

Ynet-News, Nov 28, 2021 – Sunday

11.28.21 – Su- - - News Placed in Nov 28 spot – Sunday

Hamas calls for violence at Hannukah candle-lighting Tomb of the Patriarchs

11.28.21 – Su- - - News Placed in Nov 27 spot – Saturday

Lapid to convey Israel concerns over Iran sanction talks in Vienna starting Monday

11.28.21 – Su- - - News Placed in Nov 26 spot – Friday

Israel will host Miss Universe contest December 12, despite calls for a boycott

11.25.21 – Th- - - News Placed in Nov 25 spot – Thursday

Moroccan press receives Gantz with great fanfare in cooperation agreement

11.25.21 – Th- - - News

Gantz in Morocco to sign defense pact of Israeli radar, drones, jets upgrade

11.24.21 – We- - - News Placed in Nov 24 spot – Wednesday

Israeli police force of 1200 raid Be'er Sheva Bedouins seizing drugs & firearms

11.28.21 – Su- - - News

Iran is playing for time on nuclear talks, insisting all sanctions be dropped

11.28.21

Hamas calls for violence at Hannukah candle-lighting Tomb of the Patriarchs

11.28.21

Hamas calls for violence over Herzog's Hebron candle-lighting

Terrorist group says the president's Hannukah ceremony at the Tomb of the Patriarchs will 'desecrate' the contested site; left-wing organizations, lawmakers join in the condemnation of the move

i24NEWS, Ynet| Published: 11.28.21, 14:12

Palestinian militant group Hamas called for unrest in the West Bank, following news that President Isaac Herzog would light the first candle of Hanukkah at a contested religious site located in Hebron on Sunday.

The Tomb of the Patriarchs is a biblical site that hosts both Jewish prayer sanctuaries as well as the Ibrahimi Mosque, making the site a friction point between Israelis and Palestinians.

A Hamas official called the planned candle-lighting ceremony as a “provocation” and an “attack,” adding that any resulting violence would be the fault of Israel.

“The Israeli occupation must bear full responsibility for the consequences of this attack,” senior Hamas member Ismail Radwan said, adding the ceremony will provoke the Palestinians who view the act as a “blatant desecration of the sanctity of the mosque.” He then called on Palestinians to resist the move.

Left-wing organizations also called for a demonstration in Hebron in protest of the planned celebration in honor of the Jewish Festival of Light, which begins Sunday. Meretz MK Michal Rozen also tweeted that Herzog's decision was "a mistake". “The president should be a unifying personality,” she wrote. “It’s very sad that the president gives priority to this.”

11.28.21

Lapid to convey Israel concerns over Iran sanction talks in Vienna starting Monday

11.28.21

Israel concerned over Iran sanctions relief without cap on nuclear projects

Ahead of renewal of nuclear talks on Monday, Bennett says government has warned world powers against flow of billions of dollars to Tehran 'in exchange for unsatisfactory restrictions'; Lapid travels to UK and France on Sunday

Reuters| Published: 11.28.21, 13:08

Israel worries Iran will secure a windfall in sanctions relief in renewed nuclear negotiations with world powers but will not sufficiently roll back projects with bomb-making potential, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said on Sunday.

Negotiators will convene in Vienna on Monday in a last-ditch effort to salvage a nuclear deal which the United States under then-President Donald Trump quit in 2018, reimposing sanctions on Iran that led to breaches of the deal by Tehran, and dismayed the other powers involved.

Israel, which is not a party to the talks, opposed the original 2015 pact as too limited in scope and duration. Israeli leaders have long threatened military action against Iran if they deem diplomacy a dead end for denying it nuclear weaponry.

The Islamic Republic says its nuclear ambitions are peaceful.

"Israel is very worried about the readiness to remove the sanctions and to allow a flow of billions (of dollars) to Iran in exchange for unsatisfactory restrictions in the nuclear realm," Bennett told his cabinet in televised remarks.

"This is the message that we are relaying in every manner, whether to the Americans or to the other countries negotiating with Iran."

On Sunday, Foreign Minister Yair Lapid is scheduled to travel to the UK and France for meeting with local officials in order to convey Israel's concerns ahead of Monday's resumption of talks.

Few expect a breakthrough in the talks as Iran's uranium enrichment activities have escalated in an apparent bid to gain leverage against the West. Six rounds of indirect talks were held between April and June. The new round begins after a hiatus caused by the election of a new Iranian president, Ebrahim Raisi, a hardline cleric.

11.28.21

Israel will host Miss Universe contest December 12, despite calls for a boycott

11.28.21

Israel will host Miss Universe contest next month despite Omicron, minister says
Tourism Minister Yoel Razvozov says pageant to be televised to 174 countries and participants to be granted waivers from curbs but asked to submit to PCR testing every 48 hours

Reuters, Ynet | Published: 11.28.21, 12:42

Israel will host the Miss Universe beauty pageant as planned next month despite imposing travel restrictions in a bid to stave off the Omicron strain of the coronavirus, the tourism minister said on Sunday.

The 70th Miss Universe pageant is being staged in the southern Israeli resort city of Eilat on December 12.

Yoel Razvozov said participants in the contest will be granted waivers from the curbs while possibly being subject to PCR testing every 48 hours and other precautionary measures.

Israel announced on Saturday it was banning the entry of foreigners into the country in an effort to contain the highly mutated new strain of the pathogen.

"This is an event that will be broadcast in 174 countries, a very important event, a event that Eilat, too, is very much in need of," Razvozov told reporters.

"We will know how to manage this event. So, by using the waivers committee, we will have events like this, to which the country already committed itself and which we cannot cancel."

The decision to hold the pageant in Israel was seen as controversial, with a contestant from Greece boycotting the event and the South African government withdrawing its support for its representative after she refused to pull out of the contest amid calls for a boycott to show support for the Palestinian people.

11.25.21

Moroccan press receives Gantz with great fanfare in cooperation agreement

11.25.21

Moroccan press receives Gantz with great fanfare in historic state visit

Defense minister's visit to the North African nation receives extensive coverage in the local media; paper publishes in full letter penned by Gantz in which he recounts country's historic bond with its Jewry

Liad Osmo| Published: 11.25.21, 22:40

Defense Minister Benny Gantz's historic two-day visit to Morocco did not go unnoticed as local media reported on the former IDF chief extensively and his image graced the front pages of the North African nation's newspapers.

During his visit, Jerusalem's head defense officer and his Moroccan hosts signed a slew of cooperation agreements, with the aim of further cementing the burgeoning bonhomie between the countries which long had to go under the radar up until the signing of the U.S.-brokered Abraham Accords last year.

Gantz's visit is considered a major step-up in bilateral ties which are now also set to include shared endeavors in the fields of trade, commerce and tourism.

One publication published a letter penned by Gantz in which he praises the budding relations between the nations and even commends the past Moroccan kings for their treatment of the country's once-bustling Jewish community.

"The Jewish nation will forever honor Morocco's kings," Gantz wrote. "Under the brave leadership of King Mohammed V, the history of Moroccan Jewry lives on to this day."

"One day in the future, I will sit in my living room with my grandchildren and tell them about my visit to Morocco, how we sealed our place in the history books as the first countries sharing a mutual defense pact. More than 250,000 Jews lived in Morocco in safety and prosperity during one of the darkest chapters of Jewish history as millions of Jewish people were rounded up in trains like cattle and were shipped to death camps all across Europe. My parents lived through the horrors of Nazism. At that time in history, His Majesty King Mohammed V announced to the world: There are no Jews in Morocco. The King's words still resonate within the hearts of Moroccan Jews ...and today, close to half a million Israelis carry their Moroccan culture, language and heritage with pride."

The Defense Minister told the local paper that Jerusalem and Rabat are at a historic point in their relations as they cooperate in the fight against terrorism, intelligence and more.

The same paper published an editorial on Thursday titled "Benny is here, Shalom!"

As Defense Minister Gantz sealed his visit late Thursday and was about to jet off back to Tel Aviv, he thanked Moroccan King Mohamed VI for sponsoring the visit and the other dignitaries with whom he met.

"The historic agreement I signed will enable further development of relations in the intelligence aspect, in military cooperation and in the industrial aspect," he said.

11.25.21

Gantz in Morocco to sign defense pact of Israeli radar, drones, jets upgrade

11.25.21

Morocco said mulling buying Israeli radar, drones, jets upgrade

Defense Minister Gantz, who was in Rabat to sign MOU on security cooperation with kingdom, says agreement would help both Israel and Morocco fend off 'extremist terror as well as border and air threats'

Reuters| Published: 11.25.21, 15:04

Morocco has broached buying Israeli-made pilotless planes and anti-missile systems, and commissioning an Israeli upgrade of some of its fighter jets, Israel's public broadcaster Kan reported on Thursday.

The announcement was made hours after the two countries signed a defense pact that included a two-day visit from Israel Defense Minister Benny Gantz to Morocco's capital of Rabat.

Moroccan and Israeli officials had no immediate comment.

Gantz and his Moroccan counterpart Abdellatif Loudiyi signed a memorandum of understanding that lays the foundation for security cooperation, intelligence sharing, and future arms sales. The two countries established formal relations last year as part of the U.S.-brokered Abraham Accords.

In an Op-Ed published by two Moroccan dailies, the defense minister said that the agreement would help the countries fend off "extremist terror as well as border and air threats".

In the same editorial Gantz lauded Israel's normalization processes with its Muslim neighbors and warned of Iran's threat to these developments.

"This can only be achieved if we stay strong, strengthen our relations with our allies," wrote Gantz.

"Considering the recent positive developments, I am confident that we will work with our Moroccan friends, and with the leadership of our great ally the United States, to strengthen Israel's relations with Jordan, Egypt, the members of the Abraham Accords."

11.24.21

Israeli police force of 1200 raid Be'er Sheva Bedouins seizing drugs & firearms

11.24.21

Massive Israeli police force raids criminals in Bedouin sector

Operation sees 41 people arrested and thousands of illegal cannabis plants destroyed; Comes as part of government's response to the surge in violent crime in Arab sector

Ilana Curie | Published: 11.24.21, 20:06

Approximately 1,200 police officers, some rappelling from choppers, took part in an operation meant to locate and seize illegal drugs and firearms among criminal members of the Bedouin community in the Negev Desert.

The show of force - which focused on the southern city of Be'er Sheva and surrounding villages - is part of the government's six-months plan to combat the spiraling violence among the country's Arab population,

Police said that at least 41 suspects were detained, and that two "Carlo" submachine guns were confiscated alongside over 20 kg of marijuana.

The police added that dozens of greenhouses containing thousands of cannabis plants each were also dismantled.

According to the police, the raid was successful and targeted criminal elements involved in money laundering among other offenses, and that troops confiscated cash and high-prices vehicles.

"[With this operation] ended a lengthy preparatory work which targeted criminals who have posed a danger to public safety in the southern city of Be'er Sheva and the Bedouin sector," the police said in a statement.

Public security Minister Amar Bar-Lev, on his part, said that while he lauded the latest police operation, the war on the rising tide of crime is far from over.

"I will not bask in the success of this operation, as successful as it may be... just as I do not shy away from dealing with the mass brawl between feuding families at the entrance to Soroka Hospital," said Bar-Lev.

"Our fight to restore security to the residents of the south is long, difficult and will be continuous with quite a few ups and downs. It will take time."

According to police data, since the onset of operations to eradicate violent crime in the Arab sector, some 225 people have been arrested - of which only 23 were indicted - and no less than 56 illegal firearms found.

11.28.21

Iran is playing for time on nuclear talks, insisting all sanctions be dropped

11.28.21

Low expectations on nuclear talks as Iran creates facts on the grounds

Ahead of talks between world powers and Tehran, analysts say **unmonitored centrifuge production** will put more pressure on the West to give ground in negotiations quickly
Reuters| Published: **11.28.21**, 09:55

World powers and Iran return to Vienna on Monday for a last ditch effort to salvage a 2015 nuclear deal, but few expect a breakthrough as Tehran's atomic activities rumble on in an apparent bid to gain leverage against the West.

Diplomats say time is running low to resurrect the pact, which then-U.S. President Donald Trump abandoned in 2018, angering Iran and dismaying the other world powers involved - Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia.

Six rounds of indirect **talks** were **held between April and June**. The **new round begins** after a hiatus triggered **by the election of a new Iranian president**, Ebrahim Raisi, a hardline cleric.

Tehran's new negotiating team has set out **demands** that U.S. and European diplomats consider **unrealistic**. They are **insisting** that **all U.S. and EU sanctions** imposed since 2017, including those unrelated to its nuclear program, **be dropped**. In parallel, Tehran's conflicts with the U.N. atomic watchdog, which **monitors** the nuclear program, **have festered**. Iran has pressed ahead with its enrichment program and the IAEA says its inspectors have been treated roughly and **refused access** to re-install **monitoring cameras at a site** it deems essential to reviving the deal with world powers. "They are doing enough technically so they can change their basic relationship with the West to be able to have a more equal dialogue in the future," said a Western diplomat involved in the talks.

Two European diplomats said it seemed **Iran was simply playing for time** to accumulate more material and know-how.

Western diplomats say they will head to **Monday's talks** on the premise that they **resume where they left off in June**. They have warned that if Iran continues with its maximalist positions and fails to restore its cooperation with the IAEA then they will have to quickly review their options.

Iran's top negotiator and foreign minister both **repeated on Friday** that **full sanctions lifting would be the only thing on the table in Vienna**.

"If this is the position that Iran continues to hold on Monday, then I don't see a negotiated solution," said one of the European diplomats.

Several diplomats said **Iran was now** between **four to six weeks away from** the "breakout time" it needs to amass **enough fissile material for a single nuclear weapon**, although they cautioned it was still about **two years from being able to weaponize** it.

Should the talks collapse, the likelihood is the United States and its allies will initially confront Iran at the IAEA next month by calling for an emergency meeting. However, they will also want to try to keep Russia, which has political influence on Iran, and China, which provides economic breathing space to Tehran through oil purchases, on side as they initially seek alternative diplomatic options.

One scenario diplomats say **Washington has suggested** is negotiating an **open-ended** interim **accord with Tehran** as long as a permanent deal isn't achieved. However, they say that it would take time and there is no certainty Iran has any appetite for it.

"**Iran** may **calculate** that its **unconstrained nuclear advances and unmonitored centrifuge** production will put more **pressure on the West** to give ground in talks quickly," Eurasia analyst Henry Rome said in a note.

"But it will likely have the opposite effect, signaling that the new **Iranian team does not** **have an interest in resolving** the **nuclear issue** and hastening the switch toward a more coercive policy next year."