

Ynet-News, November 04, 2020 – Wednesday

11.03.20 – Tu - - -

Police seize near ton of cocaine in southern industrial zone; gag order on details

11.02.20 – Mo - - - News Placed in Nov 02 spot – Monday

Rabbi at Cave of Patriarchs prays for Trump election to strengthen people of Israel

11.01.20 – Su - - - News Placed in Nov 01 spot – Sunday

Netanyahu praises Trump policies but US Jews in favor of Democratic vote

11.04.20 – We - - -

IDF kill PA captain; a lone attacker who opened fire on West Bank troops

11.04.20 – We - - - News Placed in Nov 04 spot – Wednesday

As America counts, the world holds its breath for US election outcome

11.03.20 – Tu - - -

Police seize near ton of cocaine in southern industrial zone; gag order on details

11.03.20 – Tu - - -

Police seize nearly ton of cocaine in drug bust

Officers say massive shipment found in the back of a truck in an industrial zone in southern Israel is worth an estimated NIS 250 million; police launch investigation into origin of contraband

Matan Tzuri| Published: 11.03.20 , 20:05

Police on Tuesday captured a shipment of nearly 750 kilos (1650 pounds) of cocaine found in a truck in the industrial area near the town of Kiryat Malakhi in southern Israel.

Officers said the shipment is worth an estimated NIS 250 million. A gag order has been placed regarding any further details in the investigation.

The contraband was stored away in a number of bags and tied to containers inside the truck. According to police, the massive stash was found by accident, with no prior intel.

Lachish District police have opened an investigation in an attempt to find the persons behind the shipment.

11.02.20 – Mo - - -

Rabbi at Cave of Patriarchs prays for Trump election to strengthen people of Israel

11.02.20 – Mo - - -

Settlers pray for Trump re-election at biblical tomb

Rabbi at Cave of Patriarchs cites Republican president's 'commitment to the preservation and strengthening of the people of Israel, the State of Israel and the land of Israel' after his administration softened U.S. disapproval of Israeli settlements project

Reuters| Updated: 11.02.20 , 15:47

Jewish settler leaders prayed on Monday for U.S. President Donald Trump's re-election, citing his support for Israel, during a ceremony at a biblical tomb in the West Bank that has been a flashpoint of conflict with the Palestinians.

"We have come to bless President Trump, both for the past, to thank him, but also for the future, that he succeeds in the coming election," Yishai Fleisher, spokesman for the Hebron settlers, said at the Cave of the Patriarchs burial site.

An Israeli settler adjusts a flag during a gathering to show support for U.S. President Donald Trump in the upcoming U.S. election, at the Cave of the Patriarchs, in the Palestinian city of Hebron

Israeli settlers gather to show support for U.S. President Donald Trump in the upcoming election, at the Cave of the Patriarchs (Photo: Reuters)

One of those interred there, according to tradition, is Abraham, who is revered by Jews, Christians and Muslims.

Hoping to encourage coexistence between Jews and Palestinians, the Trump administration has named the Israeli-Arab rapprochement that it has been brokering the "Abraham Accords".

But Trump, a Republican running against Democratic former vice president Joe Biden in Tuesday's election, has been shunned by Palestinians for perceived bias since he broke with global consensus by recognizing Jerusalem as the Israeli capital.

His administration has also softened U.S. disapproval of Israel's settlements on land where the Palestinians want to establish a state, and which most world powers deem illegal.

A rabbi officiating at Monday's ceremony prayed for God to secure Trump "four more years", citing the president's "commitment to the preservation and strengthening of the people of Israel, the state of Israel and the land of Israel".

A Trump peace plan stirred some settler anger, however, by proposing that Palestinians get a state on 70% of the West Bank.

11.01.20 – Su - - -

Netanyahu praises Trump policies but US Jews in favor of Democratic vote

11.01.20 – Su - - -

Netanyahu praises Trump policies ahead of election

PM says bipartisan support for Israel is 'foundation of American-Israeli alliance,' but his overt support for the incumbent president and his steps taken towards the Jewish state have led to a deeper rift with U.S. Jews

Associated Press| Published: 11.01.20 , 22:48

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday praised President Donald Trump's Mideast policies, even as he avoided openly taking sides ahead of the U.S. presidential election.

The premier told reporters that U.S. bipartisan support has been "one of the foundations of the American-Israeli alliance." He then went on to say "that alliance has never been stronger" and praised a slew of steps taken by Trump in favor of Israel.

He noted the tough U.S. stance toward Iran, recognition of contested Jerusalem as Israel's capital, recognition of Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights, the tolerant approach toward Israeli settlements and the recent diplomatic pacts between Israel and three Arab countries - Bahrain, the UAE and Sudan.

"I can only hope that this policy that brings, that isolates Iran and brings the fruits of peace, peace grounded in reality to the people of Israel, to the Arab peoples of the region, I can only hope that this policy will continue in the coming years," Netanyahu said.

Despite his stated commitment to bipartisan ties with the U.S., Israel's closest and most important ally, Netanyahu has frequently been seen as siding with the Republicans. Netanyahu had a cool relationship with former U.S. President Barack Obama, appeared to favor Republican challenger Mitt Romney in 2012 and then delivered a major speech to Congress in 2015 to argue against Obama's emerging nuclear deal with Iran.

After taking office, Trump unilaterally withdrew the U.S. from Iran's nuclear deal with world powers, winning praise from Netanyahu.

While Trump is popular with the Israeli public, Netanyahu's close relationship with the president appears to be deepening a divide with American Jews. Opinion polls have indicated that American Jews will vote overwhelmingly in favor of Democratic challenger Joe Biden.

11.04.20 – We - - -

IDF kill PA captain; a lone attacker who opened fire on West Bank troops

11.04.20 – We - - -

IDF kills Palestinian who opened fire on troops in West Bank

The suspect, identified as a **member of the Palestinian security forces**, shot **dead after attacking soldiers** at major intersection south of the city of Nablus; PA blames Israel, saying the Palestinian was 'executed'

Associated Press, Ynet| Updated: **11.04.20** , 13:55

The Israeli military said Wednesday that troops killed a Palestinian man who had shot at soldiers **near an army checkpoint in the West Bank**.

The military said in a statement that the Palestinian **gunman opened fire** at a military post south of the city of Nablus, and **troops returned fire**. The military said the gunman was killed. The army said **no troops were wounded**.

The man was identified as a 28-year-old Balal Ruajba - member of the Palestinian Authority's security forces. According to Palestinians, the suspect served in the preventive security unit, which is similar to Israel's Shin Bet service, and held the **rank of a captain**.

The PA blamed Israeli forces for the incident and said the Palestinian was "executed". "May God have mercy on you, Bilal. We came from Allah and to Him we return," said the PA's Foreign Ministry in Facebook post.

The incident came **a few days after** another **IDF force opened fire at a group of suspected terrorists hurling firebombs** at the troops near the city of Jenin on the **northern** side of the **West Bank**.

One member of the group was identified as the son of a prominent Palestinian militant, who is interned in an Israeli jail on terrorism charges.

Israel has seen a **series of shootings, stabbings and car-ramming** attacks in recent years, **mostly** carried out by **lone attackers** with no apparent links to armed groups. Hamas and other Palestinian militant groups have praised the attacks but have not claimed them.

Palestinian and Israeli rights **groups** have **accused Israel** of using excessive force in some instances, and of **killing some suspected attackers who could have been apprehended**.

11.04.20 – We - - -

As America counts, the world holds its breath for US election outcome

11.04.20 – We - - -

As America counts, the world holds its breath for U.S. election outcome

With **counting still to be completed in at least 5 'battleground' states**, hashtags **#Trump**, **#Biden**, **#USElections2020** were trending across the world, emphasizing the importance of the vote for international community

Reuters| Published: **11.04.20** , 15:30

A day after Americans voted in a bitterly contested election, the rest of the world was none the wiser on Wednesday, with millions of votes still to count, the race too close to call and a mounting risk of days or even weeks of legal uncertainty.

Donald Trump's pre-emptive declaration of victory at the White House was condemned by some U.S. political commentators and civil rights groups, who warned about the trampling of long-standing democratic norms.

Most world leaders and foreign ministers sat on their hands, trying not to add any fuel to the electoral fire.

"Let's wait and see what the outcome is," said British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab. "There's obviously a significant amount of uncertainty. It's much closer than I think many had expected."

But while Raab and others urged caution, the Slovenian prime minister broke ranks, congratulating Trump and the Republican party via Twitter.

"It's pretty clear that American people have elected @realDonaldTrump and @Mike_Pence for #4moreyears," wrote Janez Jansa, one of several east European leaders, including Hungary's Viktor Orban, who are fervent Trump allies.

"Congratulations @GOP for strong results across the #US."

The latest vote tally showed Democrat challenger Joe Biden with a lead in the Electoral College - 224 votes to 213, with 270 needed for victory - but with counting still to be completed in at least five major 'battleground' states: Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, North Carolina and Georgia.

In 2000, the election between George W. Bush and Al Gore hinged on Florida. It was ultimately decided in Bush's favour by the U.S. Supreme Court, in a ruling five weeks after the vote.

In his comments, Trump suggested the Supreme Court - to which he has nominated three of the nine justices - would have to decide the winner again.

On Twitter, the hashtags #Trump, #Biden and #USElections2020 were trending from Russia to Pakistan, Malaysia to Kenya and across Europe and Latin America, underscoring how much every region of the world sees the outcome as pivotal.

In Russia, which U.S. intelligence agencies have accused of trying to interfere in the election, there was no official reaction.

But Pro-Kremlin lawmaker Vyacheslav Nikonov, the grandson of Stalin's foreign minister, advised Russians to stock up on popcorn to watch the show he predicted was about to unfold, saying U.S. society was fatally split.

"The result of the elections is the worst outcome for America," Nikonov, who welcomed Trump's 2016 win, wrote on Facebook. "Whoever wins the legal battles half of Americans will not consider them the lawful president. Let's stock up on large quantities of popcorn."

In Australia, crowds watched the results roll in while drinking beer in an American bar in Sydney.

"The news is so much better when Trump is in," said Glen Roberts, wearing a red 'Make Europe Great Again' baseball cap. "You never know what he said, it's so good. I think it'll be less interesting if Trump loses."

Others were quick to underline the ramifications of the U.S. vote worldwide. "I think it affects us all, what happens over there really matters for the next four years over here," said Sydney resident Luke Heinrich.

New York-based Human Rights Watch, one of the world's leading civil rights groups, warned about the need to reserve judgment on the results until every vote is counted. With a very high number of mail-in ballots this year because of the Covid-19 pandemic, full tallies are expected to take days in some states.

Executive director Kenneth Roth said premature declarations of victory were dangerous.

"Autocrats might be perfectly happy to undermine democracy in the United States by welcoming a premature declaration of victory," he said.

China, whose relations with the United States have sunk to their worst in decades under Trump, said the election was a domestic affair and it had "no position on it".

Chinese social media users, however, were quick to mock the failure of the U.S. electoral system to deliver a quick and clear result.

"Whether he wins or loses, his final mission is to destroy the appearance of American democracy," one user on China's Twitter-like Weibo platform wrote on Wednesday.

"Let Trump be re-elected and take the U.S. downhill," another wrote.

In Nigeria, one leading politician, Senator Shehu Sani, said the uncertainty in the United States was reminiscent of Africa.

"Africa used to learn American democracy, America is now learning African democracy," he tweeted to his 1.6 million followers.