

Ynet-News, July 05, 2020 – Sunday

07.05.20 – Su - - -

Iran's uranium enrichment incidents not necessarily result of cyber sabotage

07.05.20 – Su - - - News

Israel virus resurgence alarmingly passing 10,000; gatherings now limited to 20

07.02.20 – Th - - - News Placed in July 03 spot – Friday

Committee shuns Netanyahu 10m legal aid donation; servants prohibited such amounts

07.05.20 – Su - - - News Placed in July 05 spot – Sunday

Trump vows as a bulwark to defeat those lying about history & violence to gain power

07.05.20

Iran's uranium enrichment incidents not necessarily result of cyber sabotage

07.05.20

Gantz: Israel 'not necessarily' behind all Iran nuclear site incidents

Speaking after mysterious fire last week at Natanz site, defense minister says Iranian 'systems are complex [with] very high safety constraints,' and adds he is 'not sure they always know how to maintain them.'

Reuters| Published: 07.05.20 , 14:28

Defense Minister Benny Gantz said on Sunday that Israel is not "necessarily" behind every mysterious incident in Iran, after a fire at the Natanz nuclear site prompted some Iranian officials to say it was the result of cyber sabotage.

The underground Natanz site, where a one-story building was partly burned on Thursday, is the centerpiece of Iran's uranium enrichment program and monitored by inspectors of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations nuclear watchdog.

Asked whether Israel had anything to do with "mysterious explosions" at Iranian nuclear sites, Gantz said: "Not every incident that transpires in Iran necessarily has something to do with us."

"All those systems are complex, they have very high safety constraints and I'm not sure they always know how to maintain them," Gantz told Israel Radio.

Three Iranian officials who spoke to Reuters said they thought cyber sabotage had been involved at Natanz, but offered no evidence. Two said Israel could have been behind it.

Israel, widely believed to be the region's only nuclear power, has pledged never to allow Iran to obtain atomic weapons, saying Tehran advocates its destruction. Iran denies ever seeking nuclear arms and says its atomic program is peaceful.

An article by Iran's state news agency IRNA addressed what it called the possibility of sabotage by enemies such as Israel and the United States, although it stopped short of accusing either directly.

In 2010, the Stuxnet computer virus, widely believed to have been developed by the United States and Israel, was discovered after it was used to attack Natanz.

In May, Israel's national cyber chief officially acknowledged the country had thwarted a major cyber attack against its water systems, an assault widely attributed to arch-enemy Iran, calling it a "synchronized and organized attack" aimed at disrupting key national infrastructure.

Yigal Unna did not mention Iran directly, nor did he comment on the alleged Israeli retaliation two weeks later said to have shut down a key Iranian port, but he said recent developments have ushered in a new era of covert warfare, ominously warning that "cyber winter is coming."

Iran curbed its nuclear work in exchange for removal of most global sanctions under a 2015 accord with six world powers. It has reduced compliance since the United States withdrew in 2018.

07.05.20

Israel virus resurgence alarmingly passing 10,000; gatherings now limited to 20

07.05.20

Netanyahu says Israel in 'state of emergency' in wake of virus resurgence

PM warns during weekly cabinet meeting the government will have to take actions beyond what was agreed upon last week; adds WHO identified Middle East as COVID-19 hotspot; vows to present financial plan

Nina Fuchs | Published: 07.05.20 , 12:43

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday that Israel is currently in a "state of emergency" in light of the alarmingly high number of new coronavirus cases in the country.

Israel has in recent weeks seen a resurgence of COVID-19, with the number of active patients, currently sick with the pathogen, passing the 10,000 mark on Friday, for the first time since the start of the epidemic.

"We are in a state of emergency, we cannot delay the legislation [on adopting virus measures], we must move forward with it to stop the spread," he said at the start of the weekly cabinet meeting. "We will have to state steps beyond what was agreed upon during the coronavirus cabinet [meeting] last week."

Netanyahu said the World Health Organization recently pinpointed the Middle East as a coronavirus hotspot and it "does not exclude" Israel.

"We're in the midst of a renewed coronavirus attack," he said. "We are seeing - as I have warned before - the outbreak is accompanied by an increase in the number of serious cases, which will challenge the Health Ministry."

The prime minister added that in the next few days the government will present a financial rescue plan for businesses owners and employees, whose livelihoods were hurt most by the layoffs and closures as a result of the health crisis.

"This is the most important mission for me and the government."

Netanyahu is set to convene the coronavirus cabinet later on Sunday to discuss re-imposing some restrictions on restaurants and cafes. Last week, the government voted to limit all public events, including concerts and weddings, to up to 50 people, with all social gatherings now limited to a maximum of 20 participants.

07.02.20

Committee shuns Netanyahu 10m legal aid donation; servants prohibited such amounts

07.02.20

Permits committee shuns Netanyahu's request for legal aid

State Comptroller's panel accepts AG's opinion that NIS 10m donation from U.S. billionaire, who is also a witness in one of PM's corruption cases, could not be accepted under Israeli law

Tova Zimukij Published: 07.02.20 , 19:46

The state comptroller's permits committee on Thursday said it will not discuss Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's request to raise NIS 10 million from donors to finance his legal defense in his criminal trial.

Netanyahu had asked the board to allow the sizeable donation from American real-estate magnate Spencer Partrich.

The committee then asked Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit's opinion on the matter, given the fact that Partrich is a witness in one of the premier's corruption cases.

On Tuesday, Mandelblit told the State Comptroller's Office that he opposed Netanyahu's request, stating that public servants are prohibited from receiving such amounts under Israeli law.

Following the decision, Netanyahu lashed out at the attorney general.

"Once again, it seems like there is one law for Netanyahu and another for everyone else. This is what a political investigation looks like, ending with a political indictment," Netanyahu said via associates to the media.

Netanyahu also went on to accuse Mandelblit of orchestrating a "coup d'etat" to unseat him from power.

The panel also decided to not renew hearings on a retroactive request from Netanyahu to receive \$300,000 in funds for legal fees from his cousin, Nathan Milikowski.

07.05.20

Trump vows as a bulwark to defeat those lying about history & violence to gain power

07.05.20

Trump repeats vow to defeat 'radical left' in July 4th speech

The president says 'the anarchists, the agitators, the looters' want Americans to feel ashamed of themselves and he will not allow 'an angry mob' to 'tear down our statues, erase our history, indoctrinate our children'

Reuters| Published: 07.05.20 , 08:45

U.S. President Donald Trump on Saturday vowed to defeat the "radical left," in an Independence Day speech at the White House that condemned recent protests against monuments to historical figures as attempts to destroy the United States.

Trump claimed that 99% of coronavirus cases in the United States were "totally harmless." In fact, many states marked a record number of new COVID-19 cases. The president, who has faced criticism over his handling of the pandemic, said China must be "held accountable" for failing to contain the disease.

The administration held a fireworks display over the National Mall as night fell after Trump's speech, despite Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser's warnings that the mass spectator event would defy health officials' guidance during the pandemic.

"There have always been those who seek to lie about the past in order to gain power in the present, those that are lying about our history, those who want us to be ashamed of who we are ... Their goal is demolition," Trump said on Saturday.

Trump's Fourth of July remarks doubled down on his speech the previous evening at Mount Rushmore in South Dakota where he accused "angry mobs" of trying to erase history and painted himself as a bulwark against left-wing extremism.

"We are now in the process of defeating the radical left, the anarchists, the agitators, the looters, and the people who, in many instances, have absolutely no clue what they are doing," he said. "We will never allow an angry mob to tear down our statues, erase our history, indoctrinate our children. And we will defend, protect and preserve (the) American way of life, which began in 1492 when Columbus discovered America." Just months before November's presidential election, opinion polls in key states show Trump trailing his Democratic rival, former Vice President Joe Biden. Biden wrote a Fourth of July opinion piece, where he accused Trump of finding "new ways to tarnish and dismantle our democracy" every day.

In a separate letter to donors, Biden said: "We have a chance now to give the marginalized, the demonized, the isolated, the oppressed, a full share of the American dream."

Trump, in his speech, also said the United States would have a vaccine or therapeutic solution to the virus "long before" the end of 2020. Such a success could help the U.S. economy and Trump's chances of re-election.

On Thursday, a top U.S. health official said he was optimistic the Trump administration's vaccine-acceleration program "Operation Warp Speed" will generate a safe and effective vaccine for COVID-19 by year-end.

Apart from fireworks spectators in Washington, activists of different stripes also appeared willing to disregard health warnings.

Roar of the Deplorables, a bikers group, said via social media that they planned to gather to protest against what they call "the anti-Trump regime" and celebrate the nation's birthday.

Freedom Fighters DC, a new activist group which seeks to rally ethnically diverse supporters, especially the Black population of Washington, is one of the anti-racism groups ignoring the mayor's heed to refrain from gathering.

"Black folks are not free from the chains of oppression, so we don't get to truly celebrate Independence Day," said Kerrigan Williams, 22, one of the founders of the group, which will host a march and an arts demonstration on Saturday afternoon.

"We're marching today to showcase that Black folks are still fighting for the simple liberties that the constitution is said to provide."