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PM functioned poorly
in first month of war
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Established 1919

HAARETZ

ENGLISH EDITION
הארץ

Friday, April 5, 2024 | Adar (II) 26, 5784. Vol 105/31955

ISRAEL'S LEADING DAILY NEWSPAPER

www.haaretz.com

Yossi Verter

After 6 months, few of war's goals achieved

Expectations were too high, tension with U.S. spikes and hostages are still in Gaza

Amos Harel

Almost half a year after the start of the war, Israel's balance vis-à-vis Hamas is far from satisfactory. Israel found itself at war in an awful opening position: a massive invasion across the Gaza border, a Palestinian takeover of communities and territory, nearly 1,250 killed and murdered (most of them civilians) and more than 250 abducted. There is no real way to undo this result. Today it is clear to everyone – other than blind followers – that the promises of "total victory" that Prime Minister Benjamin Netan-

yahu made every other day are totally worthless. The Israeli response to the October 7 massacre included a severe blow to Hamas, the conquest of territories, the coerced evacuation of the population from the northern Gaza Strip and massive killing of Hamas personnel, together with more than 20,000 Palestinian civilians killed, according to estimates. There was a measure of logic to the decision to mount a ground invasion of Gaza. Israel was taken by surprise at its weakest moment, and the absence

of a painful response could have prompted its enemies in the region to join Hamas' campaign. Even now, after the killing and the destruction, that danger has not completely passed (indeed, it only increased this week). The government and the army acted on the basis of a broad public consensus, according to which Hamas' murderous spree and the grim sadism displayed by its personnel in the Israeli communities across the border from Gaza, rule out the possibility that Israel can continue to live as the close neighbor of the Hamas regime in the Strip.

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Palestinians near the site of an Israeli air strike in Rafah on Tuesday.

Mohammed Salem/Reuters

Countdown to elections

For three weeks, Minister Benny Gantz paused his habitual weekly news conferences, telling confidants it was due to the sensitivity of the talks on a hostage release deal. He did not want, as it were, to face questions he would struggle to answer. The validity of this argument was challenged somewhat Wednesday evening, when he convened a news conference and supplied a political headline: a call to move up the general election to September of this year. The rationale: If early elections are announced, the protests will diminish and the disputes will move to the political front, to the radio and television studios. It's an interesting, even credible, explanation. But Gantz may also be suspected of ulterior motives. His demand comes after his political partner-turned-rival, MK Gideon Sa'ar, proposed, after withdrawing from the governing coalition, holding the election in early 2025. Gantz matched Sa'ar's bet and raised him: September. Yair Lapid, who had demanded early elections back in late January, emphasized that even September is too late. Gantz speaks in a kind of secret language. It is always a good idea to look for what is not stated explicitly. Well, he didn't mention Rafah. Rafah: Not gonna happen. After all, this is the man who threatened that if there's no deal to free the hostages, Israel will invade Rafah even during Ramadan. And when he was in Washington, he declared that if we don't take care of the remaining Hamas battalions there it

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Furloughs suspended in combat units; MI chief: Worst may not be over

Yaniv Kubovich, Avi Scharf and Jonathan Lis

The IDF announced that it was temporarily suspending furloughs in combat units, after announcing a reinforcement and call-up of reserve soldiers for its aerial defense forces. The head of Military Intelligence, Maj. Gen. Aharon Haliva, told the heads of research departments responsible for the various fronts: "It is not certain that the worst is behind us. There are complex days ahead."

Nevertheless, IDF spokesman Daniel Hagari said there were no changes in the instructions of the Home Front Command. "There is no need to purchase generators and to hoard food or take out cash." The IDF clarified that Haliva's words had caused unnecessary panic and that most of the preparations are in the air force. The army also said that since Iran has been participating in this war since October 7, there is no scenario the IDF has not prepared for.

Biden blasts
PM over Gaza
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With regard to the temporary suspension of leaves, the army said it was connected to the marking of the holy al-Qadr night at the end of the month of Ramadan, which will take place on Friday at the Temple Mount.

Iran's president, Ebrahim Raisi, threatened on Tues-

day that this week's assassination of Mohammad Reza Zahedi, commander of the Quds Force in Syria and Lebanon, "will not pass without a response." The threat of offensive drones has grown recently, with several of these crossing from Jordan to Israel. One of them hit a naval base in Eilat, with another falling in the Arava area.

Meanwhile, the disruption of satellite navigation (GPS), which Israel has been employing since the onset of the

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Abdel Rahman al-Hajj, with the settlement of Ma'aleh Michmas behind him.

Nidal Ashtayeh

100,000 expected at Al-Aqsa Mosque on Friday

Nir Hasson

More than 100,000 people are expected to attend services at Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque this Friday, which is the last Friday of Ramadan.

Friday night is Laylat al-Qadr, the holiest night of the month-long holiday. In previous years, according to the Muslim Waqf, more than 200,000 people attended those prayers.

Police are beefing up their deployment in preparation, with some 3,600 police officers, Border Police officers and others protecting Jerusalem's Old City and the surrounding area. Many roads around the Old City will be closed from Friday morning until Saturday morning.

So far, this year's Ramadan is the quietest Jerusalem has known in years. The police altered their policy once the holiday began and, in defiance of the stance of National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, allowed Muslims

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470 MEDICAL AND HEALTH WORKERS HAVE BEEN KILLED IN GAZA - WORLD HEALTH DAY -

Abou Isaac, Amjad Abou Ouda, Ibrahim Al-Farra, Aya Al-Shrafi, Tamer Al Efesh, Momen Mansour, Asmaa Al-Asar, Feras Flaitha, Rana Shalaby, Itamad Miqdad, Zainab Al-Sharafi, Hamdan Malaka, Suheer Jabara, Hassan Al-Hennawi, Sabha Al-Sherafi, Azmi Al-Jamal, Yousef Al-Shareef, Hadeel Fanga, Emad Esleem, Enas Al-Zeen, Heba Salamah, Nuha Esleem, Amro Masoud, Hanyia Qudain, Mohammed Al-Mogayyed, Ali Nasrallah, Tariq Abu Obaid, Ahmed Al-Nuweiri, Abdulrahman Shaheen, Ahmed Mahmoud Arann, Dr. Yahya Abduljawad Juda, Haytham Tawfiq Anabih, Loat Alzuhairi, Saleem Abu Zour, Rola Althalathini, Duaa Ashour, Safa Zeino, Saja Dughmush, Moayad Ezzo Afana, Ahmed Al-Ewaili, Sayyed Almasri, Abdulfattah Abu Hasana, Haitham Hammad, Ahmed Dardes, Abdullah Abu Al-Hasan, Wadha Abu Jazar, Najem Abu Aljabeen, Kamal Aljamal, Samia Shabet, Ahmed Shehab, Butkhina Alamodi, Kefah Alhussini, Omar Masoud, Ashraf Abu Deghaim, Ahmed Ba'lushah, Ramadan Dughmush, Oun Nofal Ashour, Aya Owmi Abu Zaid, Mostafa Abdulmone'm, Sahar Agel, Abdallah Abu Salman, Bassam Shaheen, Rawan Abu Zubaedah, Amira Al-Regeb, Omar Al-Sharif, Fatima Abu Shalouf, Mahdi Abu Shalouf, Raed Malaka, Tamer Mo'abad, Mustafa Fouad Abdel Monem, Maryam AlBaqayk, Alaa Elsubhai, Abdullah Sharaf, Youssa Ghabien, Emad Al-Regeb, Omar Redwan, Mustafa Aljalous, Zaki Darweesh, Nedat Sager, Mohammed Nasman, Ahmed Abu Shamla, Ahmed Ayman Ahmed, Mohammed Abu A'bda, Husam Qoush, Safaa Jendiah, Mahmoud Haroun, Nihad Barakat, Samah Abu Hamam, Tasneem Hamdan, Nedat Abu Mostafa, Mustafa Al-Najjar, Wajih Shehada, Hnd Al-Newiri, Mohammed Saber Qashqash, Salem Juma'a Shurrab, Mohammed Hamed Madi, Marwan Abu Raida, Hatem Awad, Khalil Al-Sharif, Ahmed Al-Dahman, Yousef Al-Masri, Ahmed Abdel Rahman, Mohammed Al-Ghaliz, Mohammed Ali, Iyad Salim, Abdelrahim Abu Baid, Alaa Abu Ghanima, Najj Al Fayoumi, Tareq Ashour, Mahmoud Abu Mashayekh, Nafeth Al-Natur, Mahmoud Othman, Ibrahim Matar, Yasser Alnaser, Omar Al-Habbash, Mohammad Al-Muqaid, Osama Tayah, Ali Hajji, Jehad Abu Taqia, Khaled Abu Saleh, Adham Alghoul, Fouad Abu Khamash, Yousef Abu Muammar, Islam Abu Ritala, Fadi Al-Maani, Ahmed AlMadhoun, Mohammed Al-Omari, Naeem Hasan Al-Gebali, Khalid Kullab, Safa' AlHoor, Lubna Al-Shaer, Ghadeer Al-Dawahid, Basil Shaqoura, Hani Juma'a, Mahmoud Salim, Mahmoud Atallah, Mahmoud Al-Sarhi, Fayeze Asa'ad Mu'ammam, Abdelfattah Abu Marei, Ahmed Al-Masri, Ahmed Sameh Abou, Shaimaa Sbaih, Mayar Al-Wahidi, Ahmed Ashraf, Shahrazad Al-Akhras, Nour Ibrahim, Essa Fayeze Essa, Nour Abu Lehya, Ahmed Ashraf, Bayan Awadah, Mohamed Ali, Amani Al-Abssi, Waseem Yahya, Reem Al-Qawqa, Jameel Hamdan, Heba Al-Jourani, Kareem Abu Sharia, Ameerah Haroun, Meera Al-Masri, Amina Al-Aliwa, Maha Al-Hamse, Ola Al-Dura, Sajida Sabeih, Ehab Abu Mosameh, Awda Alhaw, Faheema Jameel Hamad, Ala'a Ismail, Abdulrahman Al-Ashaal, Nour Abu Shagra, Reem Hamdan Abu Libda, Mohammed Shaheen, Mai Khalil, Mohammed Abu Harbeed, Ahmed Farjallah, Saleh Al-Qahwaji, Imtiaz Haroun, Ahmed Al-Jerjawi, Aziz Elfara, Afnan Al-Astal, Shereen Abou Jazar, Eman Abu Al-Jalil, Safaa Hasouna, Ibrahim Meqdad, Mohammed Ali, Maysaa Khader, Nisreen Al-Dammagh, Sally Al-Aydi, Mohammed Al-Shannat, Lina Abu Mualeiteq, Haneen Albasayouni, Amira Dahman, Rawand Albanna, Khaled Abu Ma'ala, Amat Mecca, Abdullah Altartori, Asmaa Abu Salah, Mohammed Alshami, Belal Alfarra, Ahmed Al-Dalu, Aya Hijazi, Rola Tawil, Ahmed Al-Abbasi, Wesam Al-Halabi, Nada Al-Dahshan, Esam Abedrabbo, Mohammed Alshrafi, Ayman Alshrafi, Khetam Diab-Alshrafi, Manar Ayyad, Dr. Ashraf Abu Mahadi, Kamal Baroud, Maher Abu Nada, Ali Al Rafati, Yahya Jawaher, Samir AlShaikh, Mohammed Shaheen, Hanan Husam Shurrab, Nour ElHuda Matar (Al-Ghariz), Essam Al-Attar, Abdallah Salam Al-Agha, Omar Khorshed, Saeed Khorshed, Mohammed Khorshed, Ameer Khorshed, Ahmad Abuvarja, Abdulrahman Alfarra, Sami Oasseem, Alaa Abu Zour, Nather Shaban, Asmaa Hijazi, Rawan Yassin, Alia Al Hinawi, Maryam Kabaja, Nahid Abdullatef, Mohammed Abu Karsb, Mohammed Shabaan, Riham Elkahlout, Ismail Sharaf, Taiseer Alghouti, Abdulmohsin Abu Alrous, Dua Jad Allah, Mohammed Ahel, Mohammed Ibrahim Al-Ghouta, Nafez AlNajjar, Mohammed Alsaqa, Alaa Al-hour, Shafer Yaghi, Mustafa Fayyad, Dima Abdullatif Al-Haj, Mohammed Abu Daga, Ameen Aljadba, Intisar Shaheen, Ramez Al-Najjar, Khaled Agel, Yasser Alshami, Samar Abu Mustafa, Mohammed Alreefi, Mohammed Jazar, Mohammed Alhouli, Hesham Abu Sabah, Mahmoud Abu Baid, Ziad Alazeeb, Anwar Alastal, Raed Albanna, Muath Abu Hasanin, Khaled Aljamal, Ashraf Hammouda, Itmad Abdelhadi, Hidayat Hamad, Abdul Mohsin Abu Al-Roos,

Settlement security head joined brutal raid of West Bank village

Amira Hass

On Saturday, several dozen Israelis invaded lands belonging to Mukhmas village southeast of Ramallah. Eyewitnesses say the invaders – some armed with rifles, other with their faces masked, and one in an Israeli army uniform – chased local residents away at gunpoint and subsequently assaulted them with a crowd, clubs and gunfire. The

witnesses say three villagers were wounded, and two more were injured by rocks thrown by the attackers. Some of the wounded needed to go to the hospital for treatment.

A security source told Haaretz that the man dressed in uniform who was seen by the villagers is the security coordinator of the Ma'aleh Michmas settlement, and the other Israelis who were armed were reservist soldiers on furlough.

Ma'aleh Michmas is located east of the village. Several illegal outposts have been erected on the outskirts of the settlement. The closest ones to Mukhmas are Neveh Erez, which was set up in the early 2000s, and Nahalat Zvi, built in October 2022 by students from Merkaz Harav yeshiva. This outpost was demolished several times in the past by the

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רופאים נטבים
לנוכחות אדם לחقوق الإنسان
سازمان پزشکان برای حقوق الإنسان