, I rewrote the book, strengthening the Zionist message that now became urgent. I rewrote it again during the spring as the Academic Intifada's encampments assailed Americanism, liberalism and Zionism, along with the critical thinking, open-mindedness, and mutual respect on campus, around which I built my academic career – and my life.

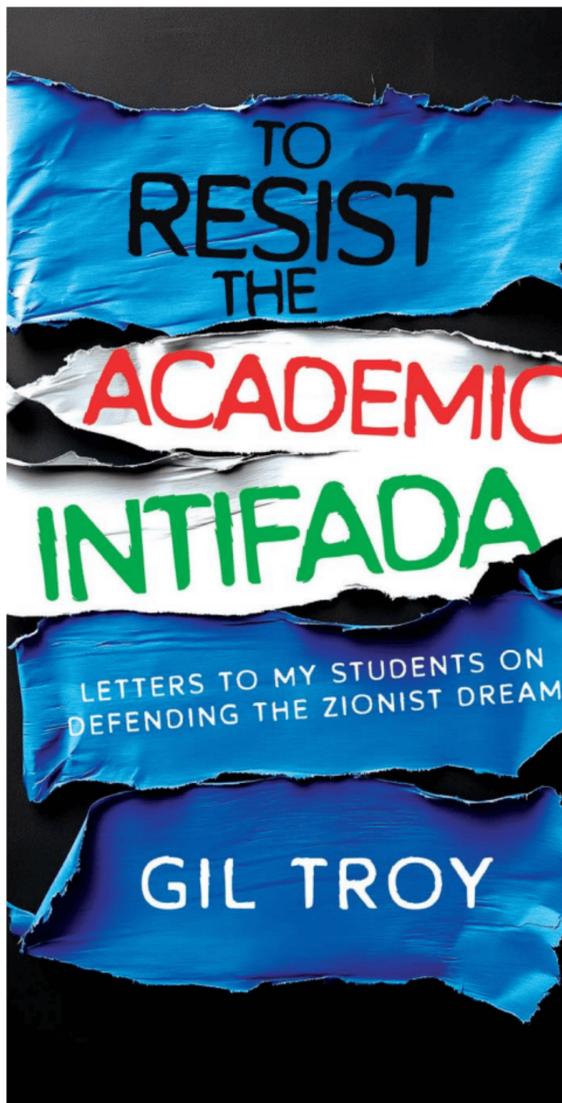
Yesterday we launched the book. *To Resist the Academic Intifada: Letters to My Students on Defending the Zionist Dream*, is addressed – and dedicated – to my beloved students. "You're not crazy," I insist: the masked cowards threatening you, harassing you, yelling anti-American, anti-Zionist and antisemitic slogans are the deviants – as are their heavy-handed, propagandizing professors.

THE LETTERS also challenge my peers, my students' parents. "Buck up!" I proclaim. "Tell your story, your family's Mayflower or Fleeing-from-Egypt tale. Don't allow racist ideologues to dismiss you and your kids because of your 'white privilege' when so many of our ancestors came from nothing and we made something of ourselves with sweat and smarts." We – Jews and non-Jews alike – must stop apologizing and start leading ideologically; celebrating the good in America, in Israel, in the West, while fixing the bad.

Meanwhile, let's sing a new song of Zion, loud, proud, unapologetic – without Jewish guilt, especially while fighting our genocidal enemies.

The title tells it all. While acknowledging the ongoing horrors, I refuse to be cemented in the trauma; we must be positive, proactive, looking ahead. Second, when I call to "Resist," I refuse to allow these hooligans to romanticize themselves as some kind of righteous resistance.

I ALSO reject the gaslighting of recent years: when thoughtful critics attacked "woke" inanities, defenders said "we're just seeking justice" or, more aggressively, "what, you're a MAGA supporter?" – as if those are the only two political paths. When critics called it



THE WRITER'S latest book was published yesterday. (Courtesy Gil Troy)

"postmodernism," bystanders looked confused – it sounds too abstract. And when critics rejected "critical race theory" or the race obsessions of "anti-racism," defenders called them "racist." Ironically, the radicals first embraced each label – until criticism grew.

The term "academic intifada" locates much of the poison on campus – while noting that not every academic propagandizes. But the radicals seek to "Globalize the Intifada" and vow "Freedom for Palestine means Death to America."

Balancing the title, the subtitle gives the punchline. The phrase "the Zionist dream" evokes "the American dream." My letters champion both.

The book concludes by making two essential arguments. First, that in many ways, even now, Israelis today live the American dream – in Zion, in a free, prosperous Jewish democracy, rooted in tradition and values, while forever seeking

to improve. And, on October 7, my students, our kids, that extraordinary next generation, mobilized in Israel to save Israel – while mobilizing worldwide against this wave of Jew-hatred and America-hatred. Although the Israeli government and the IDF failed that day, Zionism succeeded – and was vindicated by these courageous children we've raised.

Finally, I'm clear. If you don't agree with me on the fundamental morality of Americanism, Zionism, and liberalism: cancel me. If you do, read this book – but please question, disagree, argue with me: That's the best way we learn and grow together.

The writer, a senior fellow in *Zionist Thought at the Jewish People Policy Institute (JPPI)*, is an American presidential historian. His latest book, *To Resist the Academic Intifada: Letters to My Students on Defending the Zionist Dream* was published on September 17.

Are there shortcuts?

• By ALAN FREISHTAT

Part of the nature of man is to find the easy way out. We innately seek pleasure and want to do things in the easiest way possible. As psychologist Dr. Doug Lisle points out, we all want to be able to accomplish our tasks with the least possible effort.

That's fine when we can reach our goals and conserve both physical and mental energy. Yet oftentimes, the "easy way" is dangled in front of us and we run to grab it, because we can only see the immediate result. We rarely stop to think about long-term ramifications.

When it comes to our health, there are things dangled in our faces every single day. But when I pursue something that brings a quick fix, am I truly fixing the problem in the long-term, or am I just getting some short-term benefit that over time will disappear?

I don't know of anything where this is as pronounced as weight loss. Most people are still mired in this longtime false paradigm of just eat less and just exercise more. Since the problem of overweight and obesity began to really accelerate in the 1970s, everything one can imagine has been tried to control weight. There has been a long list of every type of diet imaginable (and some unimaginable – the Cookie Diet?).

Diets as a whole are a miserable failure. Two years after losing weight, the dieter has a 95% chance of regaining all the weight lost or even more. Medications use different modes and methods to encourage weight loss. The first bypass surgery of any kind for weight reduction was in the 1950s. There have been several types of these bypass bariatric surgeries over the years, as well as bands and sleeves. But they haven't solved the obesity epidemic.

Twenty percent of bariatric surgery patients never lose significant weight – and of those that do, 25% have gained it back by about the 10-year mark. Television, internet, and print publications of all kinds are filled with advertisements for over-the-counter supplements "guaranteed" to help you lose weight or your money back! Finally, we now have the semaglutide type drugs, injections like Ozempic and Wegovy, which are being touted as the new weight loss miracle (although the former is only approved to lower blood sugar when you have type 2 diabetes).

BACK IN June of 2023, I published an article in these pages about injections for weight loss. I wrote then about side-effects including gallbladder disease, pancreatitis, kidney problems, nausea, diarrhea, and the possibility of malnutrition down the road as one may not get enough calories with the loss of appetite that comes with glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) agonist drugs.

In addition, I pointed out an undisputed point: that as soon as you stop the injections, the weight returns. Well, it is more than a year later and we have a lot more information, although still not enough. This category of drug has only been studied on a large human population for three years – not a long time. So, what is the most updated information we have on Ozempic?

If you're reading the mainstream medical news, it seems that we have a miracle drug on our hands. You can look forward to better cardiovascular health, kidney health, less inflammation, resolving fatty liver disease, and lowering blood pressure.

That sounds great – but here is the full update. Since I wrote that article, we

have learned more about stomach paralysis, "Ozempic face" (your facial skin ages and sags) and blurred vision, and more and more emergency departments are reporting more cases of hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) from Ozempic users. Couple this with anesthesiologists having to extend the time they tell patients not to eat or drink before surgeries, and we can see just how detrimental this latest weight-loss "miracle" can be.

It appears that many Ozempic patients have undigested food in their stomach for prolonged periods, so fasting for the usual eight hours does not empty the stomach, putting the patient at risk. Some are now thinking that patients on Ozempic should stop the drug three weeks before a surgery. There are reports of mood disorders, and Dr. Neal Barnard from the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine recently cited preliminary studies on a greater tendency toward suicidal thoughts.

So, we come back to the usual questions. At what risk is all this benefit and is there a better way to accomplish the same results?

For most people, there is. First, though, we need a change in our mind-set. Nothing worthwhile is going to happen quickly. This takes time. When some of my obese clients over the years have asked me "how long will it take to lose this weight?" they are disappointed when I tell them that to reach all or at least most of their weight-loss goals might take a couple of years. Then I ask them: "How long did it take you to put on this weight?" I get answers like 10 years, 15 years, or even 20 years. That usually puts things in perspective.

Your body is made to make the GLP-1 hormone naturally. But in order for that to happen, you have to give it the right fuel.

The six pillars of lifestyle medicine will help you. The emphasis needs to be on proper nutrition using a Whole Food Plant Based diet. Couple that with proper sleep, enough exercise and activity, abstinence from substances like cigarettes and alcohol, stress reduction and management, and good social connections. Following this lifestyle will usually result in weight loss and the prevention and even reversal of most chronic disease – and over time, you will create a healthy gut microbiome, which is the control center of our bodies.

A diet abundant in whole grains, fruits, vegetables, legumes and some nuts and seeds will increase GLP-1 levels. More importantly, science has shown beyond a doubt that this dietary pattern will extend your life and, just as important, bring you an excellent quality of life allowing you to thrive. This will lead to the health and harmony our bodies and beings are craving. Unlike Ozempic and its related drugs, the only side effects you will have to face is a better quality and longer life.

We all acknowledge that this drug is appropriate for a small percentage of the population, but with all the new information coming out, it should probably not be prescribed to the masses. Learning how to incorporate the six main aspects of lifestyle medicine and avoid shortcuts that may not work will "add hours to your days, days to your years and years to your lives."

The writer is a wellness coach and personal trainer with more than 25 years of professional experience. He is a member of the International Council of the True Health Initiative and a member of the board of *Kosher Plant Based*, as well as director of *The Wellness Clinic*. He can be reached at alan@alanfitness.com.

LETTERS

The stumbling block

Regarding "Harris defends J'lem record, Trump: Israel will be gone" (September 12): Kamala Harris didn't do a very good job in the recent presidential debate of "defending" Israel. She implied that Israel has not been careful in trying to avoid civilian casualties. In doing so, she was ignoring the opinions of a military expert, Major John Spencer, head of urban warfare studies at West Point, who has marveled at Israel's achieving a ratio of 1.5:1 for civilian deaths compared to combatant deaths, when much higher ratios are usually observed during fighting in densely populated areas like Gaza.

Major Spencer further notes that Israel's efforts, and success, are especially impressive in light of Hamas's having deliberately built its extensive network of terror tunnels in a manner which essentially eradicated any distinction between combat areas and civilian areas.

Harris's call for an immediate ceasefire also ignores the fact that, should Israel fail to achieve a decisive victory over Hamas, the terrorists will surely be able to regroup and fulfill their vow to inflict multiple October 7 atrocities on Israelis. Furthermore, Harris errs in implying that Israel is responsible for the lack of a Palestinian state.

Palestinian leaders have turned down Israeli proposals for the formation of a Palestinian state proffered by leaders spanning Israel's political spectrum. The stumbling block has always been Israel's insistence that the Palestinian state be the Jewish state's neighbor, not its replacement.

There is some truth in Donald Trump's claim that Hamas would not have attacked on October 7 on his watch. Trump's policies had greatly restricted Iran's ability to fund its terrorist proxies, which include Hamas. It would have been very nice if Trump had noted some corrections to Harris's statement, but what is really important in this election is returning to his policies – reining in Iran and expanding the Abraham Accords.

TOBY F. BLOCK
Atlanta

A president's task

Regarding "Kamala Harris has my full support" by Joel Thal Simonds (September 16): Dear Rabbi Simonds, past performance is no assurance of future success. That is my answer to your article supporting Vice President Harris for the presidency.

Though she was a responsive senator, California is just a small part of the US and the world. In this realm, she has not proved herself. I watched her handle a senatorial inquiry very well, but that's not the equivalent of a president's task.

We live in a different time around the world, in which a leader must know how other leaders think, and what the future issues and decisions that they will have to make will be, not only domestically but also internationally. That's where Harris fails. Her lack of knowledge, experience and understanding of the world does not equip her for that task. So we in Israel, unlike you, can't count on her.

SYBIL LEVINE
Ra'anana

Joel Thal Simonds manages to wax lyrical about Vice President Harris for a half-page of your comment & features section, ending with an almost prophetic phrase, that "with Kamala Harris in the White House, I know that good reason for hope continues."

So fulsome and uncritical is his adoration that by the end of it, I thought the Messiah had arrived in female form. Contrast this with his disdain and despair about former president Trump, even before he knew what that presidency would herald. "My fundamental Jewish values were no longer reflected in our nation's highest office," writes Simonds.

Yet, let's look at what president Trump did ultimately bring to the Jewish people. He was responsible for three of the greatest advances in our state since 1967: US recognition of Jerusalem as our capital, our sovereignty over the Golan Heights, and greatest of all, fully deserving of the Nobel Peace Prize – the Abraham Accords.

That Simonds cannot give any credit to Trump who did more to advance peace in the region than any other US president since Harry Truman shows in my opinion, that it is the writer's own Jewish values that are untrustworthy and that he is a bad judge of character.

Simonds may worship at the shrine of Kamala Harris, but the Talmud also teaches us not to get too close to those in power, as it usually ends badly.

DANIEL BAUM
Zichron Ya'acov

A deep sleep

Regarding "Jordan's queen hits out at Western 'double standards' over Gaza war" (September 9):

Queen Rania, do you have any idea of what is going on in our world? Do you know who began this war and why; how many Israelis have been murdered and in the most horrific ways? They've been raped, burned alive, beheaded; adults and children alike, watching each other as it happened.

You speak like someone who just woke up from a deep sleep. Are you aware of the fact that over 240 people were taken hostage on October 7, separated against their will from their loved ones? They have been kept in terrible conditions. Many were murdered, six just recently, for no reason.

Families of the six hostages were told that their loved ones, in a Hamas tunnel in Rafah, were starved, denied air, and subjected to inhumane conditions before being murdered ("Hostages were starved, denied air before being killed," September 9). Over 100 are still being held.

Queen Rania, I suggest that you go back to sleep. Perhaps you will dream of a world that once was.

SURA KATZ
Tel Aviv

I have to read it

Regarding "A purported non-tactical retreat" (September 17): Whenever I see an article by Salem Alketbi, I have to read it. Not only does he write well, but he has much insight. I trust what he says. I am so pleased that *The Jerusalem Post* has given him space in the newspaper. I look forward to his columns.

EDMUND JONAH
Rishon LeZion

Doing business with Israel

The time is now

• By JOEL LEYDEN

As the global business community looks for new opportunities in a volatile world, one nation stands out for its innovation, resilience, and capacity to thrive under pressure – Israel.

Respected for its cutting-edge high-tech and defense markets, Israel remains a beacon of technological prowess and democratic values. Despite facing ongoing threats from Islamic terror organizations, now is precisely the right time to engage with and invest in the Jewish state.

In 2022, Israel exported an impressive \$166.57 billion in goods, a testament to the strength of its economy and the global demand for its products. Yet, the story doesn't stop there.

As Israel defends itself against terror attacks, especially in its northern region, many companies shy away from doing business. It's easy to understand their hesitancy – war is unsettling, and the images of rockets hitting towns are difficult to ignore. However, these companies are missing the broader picture: Israel is not only functioning but thriving, and it presents an unprecedented opportunity for those willing to look beyond the headlines.

The international export trade in Israel remains vibrant, even under

the threat of conflict. This is because the country has built a robust infrastructure, immune to short-term disruptions. Its high-tech sector, bolstered by advances in artificial intelligence and cybersecurity, is second to none. Israel now offers the finest solutions in these areas at the most competitive rates, making it a unique player in the global market.

For international businesses seeking to invest in innovation, security, and defense, there is no better partner than Israel. The nation's expertise in counterterrorism technology is unparalleled, and its AI-driven advancements are revolutionizing industries from healthcare to finance.

Companies that collaborate with Israel today will find themselves at the cutting edge of technology, benefiting from the country's world-leading solutions at prices that are more favorable than ever before. Still, the benefits of doing business with Israel go beyond economic gain.

By supporting this democratic state, the global business community plays a critical role in strengthening a vital ally in the fight against terrorism. Israel is not only defending its borders; it is standing on the front lines of a broader global struggle against Islamic extremism.

Supporting Israel is, therefore, not

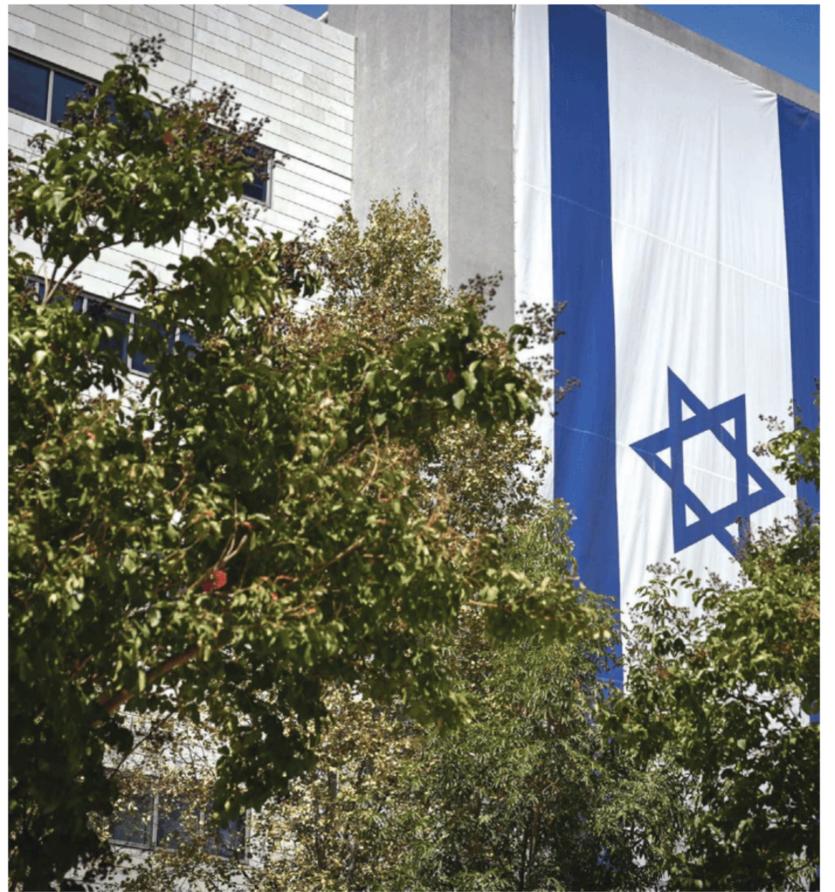
just about making smart business decisions – it's about upholding the values of freedom, democracy, and security. It's about defeating the psychological warfare waged by Iran, Hamas, Hezbollah, and Qatar to isolate Israel's economy.

The global business community must ask itself: Doesn't it want a share of that \$166.57 billion export market? Isn't it time to stand by a nation that is both a technological powerhouse and a defender of Western ideals?

The time to do business with Israel is not tomorrow – it's today. While rockets may fly from Lebanon, Israel's economy soars higher, offering a unique opportunity for those brave enough to seize it. Now is the time to partner with Israel, not only for the financial rewards but also for the chance to stand on the right side of history.

The world needs nations like Israel, and Israel needs partners willing to invest in its future. It's time to act. The opportunity is here.

The writer is president of Leyden Communications Israel, a crisis communications, public affairs, and digital PR organization with offices in New York and Ra'anana. He has served as an officer in the IDF Spokesperson's Unit and as a senior media/cross-cultural communications, social media consultant to Israel's Foreign Ministry.



THE YOKNE'AM High-Tech Park, in Lower Galilee: Israel's high-tech sector, bolstered by advances in artificial intelligence and cybersecurity, is second to none, the writer asserts. (Michael Giladi/Flash90)



A CHEVRON gas station sign in Encinitas, California: For legal professionals, the name Chevron is synonymous with an important legal doctrine – the Chevron deference doctrine, the writers point out. (Mike Blake/Reuters)

The fall of Chevron

It may affect business regulation

• By GUY MILHALTER and AUSTIN OCHOA

In the United States, anyone who has ever driven a car knows Chevron, the oil and gas company. But for legal professionals, the name Chevron is synonymous with an important legal doctrine – the Chevron deference doctrine. The US Supreme Court recently overturned the long-standing Chevron doctrine, a decision that could dramatically reshape how US government agencies operate and how businesses are regulated.

This article delves into the origins and impact of the Chevron doctrine, explores the significant changes brought about by its recent demise, and outlines the potential legal and business implications that businesses must now navigate in a rapidly evolving regulatory landscape.

The Chevron deference doctrine originated from the landmark Supreme Court decision, *Chevron U.S.A., Inc. v. Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.*, 467 U.S. 837 (1984). The decision established a legal principle that courts should defer to administrative agencies' interpretations of ambiguous statutes they are tasked with enforcing.

This doctrine was built on the idea that agencies possess specialized expertise in their regulatory areas, making them better suited than courts to interpret the complexities of certain laws. Under Chevron, if a statute was ambiguous, courts would defer to the agency's interpretation so long as it was reasonable. This approach allowed agencies significant leeway in interpreting and implementing laws, shaping the modern administrative state in the United States.

In a significant shift, the recent Supreme Court decision in *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo*, 144 S. Ct. 2244 (2024) overruled Chevron, declaring that courts, not agencies, should interpret ambiguous laws unless Congress explicitly grants that power to an agency.

The *Loper Bright* case involved a group of Atlantic herring fishing companies challenging the National Marine Fisheries Service's authority to require them to pay for federal observers on their vessels. The Supreme Court ruled that courts must exercise independent judgment to determine whether an agency has acted within its statutory authority, marking a strict return to judicial oversight of agency interpretations.

Administrative agencies, like the Environmental Protection Agency and the Securities and Exchange Commission, enforce laws in specific areas such as environmental protection and securities regulation. These agencies are granted authority by Congress to create and enforce rules that carry the force of law, often navigating complex technical issues that exceed the expertise of Congress.

Chevron historically provided these agencies with the flexibility to interpret ambiguous statutes, reinforcing their significant role in shaping policy through regulations. However, the overturning of the doctrine means that courts will now

have a greater say in interpreting these statutes, potentially leading to more legal challenges and a shift in how agencies operate.

Business implications of overturning Chevron

The decision to overturn Chevron could have profound implications for businesses. With increased judicial scrutiny, there will likely be more legal challenges to agency regulations, leading to greater uncertainty in the regulatory environment. In this uncertain environment, business interests might find it easier to challenge the government's attempts to regulate business.

As a recent example, in August of this year, a federal district court in Texas set aside the Federal Trade Commission's Noncompete Rule that sought to ban the use of noncompete clauses nationwide with few exceptions. The district court cited the *Loper Bright* decision in the first paragraph of its analysis and ruled that the FTC exceeded its authority, concluding that the agency lacked the statutory power to implement a non-compete ban of this scope.

Although the court's decision is likely to be appealed, and the case could very well reach the Supreme Court, it raises doubt about the ban's future while highlighting the uncertainty government agencies and businesses face in the latest regulatory environment following the decision in *Loper Bright*.

What is next for businesses?

The Supreme Court's overturning of Chevron may lead to a more complex and contested regulatory environment, making it imperative for businesses to closely monitor judicial interpretations of agency actions and adjust their compliance strategies accordingly.

Here are some common-sense next steps businesses can take post-Chevron:

Monitor legal developments: Businesses (and their counsel) should more closely monitor court decisions that could impact regulatory interpretations in their industry.

Engage with legal counsel: Maintain close communication with legal experts to assess how changes in judicial review might affect your operations. Legal counsel can also provide guidance on navigating new regulatory challenges.

Advocate for clarity: Consider participating in industry groups or coalitions that advocate for clear regulatory guidelines. By actively participating in industry associations, engaging with regulatory bodies, and collaborating with other businesses for unified advocacy, you can contribute to shaping clear and stable regulatory environments.

Guy Milhalter is a partner, and Austin Ochoa is an associate attorney, in the New York office of Pearl Cohen Zedek Latzer Banatz LLP, where they are members of the firm's US Corporate Practice Group.

Embracing change

• By LIRAZ MARGALIT

We often consider making a significant change in the middle of our lives – whether it's changing a major, switching career paths, or even moving to a new country – to be a daunting prospect. The fear of the unknown and our natural negativity bias lead us to focus on the potential downsides. We worry about what could go wrong, and as a result, we often choose the comfort of the familiar over the possibility of something new.

However, if you ask people who have taken the leap and made a major life change, they will often tell you it was the best decision they ever made. Studies in psychology also teach us that people are more likely to regret not trying something new than they are to regret taking a chance that didn't work out as expected. This truth is especially relevant for young American Jews considering making aliyah to Israel. While the idea of uprooting your life and moving to a new country might seem intimidating, the psychological benefits of such a change can be profound.

Stepping outside your comfort zone

We tend to gravitate toward what we know, finding comfort in the routines and environments we're accustomed to. Yet, it's when we step outside our comfort zones that true growth occurs. Moving to Israel, with its vibrant culture, diverse communities, and rich history, offers an unparalleled opportunity to broaden your horizons. This type of change challenges you to adapt, learn, and immerse yourself in a new way of life. The initial discomfort and uncertainty that come with such a transition are natural but they are also the catalysts for developing greater resilience and adaptability.

Building resilience through change

Resilience is a crucial skill in today's fast-paced and often unpredictable world. It's the ability to bounce back from challenges and face adversity with a mindset that says, "I can handle this." Moving to a new country, particularly one as dynamic and complex as Israel, pushes you to develop this resilience. Whether it's navigating a new language, adapting to different cultural norms, or simply finding your way in a new city, every challenge you overcome strengthens your capacity to handle future obstacles.

Resilience isn't just about surviving tough situations – it's about thriving in them. It's about transforming what might initially feel like a setback into a stepping stone. The process of making aliyah and integrating into Israeli society is a profound exercise in resilience-building, offering lessons that will serve you throughout your life.

Embracing a growth mindset

One of the most powerful psychological shifts that can come from making a significant life change is the adoption of a growth mindset. A growth mindset is the belief that

abilities and intelligence can be developed through effort, learning, and persistence. When you make aliyah, you're not just moving to a new country – you're committing to a journey of personal development. This journey involves learning new skills, embracing new perspectives, and continually pushing yourself to grow.

In Israel, you'll encounter challenges that will test your patience, your problem-solving abilities, and your willingness to adapt. But with each challenge, you'll also discover new strengths, new passions, and new ways of thinking. This process of continuous learning and adaptation is at the heart of a growth mindset, and it's one of the most valuable life skills you can cultivate.

Strengthening soft skills

The experience of making aliyah also provides a unique opportunity to strengthen soft skills – those interpersonal skills that are increasingly valued in today's interconnected world. Communication, empathy, cultural sensitivity, and teamwork are all soft skills that are honed through the experience of living in a new country. Israel's diverse society, with its mix of cultures, languages, and traditions, offers a rich environment for developing these skills.

As you navigate your new life in Israel, you'll learn how to communicate across cultural boundaries, how to build connections with people from different backgrounds, and how to work collaboratively in a multicultural setting. These soft skills are not only essential for personal and professional success, but they also enrich your life, deepening your understanding of the world and your place in it.

A new perspective on life

Ultimately, making aliyah is about more than just relocating – it's about embracing a new perspective on life. It's about seeing the world through a different lens, one that values community, connection, and a shared sense of purpose. Israel, with its deep sense of history and its vibrant, forward-looking society, offers a unique context in which to explore and redefine your identity.

By choosing to make this change, you're not just taking a step into the unknown – you're stepping into a future filled with possibilities. You're giving yourself the chance to grow, to learn, and to become the best version of yourself. Yes, it's scary, and yes, it's challenging, but it's also one of the most rewarding decisions you can make.

So, to young American Jews considering aliyah: Embrace the change. It won't be easy, but the psychological benefits – the resilience, the growth, the strengthened skills, and the new perspectives – are worth every moment of uncertainty. In Israel, you'll find not just a new home but a new chapter in your life, filled with opportunities to thrive in ways you never imagined.

The writer is a social psychologist and the research director of Belong, the first private impact company that encourages immigration to Israel.

Irresponsible and shameful

Canada's betrayal of Israel

• By ALAN BAKER

The concept of commonality of values has always been a steadfast principle in Canada's relationships with its friends and allies.

Such commonality of values was perhaps voiced most clearly in an address by former prime minister Steven Harper to Israel's parliament – the Knesset – some years ago, in which he listed the historic and long-standing values shared by Canada and Israel. He ended his historic address by reiterating the vital message to Israel: "Canada will always have Israel's back."

When one perceives today's utter betrayal by, and hostility of Canada toward Israel by the present Canadian government headed by Justin Trudeau, one cannot but be shocked and dismayed.

It would appear that Mr. Trudeau is deliberately turning his back on Israel, an ally and long-standing friend, and is allowing himself and his government to be led by the nose by Canada's Foreign Minister Melanie Joly and her squad of colleagues and supporters from Quebec who seem to be imbued with a caustic hatred of Israel. This with the encouragement of several highly active Muslim and Hamas-front organizations such as Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East and others.

These and their supporters fuel the thugs that freely roam the streets of Canada's major cities with impunity, accosting passersby, undisturbed by law-enforcement authorities, and, it would appear, with the nod of Canada's political leadership.

It seems that this group of irresponsible politicians prefer to buy – lock, stock, and barrel – into the false and hostile "genocide" propaganda propagated by the Hamas terror organization, rather than to responsibly analyze and consider the truth, as befits a responsible government.

So much so that they permit such false and pernicious propaganda to dictate Canada's foreign policies. As such, Canada is being dragged along by this group of sworn anti-Israel fanatics and propagandists.

This betrayal of Israel is embarrassing for any true supporter of Canada as well as of true Canadian values. It should be roundly condemned.

Canada should be ashamed of itself. *The writer served as Israel's ambassador to Canada between 2004-2008. He currently heads the international law program at the Jerusalem Center for Security and Foreign Affairs.*



CANADA'S FOREIGN MINISTER Melanie Joly attends an ASEAN meeting, in Vientiane, Laos, in July. She and her colleagues and supporters from Quebec seem to be imbued with a caustic hatred of Israel, the writer charges. (Chalinee Thirasupa/Reuters)

WORLD IN BRIEF

Russia strikes Ukrainian energy plants

KYIV (Reuters) — Russia fired missiles at energy infrastructure in the northeast Ukrainian city of Sumy on Tuesday hours after an overnight drone strike on the region, reducing power in some areas and forcing authorities to use back-up power systems.

The Sumy region's governor, Volodymyr Artiukh, citing an initial assessment, said Russia had used at least four missiles in the latest attack on energy facilities. Ukraine's energy ministry said Russia's attacks had caused a fire at a power substation and cut power to more than 281,000 consumers. Power was later partially restored, it said.

Acting Sumy mayor Artem Kobzar said there were no casualties in the city, but regional officials said the overnight drone attack had damaged the region's Konotop, Okhtyrka, and Sumy districts.

The Ukrainian air force said Russia had launched 51 drones in Tuesday's attack, of which 34 were shot down. Russia also dropped three guided bombs on the town of Hlukhiv, Ukraine's northern military command said on Telegram.

Ex-ETA terrorist gets 85 years' jail

MADRID (Reuters) — Spain's High Court has sentenced a former member of the defunct Basque separatist group ETA to 85 years in prison for her involvement in a car bomb attack in Madrid that left 11 people injured 24 years ago, the court said on Tuesday.

The court found Ana Belen Egues, 55, guilty of placing and detonating dynamite in a stolen vehicle in the north of the Spanish capital on August 8, 2000.

The court, which handles all terrorism-related cases in Spain, handed Egues a 15-year sentence for the crime of terrorist damage and 70 years on seven counts of attempted homicide.

Out of the 11 people injured in the explosion, seven were left in serious condition.

Egues, 55, was already serving a 30-year jail sentence for another bombing in November 2001 that injured 97 people and killed a senior police official, as well as a 126-year sentence for taking part in the assassination of an army officer in January 2000.

Canada's Trudeau suffers electoral hit

OTTAWA (Reuters) — Canada's ruling Liberal Party lost a once-safe seat in a Montreal parliamentary constituency, preliminary results showed on Tuesday, a result likely to put more pressure on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to quit.

Elections Canada said that with 100% of the votes counted in LaSalle-Emard-Verdun, Liberal candidate Laura Palestini had been beaten into second place by the separatist Bloc Quebecois candidate, Louis-Philippe Sauvé. Palestini received 27.2% of the vote compared to 28% for the Bloc and 26.1% for the New Democratic Party candidate. The election was held to replace a Liberal legislator who quit.

The result will put more focus on the political future of Trudeau, who has become increasingly unpopular after almost nine years in office.

New Georgia law to curb LGBT rights

TBILISI (Reuters) — Georgian lawmakers on Tuesday approved the third and final reading of a law on "family values and the protection of minors" that would impose sweeping curbs on LGBT rights.

The bill would provide a legal basis for authorities to outlaw Pride events and public displays of the LGBT rainbow flag, and to impose censorship of films and books.

Leaders of the governing Georgian Dream party say it is needed to safeguard traditional moral standards in Georgia, whose deeply conservative Orthodox Church is highly influential.

Activists say the measure is aimed at boosting conservative support for the government ahead of a parliamentary election on October 26 in Georgia, a country that has ambitions to join the European Union but which Western governments fear is now tilting back towards Russia.

'Turkey, Sweden to hold NATO talks'

ANKARA (Reuters) — Turkey and Sweden will hold their first meeting on Wednesday addressing a security pact the sides agreed to ensure Ankara's approval of Stockholm's NATO membership bid after it joined the alliance in March, a Turkish diplomatic source said on Tuesday.

The meeting will take place during a visit to Ankara by Swedish Foreign Minister Maria Malmer Stenergard, and carries "special importance" in terms of improving cooperation on terrorism, the source said.

Turkey approved Sweden's bid to join the military alliance in January after a more than year-long delay over concerns about Sweden's stance on groups and individuals it deems terrorists, and over an arms embargo that Stockholm later lifted.

As part of the approval, Ankara demanded that Stockholm amend anti-terrorism laws and crack down on members of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) — also labeled a terrorist group by the United States and European Union — as well as a group it accuses of orchestrating a 2016 failed putsch.

Von der Leyen's new EU Commission to focus on security, growth, climate

• By PHILIP BLENKINSOP and INGRID MELANDER

STRASBOURG, France (Reuters) — European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen on Tuesday named a new team to lead the European Union's most powerful institution for the next five years, focused on tackling challenges to the region's security, competitiveness, and growth.

Lithuania's Andrius Kubilius will be the EU's first defense commissioner, with the new role designed to build up European military manufacturing capacity in the face of Russian aggression in Ukraine, on the bloc's eastern flank.

Spain's Energy and Environment Minister Teresa Ribera will be the new antitrust chief tasked with reining in the power of Big Tech and also ensuring that the EU achieves its green goals.

"The whole college (Commission) is committed to competitiveness," von der Leyen told a press conference, with the aim being "building a competitive, decarbonised and circular economy, with a fair transition for all."

Climate change "is the major backdrop of all that we are doing," von der Leyen said.

But, compared to her first five-year term, "the topic of security, triggered by the Russian war in Ukraine, but also the topic of competitiveness, have ... much more impact," she said.

The European Commission has the power to propose new EU laws, block mergers between companies and sign



EUROPEAN COMMISSION President Ursula von der Leyen attends a meeting with the European Parliament's Conference of Presidents in Strasbourg yesterday to discuss the suggested structure and portfolios of the College of Commissioners. (Johanna Geron/Reuters)

free trade deals.

All candidates will undergo hearings with lawmakers in the European Parliament who have to sign off on their nomination.

Each of the 27 member states will have one seat at the Commission's table, a role comparable to a government minister, although its political weight varies greatly depending on the portfolio.

The EU's two biggest countries have top jobs in the Commission — von der Leyen is German, and France's outgoing foreign minister Stéphane Sejourne will be in charge of the key portfolio of industrial strategy.

Poland's nominee Piotr Sierain was appointed to the powerful job of overseeing the EU's budget.

HOT-BUTTON ISSUES

Ribera, with a record as one of Europe's most ambitious policymakers on climate change, could step up outgoing antitrust chief Margrethe Vestager's crackdown against Big Tech.

She will also seek to ensure the EU's single market is not distorted by companies benefiting from foreign subsidies.

Key jobs have also gone to smaller member states.

Estonia's Kaja Kallas will be in charge of foreign policy. She

has used her position as Estonia's prime minister to become one of the most vocal critics of neighboring Russia among European leaders — and one of the staunchest supporters of Ukraine's bids to join the EU and NATO.

Slovakia's Maros Sefcovic will oversee trade policies, the Netherlands' Wopke Hoekstra will tackle climate policies, Latvia's Valdis Dombrovskis will have the economy portfolio, and Finland's Henna Virkkunen will oversee tech-sovereignty, security, and democracy.

All commissioners will report to von der Leyen, who this summer was handed a second

term as EU chief executive by member states after her political camp won the most votes in EU elections.

The next EU Commission is expected to take office by the end of the year, meaning one of its first tasks will be fielding the outcome of the US presidential election in November.

A second presidency for Donald Trump could sharply alter Western unity on supporting Ukraine against Russia's invasion and upend EU-US trade relations.

There are 11 women in the Commission team von der Leyen proposed on Tuesday, well short of the gender balance she targeted. She said the imbalance was even worse before she negotiated with member states so they proposed more women for the jobs.

Each new commissioner will need to pass a hearing in the European Parliament, expected in the coming weeks, in which EU lawmakers will attempt to extract promises from the nominees on what they will deliver if they get the job.

The EU Parliament can block Commission nominees — with Hungary's Oliver Varhelyi among the candidates EU officials expect to be put under pressure during his hearing.

There was some drama on Monday on the Commission's line-up, when, in order to secure a hefty portfolio, French President Emmanuel Macron picked Sejourne as its new candidate instead of the incumbent, Thierry Breton, who had repeatedly clashed with von der Leyen.

Death toll, waters rise in flood-hit Europe

• By JANIS LAIZANS

NYSA, Poland (Reuters) — Volunteers shored up defenses to stem swollen rivers in the Polish city of Nysa on Tuesday, one of dozens of towns and cities across central Europe deluged by devastating floods that have killed at least 19 people.

Rivers were still bursting their banks in the Czech Republic, while the Danube River was rising in Slovakia and Hungary, and parts of Austria and Romania have also been inundated by floodwaters.

The Czech-Polish border areas are among the worst-hit since the weekend, as gushing, debris-filled rivers devastated historic towns, collapsing bridges and destroying houses.

Flooding has killed seven people in Romania, where waters have receded since the weekend, four in Poland, five in Austria, and three in the Czech Republic. Tens of thousands of Czech and Polish households were still without power or fresh water.

Overnight, volunteers helped rescue workers heave sandbags to build up the broken embankment around Nysa, a city of more than 40,000 people in southwestern Poland.

National fire chief Mariusz Felcynski said on Tuesday that the Nysa embankment



RESCUERS EVACUATE people yesterday in a boat from the Polish city of Lewin Brzeski that was flooded by the Nysa Klodzka river. (Kacper Pempel/Reuters)

was sealed, with military helicopters joining the operation to drop sandbags.

Some residents returned to check their homes were safe after evacuations on Monday, despite assurances from Prime Minister Donald Tusk that authorities would act "ruthlessly" against looters.

"[They] assured us that services would take care of our belongings and property. But we are afraid ... because we are

already hearing that looters have become active," Nysa resident Sabina Jakubowska, 45, told Reuters.

Poland has declared a state of disaster in the area and set aside 1 billion zlotys (\$260 million) for flood victims.

WROCLAW PREPARES

Historic Wroclaw, Poland's third city, was preparing for peaking water along the Oder River.

ciding on the Oder and Nysa, as happened in the disastrous 1997 floods in Wroclaw.

In neighboring Czech Republic, Governor Josef Belica said 15,000 people had been evacuated in the northeastern Moravia-Silesia region, one of two badly affected. Helicopters were delivering aid to areas cut off by floodwaters.

Credit rating agency Morningstar DBRS estimated losses from flooding across central Europe at between several hundred million euros to more than one billion euros (\$1.1 billion). But Belica said the damage in his region alone would reach tens of billions of crowns (over \$1 billion).

In the northeastern Czech city of Ostrava, a broken barrier on the Oder at its confluence with the Opava River caused flooding on Monday of the city's industrial area.

In Hungary, at the historic towns of Visegrad and Szentendre, north of Budapest, authorities have put mobile dams in place to prepare for the Danube floods.

Budapest is preparing for waters peaking near record levels, and has closed Margaret island, a recreational area with hotels and restaurants, where people have piled up tens of thousands of sandbags to protect it.

London's Oxford Street could go traffic-free under mayor's plan

• By SUBAN ABDULLA

LONDON (Reuters) — London's Oxford Street, home to some of the British capital's most famous shops from Selfridges to Marks & Spencer, could be pedestrianized to attract more shoppers under a plan announced by Mayor Sadiq Khan on Tuesday.

If approved, Oxford Street would join other major shopping hubs such as Times Square in New York and La Rambla in Barcelona that have gone fully traffic-free.

A previous version of the plan to ban vehicles from the 1.9 km thoroughfare was blocked by the local Westminster City Council, but the revived project has received backing from Britain's Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner. "This plan to revitalize Oxford Street

will drive growth by creating new jobs, generating economic activity, and giving a much-needed boost to London's night-time economy," Rayner said.

Oxford Street attracts around half a million visitors every day, according to the mayor's office, but many flagship stores including House of Fraser and Topshop have shut in recent years.

The area, like many brick-and-mortar shops, has struggled to recover foothold since the pandemic saw many people turn to online shopping and fewer return to the office.

The New West End company, which represents retailers on Oxford Street, said the area remained key for retail and hospitality in London.

Some retailers welcomed the move, with John Lewis, whose flagship store

has been on Oxford Street since 1864, calling the nearly three-century-old highway the "nation's high street."

The London mayor's office has not specified how buses that use the east-west road will be rerouted.

Stuart Love, chief executive of the local Westminster City Council, said the authority wanted more details on how concerns of local residents and shoppers over rerouted transport and access would be addressed.

The plan still hinges on getting final approval from Rayner, who is also Britain's housing and communities minister.

The Labour Party of Prime Minister Keir Starmer has said it wants to speed up the process of approving new projects to speed up Britain's economic growth.

US House Republicans set vote for must-pass spending bill

• By MOIRA WARBURTON

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — The US House of Representatives plans to vote on Wednesday on a stopgap spending bill that would extend government funding for six months and require Americans to provide proof of citizenship when they vote, House Speaker Mike Johnson said on Tuesday.

The vote sets up a confrontation with the Senate, where Democrats who control the chamber say any spending bill should not be paired with the voting requirements Republicans want.

Unless a stopgap spending bill is sent to President Joe Biden by midnight Sept. 30, the end of the government's current fiscal year,

many agency operations will cease and thousands of federal workers would be furloughed for lack of funds.

Last week, Johnson had to abandon his attempt to pass a spending bill when it became clear he did not have enough support for passage from his rank-and-file Republicans.

A shutdown could upset voters in the weeks before the Nov. 5 elections, with control of both the House and the Senate at stake.

The last government shutdown occurred at the end of 2018 and stretched well into January 2019.

Johnson's decision to pair must-pass spending legislation with controversial new voting restrictions could raise the likelihood that lawmakers will not be able to

reach a compromise by the Sept. 30 deadline.

Fueled by Republican former President Donald Trump's false claims about election fraud, the Republican voting bill would require those registering to vote to provide proof of US citizenship and compel states to purge suspected noncitizens from their voter rolls.

It is already a felony for a non-citizen to vote in a federal election. A 2017 study found only 30 instances of suspected noncitizen voting out of 23.5 million votes cast the previous year.

Democrats describe the bill as a voter suppression effort, and President Joe Biden's administration has said the legislation would do nothing to safeguard elections.

Political Amnesia



GRAPEVINE

• By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Some people change in the course of time, some maintain their views. Among those who changed are Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Yuli Edelstein, former speaker of the Knesset and the current chair of the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee. Edelstein was long regarded as a statesman and a man of conscience. But over the last couple of years, these qualities seem to have dissipated – especially in recent days when Edelstein was in the eye of the storm of a foolhardy police action.

Three women activists – two of them senior citizens – entered the synagogue in which the religiously observant Edelstein prays, and distributed pamphlets on the synagogue seats calling for the return of the hostages. Some members apparently objected, and complained to the police.

Although the synagogue is a public place, the women were accused of breaking and entering. The charge was later changed to trespassing. This too was illogical given that the doors to the synagogue were open and anyone could walk in, as is the case with most synagogues that are locked only after evening prayers and re-opened very early in the morning.

The women, who are committed activists on behalf of the hostages, had been trying for some time to speak to Edelstein, believing that as a former Prisoner of Zion, who had spent time behind bars, he would be sympathetic to the cause. He has succeeded in avoiding them, and no such meeting took place.

The pamphlets they distributed must have hit a raw nerve, in that they employed the Biblical slogan that was used in Soviet Jewry campaigns around the world: Let my people go. Now that he enjoys a different lifestyle not only as a legislator but as the husband of a multi-millionaire's daughter, Edelstein might prefer to ignore or forget the dark days of his youth.

Whatever the reason, he accepted the break-in story and commended the police for their actions, noting that they are doing a great job in protecting public figures like himself. Yes, it is important to protect public figures, and society as a whole for that matter, but to arrest three harmless women and to chain their hands and feet and lead them to prison for distributing pamphlets is not only preposterous but disgusting, and symptomatic of a dangerous regime.

The women were under the impression that the police, who had treated them courteously and with kindness, were unwillingly obeying orders from a higher source – namely National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir. Even if the fact that a convicted felon is now in charge of the nation's police force is overlooked – on the grounds that criminals should have a chance to redeem themselves – the chaos and national embarrassment that he has caused prove that he is underserving of the position that he has demanded and turned into a power base.

Instead of arresting three women who are trying to persuade a former Prisoner of Zion to add his voice to their call, Ben-Gvir should be ordering the police to take action against jaywalking parents who cross the road on a red light while wheeling infants in baby carriages and checking messages or talking on their cell phones. He should also do something to prevent motor cyclists from stopping on crosswalks as they wait for lights to change, or from riding on the sidewalk when trying to bypass heavy traffic. There are many things that the police should be doing, but are not doing because of policies determined by the minister. There are numerous honest and decent people in the police force whose reputations are being tarnished by inappropriate orders.

It has been said and reported that the reason Netanyahu does not remove Ben-Gvir from office is that to do so would result in the collapse of the government. When US President Joe Biden, who had hoped to serve a second term, withdrew from the presidential race, he said: "I love my job, but I love my country more." It's a known fact that Netanyahu loves his job, but now is the time for him to prove that he loves his country more.

■ THE DISPUTES between Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant are common knowledge, but for news about Gallant's impending dismissal to be broadcast while he is meeting with representatives of the US government, is more than just embarrassing. Whatever his differences are with Netanyahu, Gallant is a battle-scarred veteran of the IDF with a long record of service. He knows the army inside out and perhaps more importantly, he gives top priority to the return of the hostages. How long the revived relationship between Netanyahu and New Hope Party leader Gideon Sa'ar will last is anyone's guess. The two are not particularly fond of each other, and in the days when Sa'ar was the golden boy of Likud, Netanyahu saw him as his nemesis – and the PM's wife, Sara, is reportedly even more anti-Sa'ar. But the buzzword today is relevance, and surveys related to political parties and their popularity or otherwise with the electorate have indicated that Sa'ar had become so irrelevant, that his party would not cross the threshold if new elections for the Knesset were held in the coming days. Apparently Sa'ar has lost favor not only with the electorate but with the media which was quick to denounce him. Broadcast media repeatedly played recordings of him castigating Netanyahu and declaring that he would never join a Netanyahu-led government.

It's amazing how some people live up to their names: Sa'ar means storm in Hebrew.

■ FOREIGN EMBASSIES are gradually moving toward representation of some kind in Jerusalem. It's not always the embassy per se, but a cultural, economic or commercial office, or simply a national day reception. More than half a dozen countries already have some kind of representation in Jerusalem, though it should be noted that those countries with consulates in the capital are almost all accredited to the Palestinian Authority and not to Israel. There have been several cases of husband and wife diplomats where one of them has been accredited to Israel and the other to the Palestinian Authority, but their place of residence has been in Israel – usually in Herzliya Pituah. This is currently the case of the Irish ambassador to Israel, whose husband is accredited to the PA. Now, following the visit by President Isaac Herzog to Albania – the first such visit by an Israeli president to the country which sheltered Jews during the Holocaust – he returned with sheltered Jews during the Holocaust – he returned with the news that Albania plans to open a commercial liaison office in Jerusalem. Presumably Prime Minister Edi Rama, who told this to Herzog, will come to Israel for the opening.

Meanwhile, next month, Taiwan will host its National Day reception in Jerusalem, though it's doubtful that many if any ambassadors will be in attendance. There will probably be members of Knesset as there invariably are, but because ever-powerful China stands in the way of Taiwan entering into diplomatic relations with most of the countries of the world, its status remains that of an economic and cultural office rather than an embassy.

Even though such offices are often headed by diplomats who have the rank of ambassador, they are known as representatives in Israel and most other countries in which Tai-

wan has offices. This is really unfair, as Taiwan is a thriving democracy with a constantly expanding hi-tech industry whose input is found in numerous products that are integral to our everyday lives. One would think that after 112 years of independence from the Chinese mainland, Taiwan would be worthy of achieving the recognition it deserves, but politics being what it is, even those countries acknowledging that Taiwan is deserving are still not moving in that direction. It will be interesting to hear if current Taiwan representative Ya-Ping (Abby) Lee will have anything to say on the subject or whether there will be any special announcement to make.

■ THE POSSIBLE return of former PM Naftali Bennett to the political arena is yet another indication of the fragility of the political apple cart and how easily it can be overturned. All the surveys of recent weeks could become meaningless if Bennett re-enters the fray. His widespread activism with hostage families, former hostages, families of fallen soldiers and volunteer groups who are aiding the war effort on the home front will serve him in good stead in garnering votes towards an influential representation in the Knesset. The question is which other parties will lose out and by how much? Usually, the party with the largest number of votes is entrusted to form a government – providing that the leader of that party can cobble together a coalition with other parties who together will comprise more than half the number of members of Knesset. Let's not forget that when Bennett attained his goal of becoming prime minister of Israel and lording it over Benjamin Netanyahu, he had only six mandates.

■ OOPS WE goofed. Apologies to Modi Rosenfeld for taking him from the field to the mountain and publishing his name incorrectly in our print edition. Happily, the error was rectified by the wonderful team that operates the JPost online edition.

■ MORE THAN 1,000 female medical volunteers from all over Israel convened at Hangar 11 on the Tel Aviv Port last week, in what is believed to be the largest assembly of its kind in Israel's history. United Hatzalah, Israel's largest independent emergency medical services (EMS) organization, organized the gathering as a mark of appreciation for the ongoing work of its female volunteers, many of whom were on the front lines saving lives during the October 7 attacks.

The event featured powerful firsthand accounts from the women, recounting their critical life saving efforts on that fateful day and their continuing work as paramedics. Popular Israeli singer Hanan Ben Ari honored them with a special song recital in recognition of their courage and commitment.

The event also marked the official dedication of the Adele



SEBASTIAN BACH with the Israeli musicians who participated in the Rock & Roll Fantasy Camp. (RRFC)

and Joel Sandberg Women's Unit – Israel's first all-female emergency medical response team.

The unit, comprising 1,763 female volunteers from diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds, was established in 2021 with the generous support of Sheryl Sandberg, the former COO of Meta. It honors her parents, Dr. Joel and Adele Sandberg, who are also key supporters of the initiative.

The Sandberg Women's Unit consists of female EMTs, paramedics, doctors, nurses, midwives, and social workers. These volunteers, representing secular, religious, traditional, ultra-Orthodox, Muslim, Druze and Christian communities, are committed to respond to medical and psychological emergencies with essential life saving support.

"It's truly inspiring to witness the remarkable women of the Adele and Joel Sandberg Women's Unit – from EMTs and paramedics to midwives and psychotrauma responders – who unite across ethnic and religious lines to save lives in Israel," said Sheryl Sandberg, adding that she was honored to support such an important initiative, "which is on track to double United Hatzalah's female volunteer force from 1,000 in 2021 to 2,000 by the end of 2025, and continues to advance the vital role of women in saving lives," Sandberg said. "My parents have led lives of service and unwavering dedication to others. The work of United Hatzalah embodies the values they hold so dear."

In the past year alone, United Hatzalah's female volunteers handled over 72,000 emergency calls nationwide. Additionally, women comprised 40% of the trainees in the organization's medic courses this past year, marking a notable increase from previous years.

The official dedication of the Sandberg Women's Unit, spearheaded by United Hatzalah's president and founder Eli Beer, aims to build on this momentum and further expand the number of female volunteers across Israel.

"The Adele and Joel Sandberg Women's Unit is a testament to the extraordinary courage, skill, and dedication of our female volunteers, both in times of routine and in times of war," said Beer. "We are profoundly grateful to Sheryl Sandberg for her support, which allows us to amplify the impact of these remarkable women and save even more lives."

Sandberg has been in the news in recent months in relation to her heart-rending documentary *Screams Before Silence*, in which she interviews survivors of and witnesses to the atrocities perpetrated by Hamas.

■ SCIENCE ABROAD, the global network uniting thousands of Israeli scientists around the world, will host a conference in New York City on Sunday, September 22, on Pioneering Israeli Medicine. The all-day event will showcase Israel's latest medical research and technological innovations, particularly those developed in response to the

Oct. 7 attacks and the ongoing war in Gaza. This conference is a collaborative effort led by ScienceAbroad, in partnership with the Sheba Research Authority (Tel-HaShomer), the Israeli Medical Association, and Nefesh B'Nefesh.

Experts will provide crucial insights into the challenges of wartime healthcare, addressing both physical and mental health needs during conflict. Key topics will include trauma and PTSD, rehabilitation of war wounds, and the innovative medical solutions that have been developed in these unprecedented times.

Keynote speakers include highly reputed Israeli and international scientists, including Nobel Laureate Prof. Aaron Ciechanover, biotech innovator and founder of Biologic Design Prof. Yanay Ofran, and pediatric geneticist Prof. Rivka Carmi, who chairs the Executive Board of ScienceAbroad and is a former president of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

"Since October 7, Israeli doctors working abroad have faced significant challenges, particularly due to a rise in antisemitism," said Carmi. Many are living and working in increasingly hostile environments, leading to feelings of alienation and insecurity. Israel, whose medical innovation will be highlighted at this conference, is their true home – a place where they are not only wanted, but deeply valued. Israel is eager to welcome back its outstanding doctors, and we are committed to supporting their return as well as facilitating the aliyah of Jewish doctors and ensuring their successful integration into our healthcare system."

The conference program will feature panel discussions: "War Wounds: The Journey of Rehabilitation and Recovery" – with Dr. Zeev Feldman, chairman of the Israeli Medical Association's Association of Hospital Directors; Prof. Ziv Amitai, head of rehabilitation at Sheba Medical Center; Dr. Hagay Amir, a senior surgeon; and Dr. Michal Mizrahi, head of the Neurological Rehabilitation Department at Sheba.

"Navigating the Storm: Understanding and Treating Trauma and PTSD" – with Dr. Amichai Fluhr, director of Trauma Services at Hadasah Medical Center; Dr. Carmel Kalla, clinical psychologist specializing in PTSD; Dr. Nitza Nakash-Axelrod, senior clinical psychologist; Dr. Arik Shalev, psychiatrist and PTSD specialist; and Dr. Mili Bar-Shaked, clinical psychologist.

"Frontline Healing: The IDF's Approach to Wartime Medical Care" – with Dr. Aviv Gelber, senior medical officer at the IDF Medical Corps.

"From the Front Line to the Home Front – Lessons from Medical Responders" – a fire-side chat with Prof. Rafi Beyar, former director-general of Rambam Health Care Campus and professor of Medicine; Uri Shacham, chief of staff of Magen David Adom; and Prof. Roy Kessous, senior oncologist.

Lunch will include a special presentation by Israeli celebrity chef Eyal Shani on Miznon's fast-casual dining concept.

"We are living through a time when the resilience and innovation of Israeli science are being tested like never before," said Nadav Douani, executive director of ScienceAbroad. "From trauma care to advanced rehabilitation, the insights and technologies emerging from Israel today have the potential to redefine wartime healthcare and save countless lives."

"This conference will not only showcase scientific achievements but will also serve as a hub for networking and collaboration, offering opportunities for scientists, industry leaders, and policymakers to foster partnerships that could shape the future of medicine," added Douani. "It will ensure that these critical advancements reach those who need them most."

ScienceAbroad, established in 2006, connects over 11,000 Israeli scientists and doctors working at top academic institutions and industry firms in over 30 countries. The organization fosters collaboration between Israeli scientists, medical professionals abroad and their counterparts in Israel.

■ B'TSELEM IS a controversial Israeli organization dedicated to monitoring human rights in the disputed territories, and making violations of human rights public. It believes that all people are entitled to human rights, liberty and equality.

People who have a misguided concept that all Jews live up to the moral guidelines of the faith, refuse to believe reports about Jews mistreating Palestinians, and accuse B'tselem monitors of being dirty leftists. An intrinsic belief in human rights does not specifically apply to the Right or the Left of the political divide. It is simply a matter of basic decency.

Earlier this month, B'tselem executive director Yuli Novak was invited by the United Nations Security Council to present a review of human rights in areas inhabited by Palestinians under Israeli rule. Novak, the former executive director of another controversial Israeli organization Breaking the Silence, did not confine herself solely to the human rights issue, but broadened the scope of her address to include the multitudes of Israelis who have taken to the streets because they feel "angry, desperate and betrayed by their government. They have understood, perhaps for the first time, that the Israeli government does not want to return the hostages but to continue the war indefinitely."

Novak charged that the government cares as little for Israeli lives as it does for Palestinian lives. Since October 7, Novak said, she and every Israeli she knows have been living in deep anxiety.

■ SOON THERE will be no glass ceilings left to break. Women are making their mark in almost every field of endeavor. There are still areas in which women are the acute minority, yet even though their ratio may be minimal, they are not entirely absent. Sometimes women are in the majority, as happened this week on the campus of the Open University in Ra'anana where five of the seven recipients of honorary doctorates were women. Presiding over the adjudicating committee which chose the seven honorees from amongst numerous worthy nominations, was another woman, former Supreme Court president Dorit Beinisch, who is the first female chancellor of the Open University and chair of its council. She was also the first female president of the Supreme Court.

The seven people on whom honorary doctorates were conferred come from varied backgrounds, and collectively make up a most interesting social mosaic. The five women are Dr. Mauritz Beer, a well-known pediatrician who is the director of the Alyn Hospital for Rehabilitation and Orthopedics; Mariam Kabaha, the commissioner for Equal Opportunities at the Economy and Industry Ministry; Danna Azrieli, a real estate developer and philanthropist who chairs the Azrieli Foundation (Israel), is pas-

sionate about education, sits on many boards, is a qualified lawyer who has worked in the profession, and is engaged in empowering the weaker sectors of society; Inbal Kreis, a leading innovative space scientist, who is head of innovation at the Systems, Missiles and Space department of Israel Aerospace Industries; Estee Rieder Indursky, a prominent haredi feminist and activist, who has successfully campaigned for more women to be included in the decision making process of ultra-Orthodox organizations and political movements. A respected journalist, she wrote for more than a decade under a male pseudonym because female bylines were not accepted in the haredi press.

The two male recipients of honorary doctorates were Avner Itai, who for more than forty years has been the leading conductor of Israeli choral groups and has conducted nearly all of Israel's major orchestras; and Rami Saari, a translator, poet, linguist and literary critic.

■ AMERICAN JEWISH music entrepreneur David Fishof is spending time in Israel to complete his latest project: a documentary film chronicling the participation of 10 survivors of October 7 in a Rock & Roll fantasy camp in Los Angeles last March.

Fishof, who devised the concept of classic rockers spending a weekend with paying amateur music lovers, teaching, jamming and putting on a final performance, invited the survivors to the camp in a collaborative venture with Keren Hayesod. Included were residents of Gaza border communities, soldiers injured in war, survivors of the Supernova Music Festival, and Yotam Haim's brother, Tuval Haim.

Yotam Haim was the drummer of the Israeli band Persephore. On the evening of October 7, he was supposed to participate in a metal festival in Tel Aviv. He was kidnapped from his home in Kfar Aza and killed in December when he was accidentally shot by IDF soldiers in Gaza.

The campers spent the week hobnobbing and playing with hard rockers including Van Halen's Michael Anthony, Skid Row's Sebastian Bach and Whitesnake's Tommy Aldridge and Ratt's Warren Demartini. The finale took place at LA's famed Viper Room and the camp graduates also performed at the Whiskey A Go Go. It was all filmed.

Fishof expects the film to be finished in November, and one of the reasons he's in Israel – besides spending time with two of his children who are studying at yeshivot – is to film a show he hopes to put together of the 10 musicians in Tel Aviv, which will be the climactic scene of the movie.

■ EARLIER THIS month at a Thai photography exhibition in Jerusalem, Thai ambassador Pannabha Chandramaya voiced the desire to plant trees in memory of the 41 Thai citizens murdered by Hamas on October 7. Few memorials could be more symbolically suitable, as the Thai victims of Hamas atrocities had been agricultural workers – a factor that the ambassador mentioned in her address at the tree-planting ceremony in which the Jewish National Fund – Keren Kayemet L'Israel was more than willing to cooperate.

The trees were planted in the Ben Shemen Forest by members of the Thai Embassy, led by the ambassador herself. Chandramaya stated that the 41 trees, with roots firmly grounded, will thrive as an enduring symbol of cherished memories of 41 Thai workers who once lived and worked in the agricultural sector in Israel.

"This meaningful activity demonstrates a shared commitment between Thailand and Israel towards a greener and more sustainable future," said the ambassador, who was also appreciative of the fact that JNF-KKL had supplied two varieties of saplings mentioned in the Bible – pine and cypress – each of which represent eternal life, rebirth and hope.

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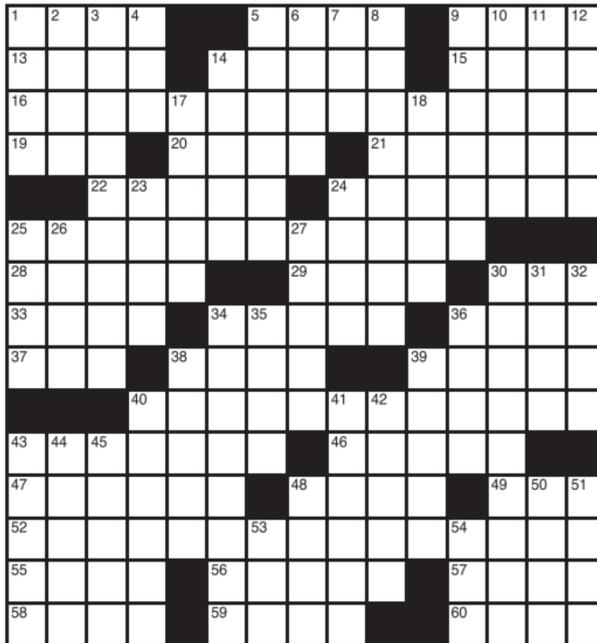
CROSSWORDS

ACROSS

- 1 Pillow structure
- 5 Quick reminder
- 9 Mario racing vehicle
- 13 Wading bird
- 14 Board game based on pachisi
- 15 Pelvic bones
- 16 Arugula researcher at Cambridge?
- 19 "Is it clear?"
- 20 Be for Halloween
- 21 Deep-fryer compartment
- 22 Shower time?
- 24 Grand crime
- 25 Pristine field for Manchester United?
- 28 Flying
- 29 Hostess snack cake
- 30 Yoko who said, "You can be very wild and still be very wise"
- 33 Trapped fluff
- 34 Schematics
- 36 Saharan country next to Sudan
- 37 Island ring
- 38 Some Korean compacts
- 39 Cran cocktail
- 40 Sweater for a thrill-seeker's leap off Tower Bridge?

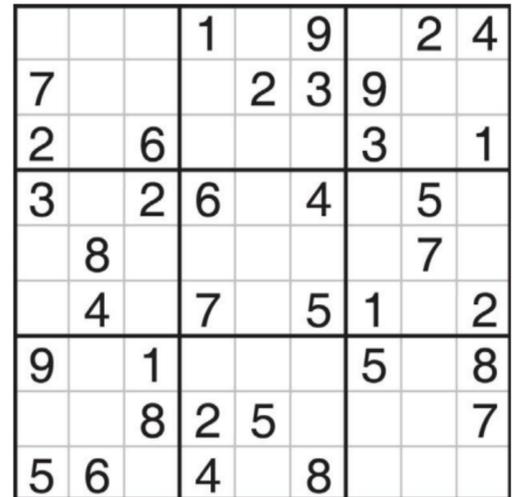
- 43 Prioritizes patients
 - 46 Afro-Cuban dance
 - 47 ___ to the core
 - 48 Digital indulgence, casually
 - 49 Vintage TV brand
 - 52 Pure sausages at the Rose & Crown pub?
 - 55 Highlighter tone
 - 56 Doughnut, mathematically
 - 57 Frantically
 - 58 Randomly generated IDs
 - 59 Soaks (up)
 - 60 Sutures
- DOWN**
- 1 Some December decor
 - 2 ___ d'amore
 - 3 Brand with a cable car logo
 - 4 "Shame" sound
 - 5 Pretzel option
 - 6 Tolkien baddies
 - 7 Part of TNT
 - 8 Safety stations in some labs
 - 9 Lowbrow art
 - 10 Tough to tell apart
 - 11 Out of bed
 - 12 Frayed
 - 14 Immovable
 - 17 Wading bird
 - 18 DEA agent

- 23 Deflating sound
- 24 Animal helped by a mouse in a fable
- 25 Shadow
- 26 Author Wiesel
- 27 Temporary stage
- 30 "For crying out loud"
- 31 Identify
- 32 What wavy lines might represent in a comic
- 34 Pesto need
- 35 Falls behind
- 36 Word with over or through
- 38 Passover potato pie
- 39 Chutney seed
- 40 Conductors' tools
- 41 Darkness personified, in Greek mythology
- 42 Notorious apostle
- 43 Like one honored by a pink, blue, and white flag
- 44 Garb donned by Oxford dons
- 45 "Them's fightin' words!"
- 48 Crime drama suspect
- 50 Cornfield nuisance
- 51 Queries
- 53 All ___ often
- 54 Electric alternative

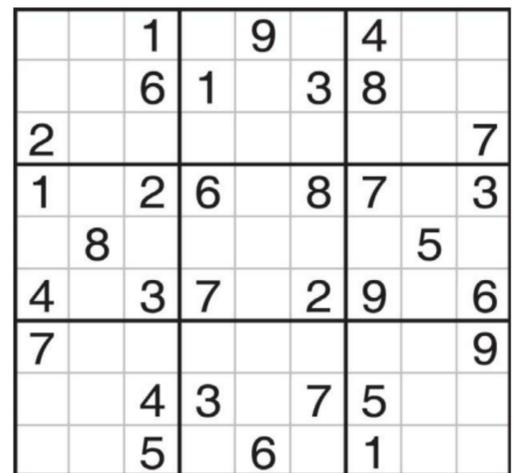


SUDOKU

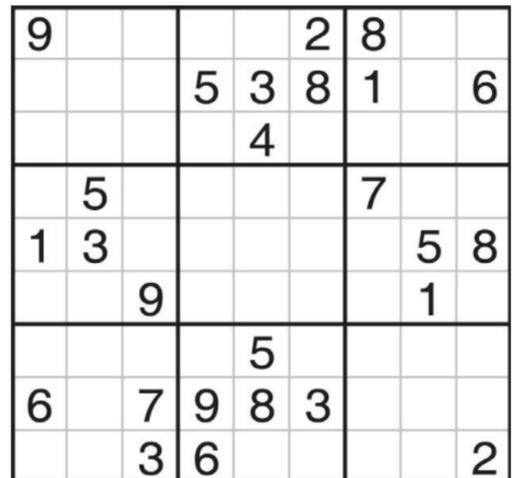
VERY EASY



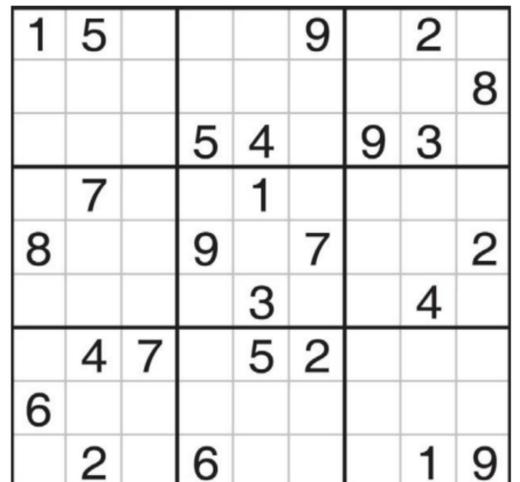
EASY



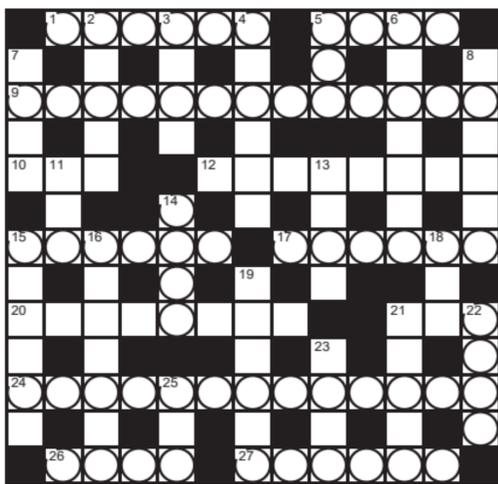
MEDIUM



HARD



QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Kamala ___: VPOTUS (6)
- 5 Golda ___: Former PM of Israel (4)
- 9 Theme of this puzzle (MAMA FUELS FOES anagram) (6,7)
- 10 Literary adverb meaning "frequently" (3)
- 12 "Ziggy ___ and the Spiders from Mars" (David Bowie creation) (8)
- 15 Jane ___: "Pride and Prejudice" novelist (6)
- 17 Anne, Charlotte, or Emily: Literary sisters (6)
- 20 Those in the know (SEND IRIS anagram) (8)
- 21 Feather mate (3)
- 24 What famous females often tend to break (5,8)
- 26 ___ Frank: Persecuted diarist (4)
- 27 ___ May Alcott: "Little Women" author (6)

Down

- 2 Let in (5)
- 3 Crush, in competition (TOUR anagram) (4)
- 4 Gun feature that prevents accidental firings (6)
- 5 Nearly everybody's favorite female (3)
- 6 Diversion in the wrong direction (3,4)
- 7 Hair style that's picked (4)
- 8 ___ fly: Scary little sucker (6)
- 11 Sniffles plus (3)
- 13 Highly unusual (4)
- 14 Margaret ___: American cultural anthropologist (4)
- 15 Maturations (GAS GIN anagram) (6)
- 16 Keep up, as a conversation (USA TINS anagram) (7)
- 18 Brewed soothing beverage (3)
- 19 Tough road to hoe (RELOAD anagram) (6)
- 21 Capital of Tunisia (5)
- 22 ___ Parks: Activist in the US civil rights movement (4)
- 23 Color in French flag (4)
- 25 Pronoun that can be used for the famous women in this puzzle (3)

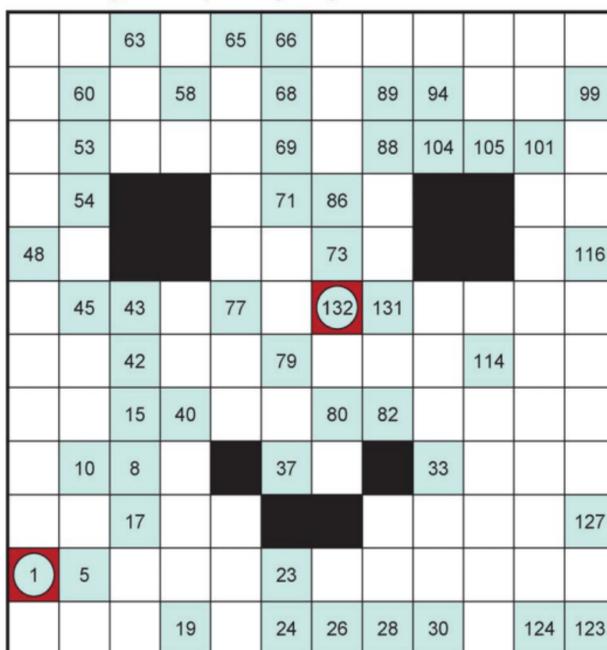
YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



HIDATO®

FIND THE PATH - SOLVE THE PUZZLE

Complete the grid so that numbers 1 - 132 connect horizontally, vertically or diagonally:



SOLUTION ON SUNDAY

WORD-BUILDER

5607



How many words of three or more letters, including plurals, can you make from the five letters, using each letter only once? No foreign words or words beginning with a capital are allowed. There's at least one five-letter word.

TODAY'S GOALS:

Good - 7 Excellent - 10 Amazing - 12

SOLUTION 5606: ape, apes, apse, apt, asp, ate, ats, east, eat, eats, est, eta, etas, pas, past, paste, pat, pate, pates, pats, pea, peas, peat, peats, pest, pet, pets, sap, sat, sale, sea, seat, sept, septa, set, seta, spa, spae, spat, spate, step, tap, tape, tapes, taps, tea, teas.

5x5

Insert the missing letters to complete ten words - five across the grid and five down.

5567



PREVIOUS SOLUTION (other combinations may occasionally be possible)



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Reference: Concise Oxford 10th Edition

TELEVISION

PROGRAMS

KAN HD (Y/H11)

06:00 Morning News - Israel at War
07:00 This Morning - with Arieh Golan
08:00 Kalman Liberman
10:00 Daily Agenda - with Keren Neubach
12:00 Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond The Lobby 4
12:58 We'll Meet Again 2 - Episode 1
13:45 1-on-1 with Roni Kuban 5 - Yehuda Atlas
14:18 Garlic, Pepper & Olive Oil - Liraz Charh
15:00 The World Today - with Yoav Zehavi
16:00 Game of Pockets - with Liel Kyzer
16:58 The Five O'Clock Edition - with Maya Rac
18:42 Through the Looking Glass - with Guy Zoh
18:55 Seven - with Ayala Hasson
19:55 The Evening News - with Michal Rabinovich
21:30 Real Time 8 - Episode 11
22:30 Excuse Me For Asking 4 - Medical Interns
23:00 Through the Looking Glass - with Guy Zoh
23:13 Night News - with Akiva Novick
23:43 Rejoice - Episode 5

KESHET HD (Y/H12)

06:10 The Morning Headlines
07:00 News Flash
07:08 The Morning News with Nir Raskin
09:30 News Flash
09:35 Special Broadcast - Nesli Barza and Yoav
11:00 Guy Pinnes
11:40 The Amazing Race 2024
13:00 Special News Broadcast - Arad Nir
15:00 Today's edition - With Ofer Hadad and Am
16:55 Five With Raffi Reshet
17:55 6:00 P.M. with...
19:00 The Early News Edition
19:55 Main Edition
21:30 The Amazing Race 2024
23:00 Guy Pinnes
23:35 The race to vacation - Seoul: Part 2

RESHET HD (Y/H13)

06:00 This Morning - Preview
07:00 This Morning - Orner Yardeni & Rotem Isra
09:30 News Flash
09:35 Starting the Day - Yarden and Elad
10:00 News Flash
10:05 Starting the Day - Yarden and Elad
11:00 News Flash
11:05 Starting the Day - Yarden and Elad
12:00 News Flash
12:05 The Legal Countdown - Doron Herman
12:40 The Order of the Day: Real Estate
13:00 News Flash
13:05 The Order of the Day: Real Estate
13:25 Life isn't Everything 7 - 12. Western Wa
14:00 News Flash
14:05 Big Brother - Episode 60
15:00 News Flash
15:05 Big Brother - Episode 60
16:00 Showtime
16:58 Today's Talk - With Lucy Aharish
17:55 The Six O'Clock News
18:59 War Zone - Raviv Druker
19:53 The Main News Edition
21:15 Big Brother - Episode 62
23:00 Night Brother
23:30 The Past Day - With Tal Berman

HOT CHANNEL 3 (H3)

08:30 The Inheritance
09:14 Hotel Portofino
10:09 Connected 11
10:36 New Amsterdam
11:19 The Inheritance
12:04 A Place to Call Home
12:52 New Amsterdam
13:35 Hotel Portofino
14:30 Connected 11
14:57 Days of Our Lives
15:37 The Young and the Restless, Yr. 46
16:15 The Bold and the Beautiful (2 eps)
17:00 Days of Our Lives
17:40 The Young and the Restless, Yr. 46
18:17 A Place to Call Home
19:03 New Amsterdam
19:45 Connected 11
20:13 Connected 11
20:39 Bookie
21:00 Bookie
21:24 A Place to Call Home
22:11 Indal
22:55 Apples Never Fall
23:42 Bookie
00:03 Bookie
00:30 Hotel Portofino 2

HOT ISRAELI ENTERTAINMENT

06:00 Renewal of Broadcasts at 08:00
08:00 My Sister Jackie
08:25 The Beautifiers
08:54 The Sade Family
09:19 Touching Happiness
10:03 Love Is Just around the Corner 3
10:34 The Champ 2
11:10 Psych Talk
11:38 The Sade Family
12:03 Spin
12:29 Plastic Dreams
13:00 Touching Happiness
13:43 Love Is Just around the Corner 3
14:16 The Champ 2
14:52 Itgirl# 2
15:18 The Beautifiers
15:48 Itgirl# 2
16:13 Refa'el 2
16:44 Touching Happiness
17:28 Love Is Just around the Corner 3
17:59 The Champ 2
18:37 Spin
19:02 The Sade Family
19:28 Refa'el 2
20:01 Touching Happiness
20:44 Love Is Just around the Corner 3
21:19 The Champ 2
21:55 Desert Rose 2
22:23 Itgirl# 2
22:48 Refa'el 2
23:22 Touching Happiness
00:05 Love Is Just around the Corner 3
00:39 The Champ 2
01:15 Plastic Dreams
01:47 Desert Rose 2
02:14 Itgirl# 2
02:41 Psych Talk
03:08 Psych Talk
03:35 My Sister Jackie
04:00 Renewal of Broadcasts at 08:00

HOT HBO (H4)

10:00 Hacks
10:34 The Plot Against America
11:36 Wisting
12:23 The Brigade

13:16 Silicon Valley 4
13:45 Hacks
14:20 The Plot Against America
15:20 Wisting
16:07 The Brigade
16:57 Silicon Valley 4
17:30 The Plot Against America
18:30 Wisting
19:18 The Brigade
20:11 Silicon Valley 4
20:40 Hacks
21:08 My Brilliant Friend 4
22:00 A Gentleman in Moscow
22:50 The Curse
23:51 Boardwalk Empire 3
00:53 Sex and the City 3

HOT ZONE (H5)

07:16 The Rookie 3
07:59 Chicago PD 8
08:41 FBI: Most Wanted 5
09:23 CSI: Vegas 3
10:05 Blue Bloods 12
10:48 FBI 5
11:29 Chicago Fire 10
12:11 Chicago PD 8
13:53 The Rookie 3
13:36 S.W.A.T. 6
14:18 FBI: Most Wanted 5
15:00 CSI: Vegas 3
15:42 FBI 5
16:23 Chicago PD 8
17:05 Blue Bloods 12
17:48 The Rookie 3
18:31 FBI: Most Wanted 5
19:13 Chicago Fire 10
19:55 CSI: Vegas 3
20:37 FBI 5
21:18 Chicago PD 8
22:00 FBI: Most Wanted 5
22:42 Blue Bloods 12
23:25 Blue Bloods 12

YES TV DRAMA

06:00 Malkat Hayofi Shel Jerusalem 2
06:29 Julia 2 (Series 2023)
07:17 So Help Me Todd
08:00 The Gilded Age 2 (Hbo)
09:00 Smother 2
10:00 The Bold And The Beautiful 2020-2021
10:25 The Young And The Restless 49
11:05 Malkat Hayofi Shel Jerusalem 2
11:34 Julia 2 (Series 2023)
12:18 So Help Me Todd
13:01 The Gilded Age 2 (Hbo)
14:01 Smother 2
15:03 So Help Me Todd
15:43 Malkat Hayofi Shel Jerusalem 2
16:11 The Bold And The Beautiful 2020-2021
16:33 The Young And The Restless 49
17:11 The Gilded Age 2 (Hbo)
18:07 Smother 2
19:01 Miss Fallaci
19:55 The Bold And The Beautiful 2020-2021
20:20 The Young And The Restless 49
21:00 A Gentleman In Moscow
21:48 Industry 3 (Hbo)
22:48 Rak Leahayom
23:33 Lama Mi Met
00:17 Malkat Hayofi Shel Jerusalem 2
00:47 Miss Fallaci
01:41 Douglas Is Cancelled
02:23 Rak Leahayom

YES TV ACTION

06:00 Fire Country 2
06:45 Fire Country 2
07:30 La Brea 2
08:14 Law & Order: SvU 23
08:56 Law & Order: SvU 23
09:39 Nightsleeper
10:29 Three Pines
11:21 Fire Country 2
12:06 Fire Country 2
12:51 The Equalizer 4
13:36 Law & Order: SvU 23
14:21 Law & Order: SvU 23
15:04 La Brea 2
15:47 La Brea 2
16:32 Fire Country 2
17:17 Fire Country 2
18:02 Nightsleeper
18:52 Three Pines
19:47 The Equalizer 4
20:32 Law & Order: SvU 23
21:17 Law & Order: SvU 23
22:00 Seal Team 7
22:48 Trigger Point
23:36 From 2
00:35 Boardwalk Empire
01:30 Boardwalk Empire
02:30 Fauda 4

YES TV COMEDY

06:00 Silicon Valley 3
06:30 Silicon Valley 3
07:00 The Comeback
07:30 The Comeback
08:00 Baby Daddy 4
08:25 Baby Daddy 4
08:50 Veep 6
09:20 Veep 6
09:50 Silicon Valley 3
10:20 Silicon Valley 3
10:50 The Comeback
11:20 The Comeback
11:50 Baby Daddy 4
12:15 Baby Daddy 4
12:40 How I Met Your Mother 9
13:05 How I Met Your Mother 9
13:30 The Nanny 2
13:55 The Nanny 2
14:20 Friends 5
14:45 Friends 5
15:10 Silicon Valley 3
15:40 Silicon Valley 3
16:10 Hot In Cleveland 3
16:35 Hot In Cleveland 3
17:00 How I Met Your Mother 9
17:25 How I Met Your Mother 9
17:50 The Nanny 2
18:15 The Nanny 2
18:40 Friends 5
19:05 Friends 5
19:30 Silicon Valley 3
20:00 Silicon Valley 3
20:30 Hot In Cleveland 3
20:55 Hot In Cleveland 3
21:20 How I Met Your Mother 9
21:45 How I Met Your Mother 9
22:10 The Nanny 2
22:35 The Nanny 2
23:00 Friends 5
23:25 Friends 5
23:50 The Comeback
00:20 The Comeback
00:50 Veep 6
21:23 Veep 6
01:53 Silicon Valley 3

MIDDLE EAST TV (Y109/H150)

11:00 Rawhide
12:00 Touched by an Angel
13:00 The 700 Club
14:00 Empowered for Healing & Miracles
14:30 Isik Abla
15:00 The Rifleman
15:30 The Rifleman
16:00 Gunsmoke
17:00 Rawhide
18:00 Good Week Israel
18:30 It's Supernatural
19:00 The 700 Club
20:00 Touched by an Angel
21:00 One America News Network
22:00 It's Supernatural
22:30 It's Daily
23:00 Silvana Fest with Perry Stone
23:30 Wonders Without Numbers with David Rives
00:00 Flavors Of Israel
00:30 The Rifleman
01:00 The Rifleman

HISTORY (Y37/H43)

06:00 Laugh Or Cry - 1
06:33 The Secret Of Skinwalker Ranch 5 - 13
07:15 Unexplained With William Shatner 3 - 31
07:57 761st Tank Battalion: The Original Black
09:19 American Pickers 20 - 4
10:03 History's Greatest Mysteries 5 - 6
10:45 History's Greatest Mysteries 5 - 14
11:25 Beyond Skinwalker Ranch 2 - 2
12:07 The Mega Brands That Built America 2 - 1
12:49 The Secret Of Skinwalker Ranch 5 - 13
13:31 Unexplained With William Shatner 3 - 31
14:13 Pawn Stars Do America S2 - 15
10:05 Blue Bloods 12
10:48 FBI 5
11:29 Chicago Fire 10
12:11 Chicago PD 8
13:53 The Rookie 3
13:36 S.W.A.T. 6
14:18 FBI: Most Wanted 5
15:00 CSI: Vegas 3
15:42 FBI 5
16:23 Chicago PD 8
17:05 Blue Bloods 12
17:48 The Rookie 3
18:31 FBI: Most Wanted 5
19:13 Chicago Fire 10
19:55 CSI: Vegas 3
20:37 FBI 5
21:18 Chicago PD 8
22:00 FBI: Most Wanted 5
22:42 Blue Bloods 12
23:25 Blue Bloods 12

CLASSICA HD

06:05 Schumann: Piano Sonata No. 1, Op. 11
06:39 Semi-final: Nils Wänderer
07:00 Mozart: Symphony No. 36, K. 425
07:33 Dvorak: Othello - Concert Overture
07:48 J. S. Bach: Arias, Solos, and Duets
08:47 Semi-finals: Schubert, Ullmann et al.
09:10 Music in the Air
10:09 Schumann: Symphonic Etudes, Op. 13
10:36 Classical Spotlight
11:02 Beethoven: Symphony No. 9 (van Alphen)
12:09 Brahms: The 3 Violin Sonatas
13:31 Documentary: Heitor Villa-Lobos
13:55 Bach: Violin Sonata No. 3 (BWV 1005)
14:19 Stravinsky: Firebird Suite No. 2
14:43 Classical Spotlight
15:03 Gala from Berlin 2009: Lang Lang
16:45 Tchaikovsky: Romeo and Juliet (Haitink)
17:07 Ice Dance: Nutcracker (2011)
18:39 Villa-Lobos: String Quartet No. 6
19:10 Schumann: Violin Concerto and Symphony
20:15 Memory of a Concert
21:26 Semi Final II: Michelle Candotti
22:00 Carmen by Antonio Gades
23:41 Mussorgsky: Pictures at an Exhibition
00:17 Ueda: And even if the sky fades...
00:40 Tartini: Violin Sonata in G minor
01:00 Puccini: La Bohème (2012)
03:00 Waldbühne 2001: Spanish Night

YES DOCU (Y8)

08:50 Dear Zachary: A Letter... "Dear Zachary: A Letter to a Son About His Father." Filmmaker Kurt Kuenne decides to memorialize a murdered friend when his friend's ex-girlfriend announces she is expecting his son, 2008.
10:20 Small Town News: Kpmv Pahrump-3 Documentary series pulls back the curtain on life at a privately owned TV station in the small desert town of Pahrump, Nevada, revealing a colorful cast of characters in front of and behind the cameras. 2021.
10:50 The Man Who Played With Fire-3 Ep.3. Gripping 4-part docuseries exploring the 1986 assassination of Sweden's Prime Minister Olof Palme - a case dubbed "Europe's JFK" - and author Stieg Larsson's extraordinary investigation into the case. UK, 2023.
11:40 Three Mothers, Two Babies... Ep.2 "Three Mothers, Two Babies And A Scandal". Ep.2. In the early days of the internet one couple in Wales "log on" and pay \$12,000 to adopt two baby twins from America it causes world-wide outrage. 2022.
12:30 Models - Ep. 3 The mini-series explores the professional and personal worlds of five Israeli male models and the fashion industry's silenced issues: sexual harassment, hard work, and more. Dir. Noam Sobovits. Israel, 2022.
13:15 George Carlin's American Dream Ep.1 "George Carlin's American Dream Ep.1". Interviews with George Carlin's family and friends, material from his stand-up specials and footage from his personal archive. 2022.
15:05 Dear Zachary: A Letter... "Dear Zachary: A Letter to a Son About His Father." Filmmaker Kurt Kuenne decides to memorialize a murdered friend when his friend's ex-girlfriend announces she is expecting his son, 2008.
16:35 Murf the Surf Ep.3 Exploring the tumultuous life of infamous jewel thief Jack Roland Murphy, better known as "Murf the Surf". The docuseries addresses the blurred line between fact and fiction, faith and delusion, sanity and madness. 2023
17:20 Small Town News: Kpmv Pahrump-4 Documentary series pulls back the curtain on life at a privately owned TV station in the small desert town of Pahrump, Nevada, revealing a colorful cast of characters in front of and behind the cameras. 2021.
17:50 The Man Who Played With Fire-4 Ep.4. Gripping 4-part docuseries exploring the 1986 assassination of Sweden's Prime Minister Olof Palme - a case dubbed "Europe's JFK" - and author Stieg Larsson's extraordinary investigation into the case. UK, 2023
18:45 Three Mothers, Two Babies... Ep.3 "Three Mothers, Two Babies And A Scandal". Ep.3. In the early days of the internet one couple in Wales "log on" and pay \$12,000 to adopt two baby twins from America it causes world-wide outrage. 2022.

19:40 George Carlin's American Dream Ep.2 "George Carlin's American Dream Ep.2". Interviews with George Carlin's family and friends, material from his stand-up specials and footage from his personal archive. 2022.
21:25 Models - Ep. 4 The mini-series explores the professional and personal worlds of five Israeli male models and the fashion industry's silenced issues: sexual harassment, hard work, and more. Dir. Noam Sobovits. Israel, 2022.
22:00 Murf the Surf Ep.4 Exploring the tumultuous life of infamous jewel thief Jack Roland Murphy, better known as "Murf the Surf". The docuseries addresses the blurred line between fact and fiction, faith and delusion, sanity and madness. 2023
22:50 Monster of Jerusalem - 3
20:11 Large Orthodox families from Jerusalem discover that their children have been sexually assaulted. The number of victims has grown to three-digit numbers, and the police are at a loss ... Dir. Limor Pinkhasov, 2021.
23:45 The Stroll The history of New York's Meatpacking District told from the point of view of transgender sex workers who lived and worked there. Dir.: Zackary Drucker, Kristen Lovell. 2023.

CHANNEL 8 (H8)

06:02 Tina
08:00 HAGASHASH
09:00 STRANGEST THINGS
09:50 Wild Romania
10:41 Barbara Streisand: Becoming An Icon
11:36 Seeds of Change
12:16 HAGASHASH
13:16 STRANGEST THINGS
14:04 Wild Romania
14:59 Tina
16:57 HAGASHASH
17:57 STRANGEST THINGS
18:46 Barbara Streisand: Becoming An Icon
19:41 Seeds of Change
20:20 Wild Romania
21:15 Designer Suit
22:26 The Lost Sons
00:03 Lisa Marie Presley: Unending Tragedy
00:44 Designer Suit
01:55 The Lost Sons
03:31 Lisa Marie Presley: Unending Tragedy

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC (Y41/H46)

06:25 Ice Road Rescue 2 - 10. Winter's End
07:12 Mine Kings - 1. King Sapphire
07:59 Wicked Tuna 7 - 5. Smoke On The Water
08:48 Air Crash Investigation Special Report 5
09:33 Air Crash Investigation Special Report 5
11:02 Drain The Oceans Compilations - 1. Pirat
11:04 Ice Road Rescue 3 - 1. Forces of Nature
11:50 Mine Kings - 4. Dynamite Garnet
12:36 Wicked Tuna 7 - 6. Two For The Money
13:23 Origins: The Journey of Humankind - 3. T
14:12 Year Million - 4. Mind Meld
15:01 Breakthrough - 1. The Age of Ageng
15:46 Air Crash Investigation Special Report 5
16:30 Air Crash Investigation Special Report 5
17:15 Scar S.O.S. 5 - 9. Austin Tilly Truck
18:25 Science Of Stupid 3 - Episode 1
18:49 Drain The Oceans Compilations - 2. Ghost
19:35 Food Factory 3 - 25. Breakfast In Shred
19:58 Food Factory 3 - 26. Pasta Master
20:21 Last of the Giants: Wild Fish: Season 3
21:03 Wicked Tuna: Season 13 - 8. To Get It Done
21:50 First Alaskans: Season 3 - 20. A Story o
22:34 Dirty Rotten Survival - 6. Get Hardware
23:19 Last of the Giants: Wild Fish: Season 3
00:05 History: The Interesting Bits - 8. How t
00:51 WW2 Hell Under the Sea: Season 4 - 1. Fi
01:35 Hitler's Last Stand 5 - 3. Fortress Fury

MEZZO FULL (H195)

10:13 InterMezzo A selection of short musical clips and artistic-enjoy a variety of genres from Jazz to Classical music.
10:45 Blomstedt: Beethoven's Symphony No. 2 Herbert Blomstedt and the Lucerne Festival Orchestra: Symphony No. 2 by Beethoven (2020).
11:24 Herbert Blomstedt: Honegger, Brahms Classical. Wiener Philharmoniker and Herbert Blomstedt (conductor) performing works by Honegger (symphony no. 3) and Brahms (symphony no. 4 in E minor). Grosses Festspielhaus, Salzburg, Austria, 2021.
12:43 Esa-Pekka Salonen: Shostakovich, Bruckner Classical. Orchestre de Paris, Gautier Capucin (cello) and Esa-Pekka Salonen (conductor): Shostakovich (cello concerto no. 1, op. 107) and Bruckner (symphony no. 6). Philharmonie, Paris, 2021.
14:30 Klaus Makela: Towards the Flame Documentary about Finnish conductor Klaus Makela directed by Bruno Monsiegeon. 2023.
15:22 Sokolov: Schubert, Beethoven, Rameau Grigory Sokolov (piano) performs works by Franz Schubert, Ludwig van Beethoven, Jean-Philippe Rameau, and Johannes Brahms. The Philharmonie, Berlin, 2013.
18:00 Crystal Pite: Betroffenheit Kidd Pivot dance theatre company, Crystal Pite (choreography), Bryan Arias, David Raymond, Jermaine Spivey, Tiffany Tregarthen (dancers). London, 2017.
19:46 Claudio Abbado: Mahler Berliner Philharmoniker, Anne Sofie von Otter (mezzo-soprano), and Jonas Kaufmann (tenor) led by Claudio Abbado perform works by Gustav Mahler. Philharmonie, Berlin, 2013.
21:30 Britten: A Midsummer Night's Dream Opera in 3 acts. Orchestre National de Lille led by Guillaume Tourniaire. Jeune Choœur des Hauts-de-France led by Pascale Dieval-Wils. Nils Wänderer (Oberon), Marie-Eve Munger (Tytania). Lille, 2022.
00:15 Leonard Bernstein: Debussy's La Mer. Orchestre dell'Accademia di Santa Cecilia, Leonard Bernstein (conductor) (Auditorium, Rome, 1989).
00:44 La Tica Melingo - Banlieues Bleues The iconoclast Melingo revisits his cursed tangos with a large orchestra typical of the balls of the 1940s in Buenos Aires. Nouveau Theatre de Montreuil, 2022.

01:41 Marc Ribot & The Jazz-Bins Marc Ribot (guitar, vocals), Greg Lewis (drums B3), and Joe Dyson (horns) perform at Banlieues Bleues Festival, 2023.
02:54 Smbalyan: Khachaturian, Baghdasaryan Armenian State Symphony Orchestra, Sevak Avanesyan (cello), Lilit Zakaryan (piano) led by Sergey Smbalyan perform works by Khachaturian, Baghdasaryan, Bizet, Tchaikovsky, Babajanyan, Arutunian. 2023.
04:00 Delibes: Lakme - Jodie Devos Opera in 3 acts. Orchestre and Chorus of the Royal Opera of Wallonia-Liege led by Fredric Chaslin. Jodie Devos (Lakme), Philippe Talbot (Gerard), Lionel Lhotte (Nikantha). Liege, 2022.

MOVIES

HOT CINEMA 1 (H16)

07:47 Brad's Status Drama. A father takes his son to tour colleges and meets up with an old friend who makes him feel inferior about his life's choices. Cast: Ben Stiller, Austin Abrams. Dir.: Mike White (USA, 2022).
09:29 After We Fell As Tessa makes a life-changing decision, revelations about her family and Hardin's past threaten to end the couple's intense relationship. Cast: Josephine Langford. Dir.: Castille Landon (USA, 2021).
11:08 Summit Fever Drama. A daring dream to scale the world's most challenging trio of mountains soon turns into a terrifying nightmare. Cast: Ryan Phillippe, Freddie Thorpe. Dir.: Julian Gilbey (UK, 2022).
13:03 Suburbicon Thriller. In an ideal American suburb, a family is swept into a whirlwind of violence and schemes. Cast: Matt Damon, Julianne Moore. Dir.: George Clooney (USA, 2017).
14:48 Runaway Jury Thriller. A juror on the inside and a woman on the outside manipulate a trial involving a major gun manufacturer. With Dustin Hoffman, Gene Hackman (2003).
16:54 The Beguiled (2017) The unexpected arrival of a wounded Union soldier at a girls school in Virginia during the American Civil War leads to jealousy. Cast: Nicole Kidman, Colin Farrell. Dir.: Sofia Coppola (USA, 2017).
18:28 We Own the Night A New York nightclub manager tries to save his brother and father from Russian mafia hit men. With Joaquin Phoenix, Mark Wahlberg, Moni Moshonov (2007).
20:25 Aftermath Drama. Two strangers' lives become inextricably bound together after a devastating plane crash. Cast: Arnold Schwarzenegger, Scott McNairy. Dir.: Elliott Lester (USA, 2017).
22:00 Revolutionary Road Drama. A young suburban American couple in the 1950s deal with marital problems, as well as the search for meaning. With Leonardo DiCaprio, Kate Winslet. (2008).
23:58 Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation Action. When the Secret Service is in closing danger, Agent Hunt and his team are to eradicate an international organization. Cast: Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner. Dir.: Christopher McQuarrie (USA, 2015).
02:08 Matchstick Men A con artist and his protégé are on the verge of pulling off a lucrative swindle when the con artist's teenage daughter arrives unexpectedly. With Nicolas Cage. Dir. Ridley Scott (2003)

HOT CINEMA 2 (H17)

06:06 Broadcasts will Resume Shortly Broadcasts will Resume Shortly
06:21 Sharknight A weekend at a lake house turns into a nightmare for seven vacationers as they are subjected to shark attacks. With Sara Paxton, Chris Carmack (2011).
07:52 Flightplan A newly widowed woman and her daughter are flying home to America. At 30,000 feet the child vanishes, and nobody attests that she was ever on the plane. With Jodie Foster (2005)
09:30 Black Sea A submarine captain takes a job with a shadowy backer to search the depths of the Black Sea for a submarine rumored to be loaded with gold. With Jude Law, Scoot McNairy (2014)
11:24 Papillon Wrongfully convicted for murder, a man forms a special relationship with a fellow inmate, in an attempt to escape

Spaghetti straps and side curls

Ishay Ribo performs at sold-out Madison Square Garden for second time

CONCERT REVIEW

• By SHANNA FULD

NEW YORK – Spaghetti straps and side curls. Spanish, French, English, and Hebrew. Texas, Toronto, and Tulum. Jews from every part of the Western hemisphere showed up Sunday night to see Israeli musical sensation Ishay Ribo's sold-out show at Madison Square Garden.

When Ribo performed in New York in September 2023 for his first sold-out MSG show, his "Elul" concert was meant to bring the audience a sense of joy and spirit as they ceremoniously prayed to be inscribed in the book of life. This time, following a heavy year of war and loss, the show looked to heal and uplift.

Yael Schlenger of New Rochelle said she attended last year's show, a short while before the October 7 massacre.

"Ishay Ribo was like my therapy this whole year, so I am excited. But there's also a deeper meaning to this whole night. I think it's going to be very unifying," she said.

Her sentiments echoed with others in the audience, who spoke of the strength they received from being surrounded by so many Jews of all walks of life in one huge room.

"I think the Jews have been going through a lot, and for a singer like Ishay Ribo to bring the non-religious and the ultra-Orthodox Jews together is truly beautiful," said Daniel Chocron from Los Angeles. "I think there's a lot of division among Jewish people, and I



ISHAY RIBO onstage at New York's Madison Square Garden on Sunday night. (Ishay Ribo PR)

think a show like this unites us. When we have *sinat chinam* (baseless hate), bad things happen."

Ribo showed the faces of Israel's current hostages on the screen, allowing each page to have substantial time so that people could focus. The artist honored the parents of Omer Neutra, an alumni of a Solomon Schechter school in Plainview, New York, who remains captive in Gaza today. His parents were highlighted on the screen, and a number of parents and students from the Williston Park branch came to support the

family. There were a handful of soldiers in the audience as well as a delegation who had lost limbs and become disabled from their service.

Ribo told the audience that each person should work to fulfill their responsibility and that collectively it could bring redemption. The crowd loved it. He wrapped up the night by thanking his wife and telling fans how significant his music is to his well-being, calling songs his psychologist.

Ribo, singing his heart out and sometimes with playing guitar, performed for

two hours, making his way through classics like "Lashuv Habayta" (Come Home), "Sibat Hasibot," and "Lev Sheli" (My Heart).

Ribo spoke to the crowd in Hebrew, which undoubtedly only part of the mixed audience of Jewish and Israeli fans understood. During these little chats, people laughed over his quips or shouted "Am Yisrael Chai" at times. Many just sat quietly waiting for the music to bring them clarity.

The two-hour show was a little too long for some in the audience. People with children

started to excuse themselves, and one woman shouted out, "I have to go to work in the morning!"

A major highlight from the concert was Ribo's light design, which did nothing less than dazzle. The projections on the elegant MSG screens showed everything from Hebrew letters dancing up and down the display to vibrant red flower beds to gorgeous stained glass windows reminiscent of the great Marc Chagall's synagogue art. While most concerts include something to indulge the eye, this demonstration was truly a

remarkable and substantial part of the show.

And don't forget the party favors. Each seat came equipped with two bracelets – one made of rubber and the other a ribbon with a small LED light attached to it, which automatically lit up with a different color for each song. Viewers were invited to wave their hands in the air and see the room turn into what looked like thousands of stars.

The band was a robust one. With a variety of instruments including drums, a pedal-steel guitar, and a variety of wind instruments (including a

unique shofar solo), the music filled the arena and heart with soul. Ribo held hands with the entire band for a stage bow at the end of the program.

Joining Ribo on the hallowed stage for parts of the show were fellow Israeli performers Idan Raichel and Eviatar Banai.

As Raichel finished his two-song set near the end of the show, including one song with his signature piano playing, fans were delighted by an enchanting archival video clip showing Raichel inviting a young Ishay Ribo to his stage. In the clip, Raichel reminisces that when he heard Ribo's lyrics for the first time, he felt they were so touching that he couldn't believe they weren't his own.

Ribo closed the show with a new song, introducing it in Hebrew, as if it were a newborn.

"We are big fans of Ishay Ribo, and now we are even bigger fans," said Amit from Houston. "The whole experience of coming together, praying together, and the message of unity was very strong. It was a beautiful show, put together very well."

Brooklyn native Yankee Pearson was at MSG just weeks prior to see the legendary Billy Joel perform his final residency at the Garden, playing out his 150th concert. He spoke with *The Jerusalem Post* about how this experience differed.

"As beautiful and impactful as that [Billy Joel] was, it wasn't nearly as meaningful as what you see tonight. You see Am Yisrael Chai and the Israeli flag waving. It tugs at your heart."

Mark Podwal, whose work adorned museums and shuls, dies at 79

• By ANDREW SILOW-CARROLL/JTA

Admirers of artist Mark Podwal's work tended to describe the visual puns, metaphors, and transformations that were his signature. "A city grows out of an open book."

"A child's noisemaker can become a gallows for the wicked."

"A Jewish runner – identified by an Israeli flag emblem on his or her bib – passes not through finish-line tape, but an arch with columns and floral designs, typical of title-pages of Jewish books."

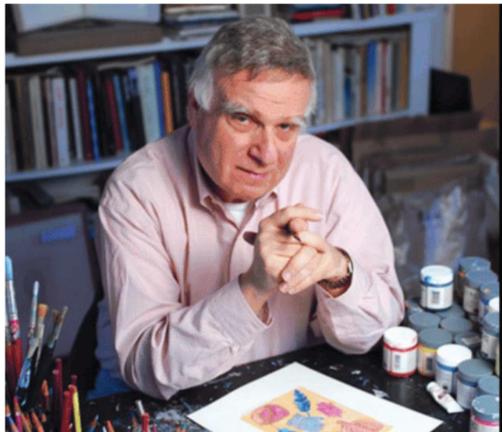
In illustrations like these – created for children's books, major newspapers, synagogue tapestries and gallery walls – Podwal devised a Jewish visual vocabulary that made him one of the best known Jewish artists of his era. He also became the only working dermatologist whose works on paper are included in the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Modern and Contemporary Art Collection.

The novelist Cynthia Ozick once compared him to a hassidic master, writing that he "can fire magic into visual being, and can actually reverse nature and society."

Podwal, who lived in New York, died Friday. He was 79.

Ozick's praise was included in the 2016 book *Reimagined: 45 Years of Jewish Art*, a retrospective of his work that included a foreword by his friend Elie Wiesel. Podwal illustrated an edition of Wiesel's *Jews of Silence*, a book about Soviet Jews, and in 1983 collaborated with Wiesel on *The Golem*, a version of the folktale set in medieval Prague, a city for which the artist had a particular affinity. Podwal accompanied Wiesel to Oslo when the Holocaust survivor accepted the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986.

"They became not only close friends but co-authors as well, as Mark's imaginative artwork breathed color and life into the Jewish tales they told together," the Elie Wiesel Foundation wrote in a tribute.



ARTIST MARK PODWAL in his studio in 2007; at right, his illustration 'Munich Massacre,' drawn in memory of the Israeli athletes killed by Black September terrorists at the Summer Olympics in Munich, which was published in the 'New York Times' in 1972. (Wikipedia)

The New York Times frequently commissioned his illustrations, including a portfolio, appearing a week after the terror attacks of 9/11, depicting homes, businesses, and offices flying the American flag.

Nevertheless, he invariably returned to Jewish themes. Last year, the Museum at Eldridge Street, in a renovated 19th-century synagogue on the Lower East Side, featured Jewish woodcuts from the 16th century that Podwal had "revised" with contemporary references. A limited edition of his archival prints, tracing Jewish history through the words of the psalms, was first exhibited at the Terezin Ghetto Museum in the Czech Republic.

"Museum directors and curators have urged me to broaden my subject matter – to become an artist more universal rather than being limited by Jewish content, but my heart is with the Jewish experience," Podwal told the New York Public Library last year.

Other Jewish work included his illustrations for a Haggadah and a Reform prayer book for young people, and textiles he designed for the Altneuschul in Prague and the Brno synagogue in Czechia. In 2016, the Muse-

um at Eldridge Street featured an exhibit of his works based on the Polish shtetl where his mother was born and raised, and this year installed a mosaic floor featuring his interpretation of the Hebrew zodiac. In 1996, New York's Temple Emanu-El dedicated an ark curtain and five embroidered Torah covers that he was commissioned to design.

He also designed the stage backdrop for a 1981 Simon and Garfunkel concert in Israel.

Throughout his career as an artist, which drew praise from figures as diverse and well-known as Mel Brooks and the historian David McCullough, Podwal continued to serve on the faculty at NYU's Grossman School of Medicine, where he taught dermatology.

Podwal was born June 8, 1945, and was raised in the Fresh Meadows neighborhood of Queens, New York. His father, a bar owner, encouraged him to pursue a medical career. His mother, Dorothy, came to America in 1929 with her parents at the age of eight, and often spoke of her brother, David, who was unable to emigrate at the time and was later killed in Treblinka. Her mother suffered a breakdown upon



hearing the news, and spent the last 18 years of her life in a psychiatric hospital in Queens.

"I've been told that my Uncle David drew very well," Podwal told the *New York Jewish Week* in 2016. "I'd like to believe that my talent in art is a gift to his memory."

He first began drawing seriously as a medical student at NYU, and his work was exhibited at the medical school's main hall and appeared on covers of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Political drawings that he completed in his fourth year of medical school were published in his first book, *The Decline and Fall of the American Empire*, published in 1971, and were exhibited at a Madison Avenue art gallery. He pursued dermatology as a specialty rather than the more consuming surgical track so he would be able to devote more time to his art.

In the *Jewish Week* interview Podwal described himself as a "non-observant Orthodox Jew."

"My drawing is my way of participating in Judaism," he said. "It's a form of prayer."

Podwal's survivors include his wife, Ayalah, and sons * Michael and Ariel.

Alex Edelman wins Emmy for HBO's 'Just For Us'

• By BEN SALES

Alex Edelman has won an Emmy for *Just For Us*, his comedy special about attending a white supremacist meeting that puts a spotlight on contemporary antisemitism and the place of Jews in the United States.

Edelman took home the Emmy for outstanding writing for a variety special on Sunday. This is the latest accolade for *Just For Us* since it premiered on Broadway last year following an off-Broadway run. The Emmy was for the show's move to HBO and Max, where it premiered as a comedy special in April.

The show centers on Edelman's experience attending a meeting of white nationalists in Queens, New York, and weaves in autobiography with his ruminations about Jewish identity, assimilation, and whiteness in the United States. Edelman first performed the show in 2018, and it has found ever-larger platforms as antisemitism has continued to rise in America and beyond, coupled with a broader Jewish communal reckoning after the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war on October 7.

For his win on Sunday, Edelman beat out other nominees, including Mike Birbiglia, the stand-up comedian who produced *Just For Us*; Jacqueline



ALEX EDELMAN in his HBO special 'Just For Us'. (Courtesy Max)

Novak, another Jewish comedian; and the writing team behind *The Oscars*. The Emmy follows a Special Tony Award Edelman received for the show in June.

In his acceptance speech, a breathless Edelman paid tribute to his close friend and collaborator on the show, Adam Brace, who died shortly before *Just For Us* opened on Broadway. Last month, Edelman wrote in an essay for *The New York Times* that performing the show after Brace's death "felt painful but appropriate – like reciting kaddish, the Jewish daily mourning prayer." (JTA)

Founding Jackson 5 member Tito Jackson dies at 70

• By DANIELLE BROADWAY

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) – Tito Jackson, founding member of the popular Black American Motown group the Jackson 5 with his brothers, died on Sunday at the age of 70, his family said.

The Jackson 5 was a band of teenage and preteen siblings Michael Jackson, Jackie Jackson, Jermaine Jackson, Marlon Jackson, and Tito Jackson. They were managed by their father, Joe Jackson, and produced several hits including "I Want You Back," "ABC," and "I'll Be There."

Tito Jackson's sons, TJ, Taj, and Taryll, confirmed on Monday that their father had died. No cause of death was provided.

"We are shocked, saddened, and heartbroken,"



TITO JACKSON performs during The Jacksons' Unity Tour at the Apollo Theater in New York in 2012. (Andrew Burton/Reuters)

they wrote in an Instagram post on Monday. "Our father was an incredible man who cared about everyone and their well-being. Some of you may know him as Tito Jackson from the legendary Jackson 5, some may know him as 'Coach Tito' or some know him as 'Poppa T.'"

"He will be missed tremendously. It will forever be 'Tito Time' for us," they added.

The Jackson 5 was nominated for two Grammys and inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1997.

Tito Jackson, known for his skill on rhythm guitar, launched a solo career in 2003 performing blues music.

Younger brother Michael Jackson, known as the "King of Pop," died in 2009 from acute propofol intoxication. Joe Jackson died in 2018.