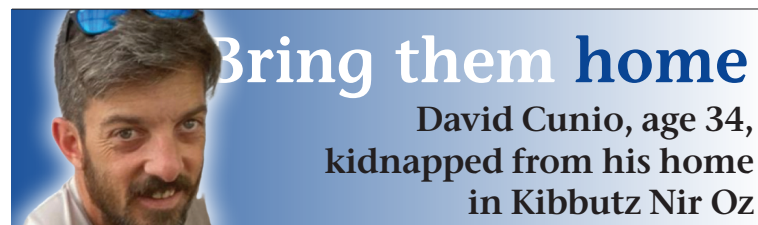


WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2024 ■ 26 ADAR 1, 5784



Bring them home

David Cunio, age 34, kidnapped from his home in Kibbutz Nir Oz

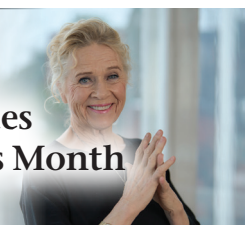
Combating antisemitism

The White House plan
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The female gaze

Jerusalem and TLV cinematheques celebrate International Women's Month
Page 16



IDF destroys largest northern Gaza terror tunnel

Solider stabbed near Yitzhar • Syrian drone downed • Gallant to Hezbollah: Time's nearly up

PACKAGES parachute down to Gaza after being dropped from an aircraft yesterday.
(Amir Cohen/Reuters)



• By YONAH JEREMY BOB and Jerusalem Post Staff

The IDF destroyed on Tuesday the largest terrorist tunnel, four kilometers long, that has been uncovered in northern Gaza since the beginning of the war.

Discovered in mid-December, the tunnel extends from deep into northern Gaza to the Erez crossing, though it does not cross into Israeli territory.

Over the past few weeks, the IDF has been investigating the tunnel, and the route was eventually destroyed by the engineering unit of the IDF's Gaza Division, the Yahlom unit and the Defense Ministry's engineering and construction division.

The IDF revealed that the tunnel at some points reached a maximum depth of about 50 meters.

The nearest shaft of the tunnel is located about 400m. from the Erez crossing, which was used for the passage of workers and patients for med-

ISRAEL AT WAR



IDF reveals hidden fault lines between Gazan terror groups, Page 2

US sanctions Co-CEO of Israeli spyware firm, Page 3

Super Tuesday states and GOP delegate counts, Page 7

Along the route, there is sewerage, electricity, and communication infrastructure, as well as blast doors, which were designed to prevent the entry of IDF forces.

The tunnel is large enough to facilitate the movement of vehicles inside it, and many Hamas weapons were found inside.

Since the beginning of the war, the IDF has been working to locate and destroy dozens of attack tunnel routes as part of the systematic dismantling of Hamas infrastructure.

The tunnel construction project included a team of dozens of terrorists who came especially for its construction from Khan Yunis to the north of the Gaza Strip.

Additionally, according to estimates, Hamas has invested millions of dollars in the underground layout throughout the Strip, and offensive actions against Israeli troops have been staged from within the now-demolished tunnel.

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BIDEN AFTER SECOND GAZA AID AIRDROP:

'We're pulling out every stop'

• By TOVAH LAZAROFF

The US conducted its second airdrop of food over Gaza on Tuesday, as its officials continued to hammer Israel over hunger in the enclave and US President Joe Biden said he was doing everything possible to help Palestinians there.

"The United States is committed to pulling out every stop to get more aid to those in Gaza who desperately need it," Biden said in a post on X. "We won't stand by. We won't let up."

For the third day in a row, US officials publicly chas-

tised Israel for failing to put in place a distribution system in Gaza that would allow Palestinians to receive basic services as its army conducted a military campaign against Hamas in Gaza. It spoke as United Nations agencies have warned that Palestinians in Gaza were in danger of starvation.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said "It is urgent... to dramatically increase the humanitarian assistance that's getting to people inside of Gaza."

"The situation for children,

See STOP, Page 7

US: Israel not involved in inspecting airdrops

• By TOVAH LAZAROFF and HANNAH SARISOHN in New York

Israel has not been involved in the inspection of US food packages the American military airdropped over Gaza during joint operations with the Jordanian Royal Airforce, according to the Pentagon.

"The goods are prepackaged foods that are inspected at the time they are processed and prior to delivery," the Pentagon initially told *The Jerusalem Post* when speaking about Saturday's airdrop.

See FOOD, Page 7

Army, Gallant: We convinced cabinet of deep Gaza invasion

Defense sources losing patience with cabinet's 'hypocrisy'

• By YONAH JEREMY BOB

Several cabinet members opposed a deep invasion of Gaza in October, top IDF officials and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant charged this week as they pushed back at criticism of their handling of the Gaza war.

Without their forthright push for such an invasion, the Israel-Hamas might war might have relied on limited incursions into Gaza akin to what happened in past wars, according to top aides to IDF Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Herzi Halevi, Gallant, and other senior officers.

Some top officials have even implied that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was in October privately unsure over the risks of a deep invasion while publicly he trumpeted the destruction of Hamas.

The drama heated up on Monday with a Channel 12 report that Halevi finally confronted some of the critical ministers with what he viewed as their own hypocrisy for being initially too afraid to invade and then later questioning why the invasion had not been swifter and more robust.

The Jerusalem Post has known about the inconsistencies in various ministers' views for some time, but can only report the story now following the publication of the exchange in the cabinet.

As the war has dragged on, in closed meetings Halevi has further lost patience with cabinet members whom he views as not being serious about security issues, but rather being

See GAZA, Page 7

Despite vilifying the country, Jordan wants more Israeli water

ANALYSIS

• By HERB KEINON

On November 16, Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi – whose anti-Israel rhetoric since October 7 has been strident – took to Al Jazeera to say the planned signing a month later of a three-way Jordan-Israel-UAE water-for-energy

deal would not take place.

"We will not sign this agreement any longer. Can you imagine a Jordanian minister sitting next to an Israeli minister to sign a water and electricity agreement, all while Israel continues to kill children in Gaza?" the top Jordanian diplomat said.

Under the deal, Jordan was

to supply Israel with solar energy from a UAE-funded plant in exchange for desalinated water from Israel.

"Israel's aggression and crimes [in Gaza] can no longer be justified as self-defense. It has been killing innocent civilians and attacking hospitals,"

See JORDAN, Page 7

Hamas insists: Permanent truce for deal

• By TOVAH LAZAROFF and Reuters

Hamas publicly insisted Tuesday that a permanent ceasefire must be in place before any deal be implemented for the release of the remaining 134 hostages held in Gaza, in a statement that seemed to run counter to optimism from Washington that an agreement was possible before the start of the holy month of Ramadan.

"In the past two days, the movement presented its position on the proposal put forward by the brotherly Qatari and Egyptian mediators," senior Hamas official Osama Hamdan said in Beirut.

He spoke as ceasefire talks mediated by both Egypt and Qatar continued in Cairo with no sign of a breakthrough.

"We reaffirmed our conditions for a ceasefire: a full pullout from the Strip and the return of the displaced

[Palestinians] from areas they left, in particular in the north," he said.

Hamdan repeated his group's conditions for a deal; an end to the Gaza war, a withdrawal of Israeli troops, and the return of displaced Palestinians to homes they have fled in other parts of the enclave.

Israel has insisted that it must be allowed to complete its military campaign in Gaza to destroy Hamas. The cur-

rent proposal on the table attempts to bypass the gap between the two sides by putting in place a six-week pause in exchange for the release of 40 hostages. Israel would, in exchange, free from its jails some 400 security prisoners and terrorists.

US officials continued to push from Washington for a deal, with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken holding

See HAMAS, Page 7

Milei's rabbi on his ties to Judaism

EXCLUSIVE

• By MICHAEL STARR

Argentinian President Javier Milei's February visit to Israel was part of his spiritual journey with Judaism and a quest for moral and cultural change in Argentina, Rabbi Shimon Axel Wahnish shared with *The Jerusalem Post* in an exclusive interview.

Wahnish, now Milei's rabbi and his presumed nominee to be Argentina's next ambassador to Israel, said that he first met the leader on January 28, 2022, when he knew of Milei "as a popu-



Javier Milei and Rabbi Shimon Wahnish (right). (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

lar economist and professor."

Milei had seen the 1956 Charlton Heston movie *The Ten Commandments* as a child, said Wahnish, and was inspired by Moses as a leader. The interest in the spiritual continued into adulthood, and the topic of God was brought up when

the two men met.

The rabbi's meeting with the future president was only supposed to last for 15 minutes. The two began to speak about heavenly matters, and 15 minutes stretched into a two-hour discussion.

See full story, Page 6.

Temple Mount regulations during Ramadan will be 'similar to previous years,' PMO says

• By ELIAV BREUER

Worshippers will be allowed to enter the Temple Mount in numbers "similar to previous years" during the first week of Ramadan and Israel will assess on a weekly basis "aspects of security and safety and make decisions accordingly," the Prime Minister's Office said Tuesday.

The decision, made during a meeting of ministers and top legal and security officials, is intended, in effect, to ensure that there will be no new restrictions placed on worshippers even though Isra-

el is currently at war, and is an attempt to avoid a possible increase in violent events.

According to the statement, "Israel guarantees the freedom of worship for all religions, at all places in Israel, with an emphasis on the Temple Mount. The month of Ramadan is holy to Muslims, and the holiday's holiness will be guaranteed this year, as it is every year."

Ramadan is expected to begin on the eve of March 10. The meeting was headed by Prime Minister Benjamin



A TOURIST takes a photo in front of the Dome of the Rock on al-Aqsa's compound yesterday. (Ammar Awad/Reuters)

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