

Ynet-News, Apr 26, 2022 – Tuesday

04.26.22 – Tu- - - News Placed in Apr 26 spot – Tuesday
Knesset vote prevents Chikli from deserting PM's party during this session

04.26.22 – Tu- - - News Placed in Apr 25 spot – Monday
Nuclear talks may crumble as US will not remove Iran from terrorist blacklist

04.26.22 – Tu- - - News Placed in Apr 24 spot – Sunday
Israel thwarts massive weapon smuggling 100 grenades+ from Lebanon

04.25.22 – Mo- - - News
Israel to reopen Gaza crossing after closing it over rockets

04.25.22 – Mo- - - News Placed in Apr 23 spot – Saturday
Eight-Parties trying to keep coalition afloat with 60 seats & ongoing unrest

04.25.22 – Mo- - - News
Israel says it thwarted bomb attack by terrorists from Jenin

04.22.22 – Fr- - - News
Two rockets into southern Israel from Gaza hit near UN school facility

04.22.22 – Fr- - - News Placed in Apr 22 spot – Friday
PA rioters clash with Israeli police on Temple Mount; 57 injured

04.26.22
Knesset vote prevents Chikli from deserting PM's party during this session

04.26.22
Knesset bars breakaway member of PM's party from reelection
Knesset committee votes 7-0 to take action against Amichai Chikli, declaring him a 'defector' in a move largely seen as a warning to former coalition whip Idit Silman, as well as to any other potential government deserters
Associated Press, Ynet| Published: 04.26.22, 13:00

The Knesset has barred a breakaway member of Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's party from running for reelection with any political faction, a small political victory for the premier as he seeks to stabilize the fragile government and a warning to any other rebel lawmakers.

The Knesset committee **voted 7-0 on Monday** to take action against lawmaker Amichai Chikli, declaring him a "defector." Chikli said he **would challenge** the move **in court**. Media reports said that **Bennett had requested the vote**.

Chikli broke away from Bennett's Yamina party almost immediately after the coalition was formed, and has been seen as a **likely candidate for the opposition Likud party** in the future. The **vote prevents him from** doing that during **this session** of the Knesset. It is also a **warning to** former coalition whip Idit **Silman, who resigned** from Bennett's party earlier this month, and any other potential political rebels in the parliament.

Silman's exit deprived the eight-party coalition of its 61-seat majority, less than a year after it was sworn in. That raised the prospect of a new national election at a time of rising tensions with the Palestinians.

The **eight-party alliance**, made up of ultranationalists, dovish parties and a small Islamist faction, is **now deadlocked** with the opposition with **60 seats** each in the 120-member Knesset.

That has greatly complicated the government's ability to pass legislation and raised the risk of plunging the country into snap elections.

Labor Party leader Merav Michaeli, Israel's transportation minister, said Monday that all party chiefs are working together to find a way to preserve the government.

Local media reported that **Chikli may form new party**. He rankled the coalition **last year**, when he **voted with the opposition against renewing** a law that kept Arab citizens from **extending citizenship** or residency rights **to spouses from** the occupied **West Bank** and Gaza. It was a major setback for Bennett that cast doubt on the future of the coalition.

"**Israel needs a functioning Zionist government, and not a mismatched patchwork** that is **reliant on**" the **votes of Arab** lawmakers, Chikli said at the time.

Bennett's unwieldy coalition also faces other challenges. Ongoing **unrest** surrounding a flashpoint Jerusalem holy site, known to Jews as the **Temple Mount** and to Muslims as the Al-Aqsa **Mosque** compound, has prompted the small Islamist party **Ra'am** -- the first Arab party to serve in an Israeli coalition - to temporarily **suspend its participation** in protest.

04.26.22

Nuclear talks may crumble as US will not remove Iran from terrorist blacklist

04.26.22

Israel says Iran nuclear talks may crumble as U.S. adamant on demands

Senior Israeli official says Biden's **decision to keep** Revolutionary **Guard** Corps **on** America's notorious **terror list could** **see negotiations fall apart**, with talks estimated to have been 'frozen'

Itamar Eichner | Published: 04.26.22, 12:49

Talks between Iran and the United States may soon fall apart as the **two sides** appear to be **unwilling to compromise** on their demands, a senior Israeli official said Tuesday. The official said U.S. President Joe **Biden's** decision **not to consent to one of Iran's main demands** and **remove** the Islamic Republic's Revolutionary **Guard Corps (IRGC)** **from** its foreign **terrorist** organization **blacklist** will have dire repercussions vis-à-vis the negotiations meant to revive the tattered 2015 nuclear agreement.

Washington had previously mulled whether to reverse former U.S. President Donald Trump's 2019 decision to blacklist the Iranian paramilitary group as part of the ongoing nuclear negotiations - which are now reportedly on hold - in return for Iranian assurances they would reign in the elite force.

While Biden presented a firm stance regarding the decision to keep the IRGC - which Washington accuses of carrying out a **global terrorist campaign** - on America's notorious terror list, there are those who think a compromise will eventually be reached, and **negotiations will be continued.**

"The talks **did not collapse** completely, **but have been frozen,**" an Israeli official said Monday.

"The agreement is ready, but the controversy surrounding America's terror list, coupled with the [nuclear watchdog's] investigation of Teheran, have all resulted in a Mexican standoff. Each side is waiting for the other to break," he said.

Meanwhile, National Security Adviser Dr. Eyal Hulata is currently in Washington, where he is holding talks with his American counterparts as part of Israel's efforts to reach maximum coordination with the United States in case negotiations collapse and the **Iranians start violating past agreements.**

Several Israeli officials have previously said that **Jerusalem will keep regarding** the IRGC as a **terrorist** organization **even if the U.S. removes the label** from the powerful paramilitary group.

Foreign Minister Yair Lapid said that "even if the U.S. government removes the IRGC from the terrorist organization list, as far as Israel is concerned, both on the practical and military level, **it is still a terrorist organization, and it will be treated as such.**"

Lapid's hardline stance was echoed by Defense Minister Benny Gantz, who said that the IRGC is "a terror organization and should be viewed as such," and that **Iran** is "**more than a regional problem,**" labeling it as a "global issue and an existential **threat to Israel**".

04.26.22

Israel thwarts massive weapon smuggling 100 grenades+ from Lebanon

04.26.22

Israel thwarts massive weapon smuggling attempt from Lebanon

Police says Hezbollah's involvement was being investigated, after previous smuggling incidents in northern Israel were linked to the terror group; adds hundreds of grenades were seized, raising suspicion they were intended 'for attacks in crowded civilian places' Ahiya Raved, Yoav Zitun| Published: 04.26.22, 11:08

The Israeli military and police forces foiled a massive weapon smuggling attempt from Lebanon on Monday night.

Police said the involvement of Lebanon-based Hezbollah was being investigated, after previous smuggling incidents in northern Israel pointed toward the connection of the terror group, which is known to employ Israeli criminals in order to smuggle weapons across the border.

During the raid, the forces seized some 100 grenades of various kinds, as well as two rifles allegedly intended for future terror attacks within Israel.

"Hezbollah obtains weapons while ensuring that at least some of them are kept for terrorist activity, thus trying to create an infrastructure for terrorist attacks within Israel's territory," the police said in its statement.

"The fact that grenades were seized - an unusual weapon that was never uncovered during smuggling raids in the past - raises the suspicion that they were intended for attacks in crowded civilian places."

The police further lauded the officers of the Northern District Border Unit, "who operate throughout the Northern District, bordering Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, and these elite fighters work with the rest of the Central Unit police all year round... to prevent and thwart smuggling of weapons and dangerous drugs into Israel."

According to police data, since the beginning of 2022, Israeli forces thwarted dozens of smuggling attempts, during which they seized 148 pistols, 23 assault rifles and other weapons, as well as drugs with a cumulative value of millions of shekels.

The smuggling attempt from Lebanon comes less than a day after Israeli forces seized an illegal gun shipment worth around \$24 million, which was bound to Israel through the Jordanian border.

Police added that a 29-years-old resident of Jericho suspected of being linked to the smuggling attempt was arrested shortly after the guns were seized.

"Seizures of weapons in Arab local authorities and villages have increased demand, with traders and smugglers being forced to take increasing risks when it comes to acquiring weapons," said the commander of the Border Police unit who seized the guns near the Jordanian border.

"In the unit's unique activity since the beginning of the year, pistols and assault rifles were seized, which if we had not caught, would have reached criminal elements across the country... [and used] for terrorist attacks, the likes of which we experienced recently."

04.25.22

Israel to reopen Gaza crossing after closing it over rockets

04.25.22

Israel to reopen Gaza crossing after closing it over rockets

Jerusalem to reverse punitive measures designed to tighten screws on Hamas despite rising Israeli-Palestinian tensions and consequent rocket fire from the coastal enclave

Reuters| Published: 04.25.22, 21:44

Israel said Monday it will reopen its border crossing with the Gaza Strip to Palestinian workers after closing it for several days following rocket attacks from the Palestinian enclave.

COGAT, the Israeli military body coordinating civilian affairs in Gaza, said the opening of the Erez Crossing on Tuesday would be conditioned "on the maintenance of a stable security situation in the area."

In recent months, Israel had issued thousands of work permits to Palestinians from Gaza, which has been under a crippling Israeli and Egyptian blockade since Hamas seized power from rival Palestinian forces nearly 15 years ago.

Israel grants permits to some 12,000 Palestinians in Gaza and over 100,000 to Palestinians in the West Bank, mostly for work in construction and agriculture. The job permits have been an economic lifeline for thousands of Gazan families and were considered to be a key factor in maintaining stability before the latest fighting broke out.

The decision to close the border — designed to put further strain on Gaza's struggling economy and tighten the screws on its Islamist Hamas rulers to maintain cross-border calm — came after days of rising tensions between Israel and the Palestinians following a flurry of deadly terror attacks across the country which left 14 Israelis dead, as well as a string of consequent arrest raids in the West Bank.

The holy month of Ramadan — a period of heightened religious fervor usually accompanied by an uptick in Palestinian violence — has also contributed to increasing in security tensions, which culminated in clashes between Palestinians and Israeli police at Jerusalem's most sensitive holy site, including at the Al-Aqsa Mosque, where Ramadan prayers take place.

The recent escalation also saw the first rocket attacks into Israel from the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip in months.

04.25.22

Eight-Parties trying to keep coalition afloat with 60 seats & ongoing unrest

04.25.22

Parties trying to keep coalition afloat, minister says

Michaeli says 'it's a challenging moment' for unwieldy coalition after losing majority in Knesset which greatly complicates government's ability to pass legislation and raises risk of plunging the country into snap elections

Associated Press| Published: 04.25.22, 17:13

A key partner in Israel's governing coalition said Monday that all the factions are working to try and keep the fragile coalition afloat, less than a year after it was sworn into office. The coalition has come under threat by internal squabbles and escalating violence with the Palestinians.

Earlier this month a member of Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's party split from the ruling coalition, leaving the government without a majority in parliament and raising the possibility of yet another national election after years of political chaos.

The eight-party alliance, made up of ultranationalists, dovish parties and a small Islamist faction, is now deadlocked with the opposition with 60 seats each in the 120-member Knesset. That has greatly complicated the government's ability to pass legislation and raised the risk of plunging the country into snap elections.

"It is a challenging moment for the coalition, for sure. Politically speaking, there are obstacles," Labor Party leader Merav Michaeli said. But she expressed hope for the government's survival.

Michaeli, who is the transportation minister, said that all party chiefs "are working together in order to find every way to keep this government, and to keep it working the way it has been doing so far," she said, speaking at a meeting of the Foreign Press Association in Jerusalem.

Idit Silman served as coalition whip until her departure from Yamina, the small hard-line party led by Bennett, earlier this month. She said in a resignation letter that "key values in my worldview are inconsistent with current reality," days after voicing vehement opposition to allowing bread into public hospitals on the Jewish holiday of Passover. Yamina is popular among religious-nationalist Jews, who refrain from consuming bread during the holiday.

Bennett's coalition also faces other challenges. Ongoing unrest surrounding a flashpoint Jerusalem holy site, known to Jews as the Temple Mount and to Muslims as the al-Aqsa Mosque compound, has prompted the small Islamist party Ra'am — the first Arab party to serve in an Israeli coalition — to temporarily suspend its participation in protest.

Israeli leaders have accused Hamas of orchestrating the violence in Jerusalem and encouraging young Palestinians to confront police. Palestinians accuse Israeli police of using excessive force and point to the huge numbers of Jewish visitors to the al-Aqsa compound during Passover as a source of tension.

Under longstanding norms, Jews are allowed to visit the site but not to pray there. But many have begun to quietly pray in recent years, raising Palestinian concerns that Israel is plotting to take over or divide the site. Israel denies the allegations.

Michaeli declined to cast blame for the latest outbreak of violence but said all sides should act reasonably.

"I would like to reduce to a minimum anything that causes violence or hardships in the Temple Mount," Michaeli said, adding that Israel needs to reach a political agreement with the Palestinians that would also encompass the future status of the contested holy site.

The clashes at the Jerusalem shrine are part of a broader wave of violence that has seen several deadly Palestinian attacks inside Israel, lethal Israeli arrest raids in the West Bank and violence between Israel and Gaza's ruling Hamas militant group. On Monday, a rocket was launched from Lebanon into Israel, which struck back with tank shelling.

Bennett's unwieldy coalition came to power following a protracted political crisis that saw Israelis go to the polls four times in about two years.

Despite their ideological differences, the eight parties banded together to oust former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who now serves as opposition leader.

04.25.22

Israel says it thwarted bomb attack by terrorists from Jenin

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Shin Bet reveals it has uncovered a terror cell in West Bank, set up by Islamic Jihad operatives in Gaza, who trained militants to construct a 'rocket-like' explosive; main suspect is previously convicted mother-of-four from West Bank village

Yoav Zitun | Published: 04.25.22, 14:28

Israel said Monday the Shin Bet domestic security services have thwarted a bomb attack planned by terrorists from the Jenin area in the West Bank.

The plot was uncovered during Shin Bet's operation to dismantle a terror cell that had been established in recent months by the Palestinian Islamic Jihad in the West Bank.

The investigation revealed that seven Palestinians living in Jenin and its surrounding areas were recruited through social networks by Islamic Jihad operatives in Gaza, who trained the would-be militants and provided them with equipment.

The PIJ operatives also sent them materials for production of a "rocket-like" explosive device for the purpose of carrying out a terror attack on Israeli territory.

At least six suspects have been indicted so far in connection with the case.

The most prominent suspect appears to be Yasmin Shaaban, a mother of four from the village of Jalamah in the West Bank, who has previously served a prison sentence for her involvement in planning a suicide bombing with the help of terror elements in Gaza.

According to the suspicion, Shaaban mediated between the main PIJ recruiter and other members of the cell in the West Bank, and assisted them in transferring funds, weapons and ammunition.

Her arrest ultimately led to the terror cell being uncovered. Along with her, Muhammad Yassin, a resident of the village of Deir Abu Da'if, was also arrested. According to the investigation, he also recruited several residents from his village for the operation.

The Shin Bet said that "in recent years, there has been a campaign by all terror groups in the Gaza Strip to exploit Palestinians living in the West Bank to promote terror activity."

"This is a systematic and widespread activity that is motivated by organizations, including the Islamic Jihad, in order to destabilize the entire area. The Shin Bet, the IDF and the Israel Police will continue their determined work to locate and thwart any terrorist activity aimed at harming the security of Israeli citizens."

04.22.22

Two rockets into southern Israel from Gaza hit near UN school facility

04.22.22

Two rockets fired into southern Israel from the Gaza Strip, IDF says

One rocket crashes in an open field on the Israeli side of the border while another falls short and explodes near a UN school in the city of Beit Hanoun on the northeast edge of Gaza, lightly injuring one passerby

Elior Levy, Yoav Zitun | Published: 04.22.22, 23:05

Two rockets were fired into southern Israel from the Gaza Strip, the military said Friday night.

One of the rockets crashed in an open field on the Israeli side of the border barrier while another fell short and landed in the city of Beit Hanoun on the northeast edge of Gaza.

The rocket that landed in Beit Hanoun exploded near a UN facility that operates as a school. The Palestinians reported one passerby was lightly injured in the explosion and was taken to a local hospital.

There were no reports of injuries or property damage on the Israeli side.

The IDF Spokesperson's Unit said that the launches did not set off air raid sirens in Israeli communities bordering the Palestinian enclave.

This is the third time that rockets launched from Gaza landed in southern Israel within less than a week.

On Wednesday, Gaza terrorists launched a rocket that crashed in the southern city of Sderot, causing damage to a residential home and several cars. The military said that the Iron Dome missile defense system was not activated.

In response, the IDF struck that night what it called "an underground complex in Gaza used to produce rocket engines" which will "significantly impede rocket manufacturing capabilities in Gaza". It added that "we hold Hamas responsible for all terrorist activities emanating from Gaza". Several Hamas air defense positions were also destroyed in an attack.

Sirens blared again around 2:30am and several Iron Dome interceptors were launched. The military said they were triggered by machinegun fire targeting Israeli fighter jets and that the firing of the interceptors was being investigated. The fighter jets returned to base unscathed.

Sirens went off for a fourth time at 5:25am due to a rocket that fell short within Gaza, according to the IDF.

04.22.22

Palestinian rioters clash with Israeli police on Temple Mount; 57 injured

04.22.22

Palestinian rioters clash with Israeli police on Temple Mount

After hours of relative calm at Jerusalem landmark, crowd of hundreds — some masked and flying Hamas flags — attack police with stones and fireworks; officers deploy tear gas in response; 57 injured

Reuters, Ynet | Published: 04.22.22, 19:22

At least 57 Palestinian rioters were injured in clashes with Israeli police within the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in Jerusalem on Friday, medics said, as violence persisted during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan at a site also revered by Jews.

Israeli police said they intervened when hundreds of people hurled rocks and fireworks and drew close to the Western Wall, where Jewish worship was underway. A policewoman was injured by a stone and a tree was set alight by the fireworks, police said.

Rioting began about an hour after the end of the noon prayer. After the prayers seemed to have passed quietly, about 450 Muslims, including masked men, marched in the direction of the police station on the Temple Mount and threw stones at it, which forced police to drop tear gas from a drone to disperse the crowd.

Meanwhile, the police said they had arrested a suspect from the Islamist Hizb ut-Tahrir movement for allegedly inciting a crowd of worshipers on the Temple Mount overnight to defend al-Aqsa "and liberate the mosque with weapons and force."

His remarks also fueled chants praising Mohammed Deif, the shadowy leader of Hamas' military wing — the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades.

The rioters prepared for the clashes the night before, setting up fortifications and stockpiling stones and fireworks. The rioters — some of them masked and flying Hamas flags — began rampaging in the early morning hours, and despite the stone-throwing, the police waited for the prayer to end and the faithful left before taking action.

The surge of violence has raised fears of a relapse into a broader conflict like last year's war between Israel and the Palestinian Hamas Islamists ruling the Gaza Strip.

Hamas fighters "have their fingers on the rifle triggers, and we will defend Al-Aqsa mosque with all our might", Hamas official Mushir al-Masri told a rally in northern Gaza. Tensions

Since March, 29 Palestinians were killed in the West Bank in a series of counterterrorism raids that followed a flurry of Islamist terrorist attacks that claimed the lives of 14 Israelis.

Tensions this year have been fanned by the fact Ramadan coincided with the Jewish celebration of Passover. That has brought more Muslim and Jewish visitors to the compound, which is a vestige of two ancient Jewish temples.

Palestinians accuse Israel of restricting Muslim worship at al-Aqsa — the third holiest site in Islam — while not doing enough to enforce a long-standing ban on Jewish prayer at the compound. Israel denies this.

As in previous years, Israel is halting Jewish visits during the final days of Ramadan, starting Friday, an Israeli official said.

Al-Aqsa compound sits atop the Old City plateau of East Jerusalem, which Israel captured from Jordan in the 1967 Six-Day War. Palestinians want East Jerusalem as the capital of their hoped-for future state.

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Ynet-News, Apr 21, 2022 – Thursday

04.21.22 – Th- - - News

Israel says no change to status-quo at mosque; 10-day ban on Jewish visits

04.21.22 – Th- - - News Placed in Apr 21 spot – Thursday

Hamas escalation resumes on Temple Mount seeking a full-blown conflict

04.19.22 – Tu- - - News Placed in Apr 19 spot – Tuesday

Thousands march to dismantled settlement; demanding Bennett to choose sides

04.19.22 – Tu- - - News

UAE reproves envoy over Temple Mount violence & cancels Israeli celebration

04.19.22 – Tu- - - News

Gaza militants prepare defensive and offensive tunnel systems for next conflict

04.19.22 – Tu- - - News

Russian ownership of Alexander Nevsky Church, waits for court to convene

04.19.22 – Tu- - - News

US envoy Blinken stresses status quo importance at Jerusalem Muslim shrine

04.19.22 – Tu- - - News

Recently released Radical cleric incited Mosque clashes; Lapid calming tensions

04.19.22 – Tu- - - News

Israel strikes Gaza weapons facility in response to rocket fire from Strip

04.19.22 – Tu- - - News Placed in Apr 20 spot – Wednesday

Russia launches 'Battle of Donbas' on eastern front, linking with Crimea

04.18.22 – Mo- - - News

Jordan calls on Israel to cease attempts to 'change status quo around al-Aqsa'

04.18.22 – Mo- - - News

Iron Dome intercepted Gaza rocket; PA warns rescinding relief escalates tension

04.18.22 – Mo- - - News

Putin assured Abbas; to provide PA & Mid-East food security; waving fist at Israel

04.18.22 – Mo- - - News

Amman letter; Israel must stop attempts to change legal status quo of al-Aqsa Mosque