



Airlines set to begin ferrying stranded Israelis from Europe today

• Jerusalem Post Staff

El Al said on Tuesday that it will operate evacuation flights from Larnaca, Athens, Rome, Milan, and Paris

starting on Wednesday, with Arkia Airlines saying it will also join these efforts, updating information regarding flights every afternoon. El Al's first flights are already

fully booked. Passengers will receive notifications in this regard on Tuesday. For future flights, El Al will send messages to customers whose previous flights were canceled.

Flight prioritization will be based on the cancellation time of the original flight, as well as exceptional humanitarian cases, such as medical emergencies.

Arkia Airlines also said on Tuesday that it will operate evacuation flights to Israel daily, at the instructions of the Israel Airports Authority and security officials.

Flight schedules and destination locations will be updated daily in the afternoon, the day before the flight is scheduled to leave. Bookings can be made

through the airline's website. These flights are only for incoming flights to Israel. There are no outgoing flight

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US OFFICIAL TO POST:

'Trump will do what is necessary'

• By AMICHAEL STEIN

US President Donald Trump convened a meeting on Tuesday to discuss whether America should actively join Israel in taking out Iran's nuclear program.



Sources familiar with internal US discussions told *The Jerusalem Post* that "if the administration joins in, it won't be a symbolic move – it will be a significant operation, with the primary target being the uranium enrichment facility in Fordow."

Senior Israeli officials who spoke to the *Post* believe that Trump has already made a decision: The US will strike Iran if it refuses a deal that includes dismantling its nuclear program.

On Tuesday evening, Trump posted on Truth Social that he was demanding an "unconditional surrender."

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DAYS AFTER STRIKING PREDECESSOR:

IDF kills Iranian general Shademani

'Top general was Iran's most senior military commander, closest figure to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei'



SECURITY AND RESCUE forces in action at the scene where an Iranian missile hit a bus parking lot near Herzliya, yesterday. (Chaim Goldberg/Flash90)

• By YONAH JEREMY BOB and Jerusalem Post Staff

The IDF on Tuesday assassinated Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters' commander, Maj.-Gen. Ali Shademani, after on Friday it killed his predecessor, Gholam Ali Rashid.

Shademani's rank made him Iran's "wartime chief of staff, the Islamic Republic's most senior military commander, and the closest figure to Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei," the IDF said.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Khatam al-Anbiya center oversees "combat operations and approves Iran's firepower plans," it added.

"In his various roles, [Shademani] directly influenced Iran's operational plans, targeting the State of Israel," the military said.

Israel's success in killing Shademani so soon after its initial triumph in eliminating dozens of Iranian commanders on the first day of its war against Iran demonstrates that, despite the Islamic Republic trying to adjust

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ST.-SGT. NAVEH LESHEM KILLED IN GAZA

Gaza medics say more than 50 Palestinians killed at food site

• By SARAH BEN-NUN, Jerusalem Post Staff and Reuters

St.-Sgt. Naveh Leshem, 20, a soldier in the 12th Battalion, Golani Brigade, was killed in battle while fighting in the southern Gaza Strip, the IDF announced on Tuesday, as troops continued operations there and reinvaded Jabalya in northern Gaza.

Leshem was from the West Bank settlement of Nokdim. The Gush Etzion Regional Council released a statement of grief and solidarity in mourning with the Leshem family, adding that Leshem was the 20th individual from the Gush Etzion bloc killed since October 7. His funeral took place on Tuesday afternoon at the Mount Herzl Military Cemetery.

The IDF said that in the incident in which Leshem was killed, a combat officer and three soldiers from the Golani Brigade's 12th Battalion were seriously wounded. The soldiers went for medical treatment in hospitals, and their families were notified.

The Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency) expressed its condolences on Tuesday over the death of Capt. (res.) Tal Movshovitz, who was killed in combat on Monday in



ST.-SGT. NAVEH LESHEM (IDF)



CAPT. (RES.) TAL MOVSHOVITZ (IDF)

southern Gaza.

Movshovitz, 28, from Reut, served as a deputy company commander in the 7086th Combat Engineering Battalion in the Golani Brigade and was also employed by the Shin Bet.

Movshovitz is the 11th casualty of the security agency since the October 7 massacre, during which the previous 10 were killed.

Near a food distribution center in Khan Yunis on Monday, tanks fired into a crowd trying to get aid from trucks, killing at least 59 people, according to medics at a Gaza hospital. The military acknowledged firing in the area and said it was looking into the incident. Gaza's health authorities are wholly controlled by Hamas and cannot be verified by a third,

independent party.

Videos shared on social media showed around a dozen mangled bodies lying in a street in Khan Yunis.

"All of a sudden, they let us move forward and made everyone gather, and then shells started falling, tank shells," said Alaa, an eyewitness interviewed by Reuters at Nasser Hospital, where wounded victims lay sprawled on the floor and in corridors due to the lack of space.

"No one is looking at these people with mercy. The people are dying; they are being torn apart to get food for their children. Look at these people; all these people are torn to get flour to feed their children."

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Katz to Khamenei: Don't be like Saddam

• By YONAH JEREMY BOB

Defense Minister Israel Katz on Tuesday directly threatened to kill Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, warning him that he could end up like assassinated former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.

This constitutes the clearest escalation of Israel considering assassinating Khamenei to date.

Katz's threat allowed maneuvering room since, technically, Hussein was actually killed by his own people following an extended period of running and hiding after

US forces toppled his regime in Iraq.

But his threat was clear in that Israel could either directly target Khamenei or bring about his fall from power, leaving him to be killed by millions of Iranians who oppose his rule.

Previously, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu entertained the idea of killing Khamenei if it might end the war sooner and if Iran continues to fire ballistic missiles at Israel.

Multiple US officials have said that the Trump administration

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IDF says plan to strike Fordow is ready

• By YONAH JEREMY BOB

The IDF on Tuesday said that it has a plan ready for striking Iran's underground Fordow nuclear facility the moment that the political echelon would give the order.

Until now, IDF officials have been evasive when asked about when they would attack Fordow, though some openly denied attacking the facility when such false reports came out over the weekend.

Fordow is the most important Iranian nuclear facility that the IDF has not yet touched, but it poses unique challenges, being that it lies

underneath a mountain.

Since the IDF lacks a mega 30,000 bunker-buster bomb, which the US possesses, Israel has been trying to convince Washington to destroy the facility.

However, despite lacking that bomb, the Israeli air force has other techniques for damaging or causing cave-ins at Fordow, such as repeatedly dropping 5,000-pound or 2,000-pound bombs over and over again in the same spots.

Besides Fordow, the IDF said that it may finish eliminating the most relevant and

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TRUMP AT A CROSSROADS:

Help defend Israel or actively defang Iran?

ANALYSIS

• By HERB KEINON

Will he, or won't he?

That's the question on the minds of all those watching the astonishing developments unfolding in Iran.

Will US President Donald Trump join Israel's war effort and provide the offensive capabilities presumably needed to finish off Iran's nuclear program, namely, the "bunker buster" bombs and the aircraft able to deliver them to take out the Fordow installation buried deep inside a mountain, or will he stay on the sidelines?

"Sidelines," however, is something of a misnomer.

Even if Trump doesn't actively involve the US military in an offensive campaign against Iran, America is already deeply engaged in defending Israel, deploying anti-missile batteries stationed both in Israel and at sea to intercept Iranian barages aimed at Israeli cities.

American pilots are also assisting Israeli pilots in shooting down drones launched from Iran.

In addition, the US is supplying Israel with the munitions needed to sustain the war effort and the intercept

tors necessary to take down incoming missiles.

And it beggars belief to think that Israel would have launched this campaign without a tacit green light from Washington, along with some form of assurance that defensive assistance and diplomatic cover would be provided.

When Iran and the US resumed talks two months ago, there was considerable discussion about the extent of Israel's involvement in shaping them.

One scenario discussed between Israelis and Americans was what would hap-

pen if the Iranians refused to make the significant concessions Washington was seeking. The world is watching as that answer is playing out before its eyes: Israel would act.

And act it is.

Trump could have stepped in and told Israel not to launch an attack. He didn't. Instead, he has been broadly supportive of Israel's actions.

Now the question is whether he'll go further and join in.

Trump, being Trump, is keeping everyone guessing. One moment, he's talking

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