

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 2025 ■ 6 TAMUZ, 5785



## Bring them home

Bipin Joshi, 24, kidnapped from Kibbutz Alumim, held in captivity in Gaza

## Paranoid regime

24 Iranian Jews still held as part of crackdown

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## 'Sentimental Journey'

Jerusalem Film Festival announces its opener

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## SUMMERTIME AND THE LIVING'S EASIER

Israelis have some fun in the sun as they enjoy the warm weather at a beach in Tel Aviv yesterday. (Text: Jerusalem Post Staff; Photo: Avshalom Sassoni/Flash90)

# Trump expects Gaza truce to be reached by next week

Netanyahu set to visit Washington on Monday

• Strategic Affairs Minister Dermer to travel beforehand

• Jerusalem Post Staff, AMICHAÏ STEIN and Reuters

US President Donald Trump expects to have a ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas by next week with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's expected visit to America, he told reporters on Tuesday.

Trump said that the prime minister expressed his interest in ending the Israel-Hamas War.

He planned to be "very firm with Netanyahu" on ending the war, the American president added.

This comes after the prime minister on Tuesday confirmed that he would travel to the US next week to meet the president and other senior officials.

The *Jerusalem Post* previously reported that Netanyahu would visit Washington on Monday and that Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer would arrive earlier.

The prime minister said that he would meet officials to discuss security-related matters



US PRESIDENT Donald Trump gestures as he speaks during the opening of a temporary migrant detention center informally known as 'Alligator Alcatraz' in Ochopee, Florida, yesterday. (Evelyn Hockstein/Reuters)

and trade agreements.

"I'm expected to travel to the United States next week for meetings with Trump, US Vice President JD Vance, State Secretary and National Security Advisor Marco Rubio, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, the president's Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff, and the commerce secretary,"

Netanyahu said during a cabinet meeting.

On Monday, the cabinet held a discussion and will wait to hear about Dermer's meetings in Washington before considering additional significant steps in Gaza.

Dermer, a confidant of Netanyahu, is in Washington to meet with White House offi-

cial, Trump's spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt told reporters at a press briefing on Monday.

Dermer is exploring the possibilities of regional diplomatic deals in the wake of Israel's 12-day war with Iran last month, as well as ending the Israel-Hamas War, according to an Israeli official.

Trump said last week that his administration would send letters to several countries notifying them of their higher tariff rates before July 9, when the duties are scheduled to revert from a temporary 10% level to a range between 11% and 50%, as announced on April 2.

The US initially set a 17% tariff on Israeli goods sold in the US.

"We still have a few things to finalize to reach a trade agreement in addition to other matters," Netanyahu said, referring to Trump's tariff plans. "I'll also have meetings with congressional and Senate leaders and some security meetings."

# Israel's satellites took millions of images of Iran for war

• By YONAH JEREMY BOB

Tens of millions of photographs of Iran were taken by Israel's satellites in the period leading up to and during the recent Israel-Iran war, the Defense Ministry said.

Since the Islamic Republic spans approximately 1.6 million square kilometers and much of the Israeli operation focused on the Tehran area and Western Iran, parts of Iran needed to be photographed extensively.

This also means that Israel's satellites were surveilling hundreds of different targets per day, the ministry said.

Overall, Israeli satellites surveilled hundreds of thousands of sq.km. in Iran on a daily basis.

Comprehensive space-based intelligence gathering captured tens of millions of square kilometers through day-night surveillance, producing over 12,000 satellite images of Iranian territory.

With Israel reaching a new level of power, quality, and volume in satellite use, the ministry said that the Jewish state has also shifted its use of satellites from only receiving an intermittent snapshot of the status of a specific spot in Iran for general analysis, to being able to maintain real-time constant tactical and operational surveillance of many places all over the Islamic Republic.

Ergo, satellites have proved useful against Iran in terms of altering live Israel Air Force

attacks based on real-time analysis of the Islamic Republic's ballistic missile shooting patterns and trends.

Further, the satellites were able to achieve new levels of immediate battle damage assessments, enabling them to quickly determine the effectiveness of strikes against targets in Iran.

They were also used to determine the extent to which additional aerial sorties against a target may be necessary, and regarding complex and large objectives, which portion of such a target needed to be struck again, as opposed to portions of the objective that were already destroyed.

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# Justices give until Sunday for A-G, gov't compromise on Zini

A-G reps: Netanyahu poisoned process • Court cleared

• By SARAH BEN-NUN

The Attorney-General's Office and the government have until Sunday to reach a compromise on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's appointment of IDF Maj.-Gen. (ret.) David Zini, as the head of the Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency), the High Court of Justice's chief justice, Isaac Amit, Justice Gila Kanfi-Steinitz, and Justice Alex Stein said on Tuesday following a hearing on the matter.

"We hope that a solution is reached that would make the petitions obsolete," the judges wrote after a closed-



MAJ.-GEN. (RET.) DAVID ZINI (Arie Leib Abrams/Flash90)

door security meeting with Government Secretary Yossi Fuchs and attorney-general

representatives.

The question the justices set out to clarify was whether to uphold, change, or reject Attorney-General Gali Baharav-Miara's advisory opinion.

According to the A-G, Netanyahu is in a deep conflict of interest regarding any matter related to the Shin Bet head, including offering a framework for pushing his appointment through.

Several issues were at play: The extent of the conflict of interest that Netanyahu is involved in, how that affects the matter at hand, and how it aligns with the law that

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# Qatar presents Israel and Hamas with modified Witkoff hostage deal proposal

• By AMICHAÏ STEIN and WALLA

Qatar has submitted a mediation proposal to both Israel and Hamas based on the Witkoff framework, with minor adjustments and additions, according to a source familiar with the details who spoke to *The Jerusalem Post*.

At the same time, Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer has been in discussions with senior US officials regarding ideas for ending the war and planning for the period afterward.

The aim is to implement the Witkoff framework and reach the first day of a ceasefire – which would mark the beginning of negotiations to end the war – with several key issues already resolved or with concrete proposals on the table.

The current working proposal calls for the release of eight hostages on the first day of the ceasefire, followed by the release of two additional hostages near the end of a 60-day truce. During that period, discussions on ending the

war are expected to take place, with the goal of entering the first day of talks with tangible progress already achieved.

Next Monday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is scheduled to meet with US President Donald Trump. Ahead of the meeting, Trump said on Tuesday: "Netanyahu wants to end the war in Gaza. I believe we will have a deal next week. I'm going to be very

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# Drones and robots revolutionized Israel's attack and defense abilities in Iran war

ANALYSIS

• By YONAH JEREMY BOB

During the Iran war and in its aftermath, Israel created and continues to create multiple revolutions regarding drones and using robots to speed up air defense interceptor production, the Defense Ministry revealed on Tuesday.

The ministry, which has been involved deeply in developing and evolving Isra-

el's use of drones, said that IDF drones logged thousands of flight hours over the skies of Iran, even though its cities are 1,500-2,000 kilometers away, something which was not viewed as strategically possible until now.

It continued, stating that the number of drone flight hours connected with the Iran conflict was six times longer than the normal amount of hours for an entire

standard year.

While the air force worked out years ago how to cover Gaza or Lebanon with drone surveillance, these areas are on Israel's border, which means drones can quickly and easily travel to and from those areas back to their Israeli launch bases.

Most Israeli drones cannot just fly to and from Israel to Iran. For example, the Kochav and Shoal drones are limited

to a 1,000 kilometer range, not far enough to reach Iran on their own and certainly not far enough to fly back.

There are many moderate Sunni allied countries closer to Iran geographically but drones can refuel in mid-flight. There were US naval vessels in the region, which could also theoretically have served as launch points, and Israeli naval vessels

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# Netanyahu conducts an orchestra while leaderless opposition misses every beat

ANALYSIS

• By TAL SHALEV

It only took one afternoon in the Knesset for Israelis to understand why Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has governed longer than any of his predecessors – and why he may survive politically even

after the trauma of Hamas's October 7 massacre.

During Monday's Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee, opposition MKs from the National Unity, Yesh Atid, and Yisrael Beytenu parties joined the coalition to advance Likud MK Avichay Boaron's bid to expel Hadash-Ta'al's chairperson, Ayman Odeh, from the Knesset.

The move, rooted in a January post in which Odeh compared Hamas terrorists to Israeli hostages, flew in

the face of legal advice from Attorney-General Gali Baharav-Miara and the Knesset's legal adviser, who both said that the "MK Expulsion Law" threshold for supporting terrorism had not been met.

Netanyahu's critics handed him a gift because the committee's 14-2 vote burnished his long-standing strategy of delegitimizing Arab lawmakers and depressing Arab turnout – an indispensable ingredient of his electoral dominance.

Even if 90 MKs ultimately back Odeh's ouster, Israel's High Court of Justice is likely to overturn the decision, granting the prime minister weeks of headline-grabbing attention to Israel's "disloyal" Arab representatives.

Meanwhile, the opposition fractured anew.

The Arab blocs pledged a work boycott, furious that putative centrist allies had sided with the most hard-lined

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## 'THEY SHOOT PEOPLE DELIBERATELY':

# Gazans say Hamas is intentionally targeting humanitarian aid sites

• Jerusalem Post Staff

Gazans present at humanitarian aid distribution sites testified that Hamas commits acts of terror, propaganda, and psychological manipulation against civilians there, the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories said on Tuesday.

The audio recordings released by COGAT reveal that Hamas is seeking to dis-

rupt the dispensation of food packages at the US-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation aid distribution sites.

According to Gazans, Hamas has been firing at residents near aid distribution sites, then spreading false claims that the IDF was actually behind the shooting, in addition to publishing "fabricated data about large numbers of casualties" through fake footage, COGAT said.

The GHF said on Monday that Hamas had placed bounties on American security workers in the enclave and that 12 of the organization's local staff members had been murdered by the terrorist organization so far.

"Hamas has placed bounties on both our American security personnel and Palestinian aid workers, offering cash rewards to anyone who injures or kills them," the GHF said.



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