

Ynet-News, July 11, 2022 – Monday

07.11.22 – Mo- - - News Placed in July 11 spot – Monday

Condolence to Japan PM; Jerusalem illuminated entrance with Israel & Japan flags

07.10.22 – Su- - - News Placed in July 10 spot – Sunday

Sa'ar & Gantz partnership to unite all faiths & prevent Netanyahu power

07.10.22 – Su- - - News

Israel's homeless population growing but response anemic to house only a third

07.08.22 – Fr- - - News Placed in July 08 spot – Friday

Gantz meets PA president Abbas ahead of Biden visit to avoid instability

07.07.22 – Th- - - News Placed in July 07 spot – Thursday

Gantz 150 meetings export arms to Arabs & expects to present Iron Beam to US

07.07.22 – Th- - - News Placed in July 06 spot – Wednesday

Boris Johnson quits as UK prime minister, after lies, scandals and fraud

07.05.22 – Tu- - - News Placed in July 05 spot – Tuesday

Macron urges PM Lapid to make peace with PA West Bank settlements

07.11.22

Condolence to Japan PM; Jerusalem illuminated entrance with Israel & Japan flags

07.11.22

Israeli cities pay homage to slain Japanese PM Abe

Jerusalem illuminates central bridge with flags of Israel and Japan; Netanyahu renames Japanese garden after assassinated leader; mayors cite Abe's special relationship with Israel

TPS| Updated: 07.11.22, 14:38

Israeli cities paid homage to former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who was considered a close friend of Israel and who worked to build close ties between the two countries.

Abe, who was the longest-serving prime minister in modern Japanese history, was shot dead in the southern city of Nara on Friday during a political campaign event.

The Jerusalem Municipality illuminated the Light Rail Bridge at the entrance to the city with the flags of Israel and Japan on Sunday night as a sign of solidarity with the Japanese people.

Jerusalem's Mayor Moshe Leon stated that "the city of Jerusalem sends its condolences to the Japanese people and mourns the death of a friend of Israel, a great leader for his people and the whole world. I wish from Jerusalem, the city of peace, comfort and reconciliation for the whole world."

Miriam Fierberg-Ikar, mayor of the coastal city of Netanya, decided to name a spectacular Japanese garden located in the heart of Planetaniya — the city's science, space, and cultural center — after Abe.

The garden has Japanese symbolic elements, including a water fountain, a bridge, a lantern and a combination of bonsai trees.

Fierberg-Ikar noted that Abe was "a lover of Israel, worked hard to strengthen relations between the two countries, and under his leadership, Japan became a true friend of the State of Israel."

Besides visiting Jerusalem's Yad Vashem Holocaust museum during his 2018 trip to Israel, Abe also made sure to visit other Holocaust-related sites around the world, including the Holocaust Museum in Washington and the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam.

"It is only natural that we should commemorate his name at the Planetaniya, which was established thanks to the generous donation of Rikiharu, a Tokyo businessman, who also felt a special connection to the Jewish people."

The center is also located on a street named after Chiune Sugihara, a Righteous Among the Nations who served as a Japanese vice-consul in Lithuania during World War II and provided visas to thousands of Jewish refugees who fled the Nazis, including some Netanya residents nicknamed "the Japanese."

Knesset Speaker Mickey Levy paid a visit to Japanese Ambassador to Israel Koichi Mizushima at his residence on Monday and offered his condolences over Abe's departure. Levy was the first to sign in the condolence book in memory of Abe, where he wrote "I was saddened to hear about the assassination of former PM Shinzo Abe. His tragic death is a despicable act of violence that has no place in a democratic society.

PM Abe was a great friend of Israel and the architect of the robust relations we enjoy today. Shinzo Abe will be sorely missed. On behalf of the Knesset, I extend my deepest condolences to his family, friends, and the people of Japan."

07.10.22,

Sa'ar & Gantz partnership to unite all faiths & prevent Netanyahu power

07.10.22,

In political partnership, Gantz and Sa'ar aim for unity government

Announcing their run together in November ballot, Blue & White and New Hope parties set to appeal to anti-Netanyahu right wing voters and ultra-Orthodox parties to form broad coalition; say they can deliver country from worst crisis of democracy brought on by Netanyahu

Moran Azulai, Yuval Karni| Published: 07.10.22, 20:58

Gideon Sa'ar and Benny Gantz announced on Sunday, that they will join forces in the next elections with the aim of forming a broad unity government

"Israel is in the midst of its worst crisis of democracy," Blue & White leader Benny Gantz said. "The tone is set by the extremes as [former prime minister Benjamin] Netanyahu drags his Likud party to hurt the principles of democracy and Israel deserves better."

Gantz went on to say that in partnership with New Hope's Saar, intend to present a centrist government that will solve the crisis, reject racism and unite all Israelis of all faiths.

Saar said he saw Gantz as the leader of the new political home who has proven his modesty and commitment to the interests of Israel and Israelis.

According to the latest polls, a joint run could bring them more than double the votes than if they were each to run separately, bolstering the opposition to Benjamin Netanyahu.

Both party leaders have said they would not join a Netanyahu led government under any circumstances.

Gantz had already experienced Netanyahu's broken assurances when the former prime minister reneged on his commitments in the coalition agreement signed between the two early in 2020,

Sa'ar a former ally of Netanyahu and a high ranking member of the Likud party, launched his independent political venture specifically in order to prevent Netanyahu from holding on to power in the 2021 ballot.

The two believe themselves to be the only factions in the parliamentary bloc opposing Netanyahu, who could cooperate with ultra-Orthodox parties, who have been part of Netanyahu's right-wing and religious bloc, in forming a future government.

This could position their joint list ahead, to form a cabinet after the elections.

07.10.22,

Israel's homeless population growing but response anemic to house only a third

07.10.22,

Israel's homeless population growing but response anemic, report says

Study shows that hundreds of cases of street dwellers that are treated on a local level go unreported each year as resources allocated barely cover a fraction of group's needs

Hadar Gil-ad| Published: 07.10.22, 10:56

Israel's homeless population has been growing steadily in recent years, already numbering in the thousands, but the state does not adequately address its needs, a new Knesset report published last week found.

"Treatment of homeless people is done in several different ways, both through government ministries and through local authorities, but like we see in other phenomena, here too there is a lack of holistic understanding of all the resources needed [to prevent people from winding up on the street] and rehabilitation," MK Yasmin Sacks Friedman, who commissioned the report, said.

Many homeless people in Israel are struggling with mental issues, drug addiction and chronic diseases that are left unattended. Feeling abandoned and increasingly wary of society, many of them avoid seeking help.

The report points to glaring gaps between Welfare Ministry data on the country's homeless population and that of local authorities.

According to ministry data, some 2,000 individuals experiencing homelessness received aid in 2019. Their number grew to 2,250 the following year, 86% of them were men and 67% were aged 26-55.

On the other hand, according to data collected by the Welfare Ministry from 89 departments for social services in local authorities, about 3,470 homeless people were treated in 2020 when about 29% received short-term treatment that was not reported or treated but not registered as homeless.

In addition, local authorities report about 800 street dwellers in their jurisdiction who are not treated, of whom 345 are not interested in receiving care or are unmotivated to receive it, and about 455 other street dwellers who are not recognized, but authorities know or estimate they live in their jurisdiction.

The report's authors point out that these discrepancies in data collection demonstrate the ambiguity around the size of Israel's homeless population and that the country's homeless shelters can house only about a third of its street dwellers.

07.08.22

Gantz meets PA president Abbas ahead of Biden visit to avoid instability

07.08.22

Gantz meets Palestinian president Abbas ahead of Biden visit

In their third public meeting, the two men agree to security coordination during the visit of U.S. President Joe Biden next week; Defense Ministry describes meeting as in 'positive terms'

Associated Press, Ynet| Published: 07.08.22, 07:34

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Defense Minister Benny Gantz met Thursday in the West Bank to discuss security coordination ahead of U.S. President Joe Biden's visit to the region next week.

The Defense Ministry described the meeting in Ramallah, as being held in "positive terms" and revolved around security coordination as well as regional security concerns.

Gantz wished Abbas and the Palestinian people a happy Eid al-Adha, a Muslim holiday beginning this weekend, the statement said adding that the two men agreed to "continue security coordination and to avoid activities that may cause instability."

Abbas "stressed the importance of creating a political horizon, respecting the signed agreements and stopping the actions and measures that lead to the deterioration of the situation," Hussein al-Sheikh, a senior aide, tweeted.

The Palestinian president also stressed the importance of having a "calm atmosphere before President Biden's visit, which we welcome," the tweet said.

Gantz met with Abbas a couple of times last year and announced measures to improve economic conditions in the West Bank. He remains defense minister in a caretaker government ahead of elections planned for Nov. 1.

The peace process collapsed more than a decade ago. High-level meetings between Israeli and Palestinian leaders are rare and tend to focus on day-to-day economic and security coordination.

Biden is expected to meet with top Israeli and Palestinian leaders next week.

07.07.22

Gantz 150 meetings export arms to Arabs & expects to present Iron Beam to US

07.07.22

Israeli arms exports to Arab states surge post Abraham Accords, Gantz says

In 2 years since signing of Abraham Accords, Jerusalem and regional allies have inked defense procurement deals at a total worth of more than of \$3 billion

Yoav Zitun | Published: 07.07.22, 15:13

Defense Minister Benny Gantz revealed on Wednesday that since the signing of the Abraham Accords, Israeli arms exports to Arab countries surged significantly.

Speaking to reports, Gantz said that since the signing of the historic U.S.-brokered peace agreements between Jerusalem and a host of Muslim-majority countries, Israeli defense and military officials have held north of 150 meetings with regional allies and inked defense procurement deals with a total worth in excess of \$3 billion.

Defense officials believe the war in Ukraine would fuel a buying frenzy of Israeli-made defense systems among European armies.

Meanwhile, Gantz, alongside senior Defense Ministry and Israel Air Force officials, is expected to present Israel's new indigenously-developed laser-based missile defense system Iron Beam to U.S. President Joe Biden during his visit to the Jewish state next week.

The game-changer defense system, in which Israel's defense establishment is said to have invested more than one billion shekels, was successfully tested earlier this year and is said to be able to intercept missiles, drones and mortars shells. Israel would seek financial support from the U.S. for the completion of the project that would allow the Jewish state to intercept almost any threat at a minimal cost.

However, senior defense officials are concerned that the dispersal of the Knesset and the upcoming general elections would jam up the strategically sensitive project. Gantz vowed to allocate north of NIS 500 million (\$143 million) to complete works on the system which is expected to become operational within two years at the very least.

07.07.22

Boris Johnson quits as UK prime minister, after lies, scandals and fraud

07.07.22

After scandals, Boris Johnson quits as UK prime minister  
Once popular leader, Johnson bows out after tidal wave of desertions from his cabinet leaves him with no other choice, names new ministers despite impending departure  
Reuters| Published: 07.07.22, 14:59

Scandal-ridden Boris Johnson announced on Thursday he would quit as British prime minister after he was abandoned by ministers and most of his Conservative lawmakers.

Bowing to the inevitable as more than 50 ministers quit and lawmakers said he must go, an isolated and powerless Johnson spoke outside his Downing Street to confirm he would resign.

"The process of choosing that new leader should begin now. And today I have appointed a cabinet to serve, as I will until a new leader is in place," Johnson said. After days of battling for his job, the scandal-plagued Johnson had been deserted by all but a handful of allies after the latest in a series of scandals broke their willingness to support him.

"His resignation was inevitable," Justin Tomlinson, deputy chairman of the Conservative Party, said on Twitter. "As a party we must quickly unite and focus on what matters. These are serious times on many fronts."  
The Conservatives will now have to elect a new leader, a process that could take weeks or months.

A snap YouGov poll found that defense minister Ben Wallace was the favourite among Conservative Party members to replace Johnson, followed by junior trade minister Penny Mordaunt and former finance minister Rishi Sunak. Many said he should leave immediately and hand over to his deputy, Dominic Raab, saying he had lost the trust of his party.

Keir Starmer, leader of the main opposition Labour Party, said he would call a parliamentary confidence vote if the Conservatives did not remove Johnson at once. "If they don't get rid of him, then Labour will step up in the national interest and bring a vote of no confidence because we can't go on with this prime minister clinging on for months and months to come," he said.

The crisis comes as Britons are facing the tightest squeeze on their finances in decades, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, with soaring inflation, and the economy forecast to be the weakest among major nations in 2023 apart from Russia.

It also follows years of internal division sparked by the narrow 2016 vote to leave the European Union, and threats to the make-up of the United Kingdom itself with demands for another Scottish independence referendum, the second in a decade.

Support for Johnson had evaporated during one of the most turbulent 24 hours in recent British political history, epitomized by finance minister Nadhim Zahawi who was only appointed to his post on Tuesday, calling on his boss to resign.

Zahawi and other cabinet ministers had gone to Downing Street on Wednesday evening, along with a senior representative of those lawmakers not in government, to tell Johnson the game was up.

Initially, Johnson refused to go and seemed set to dig in, sacking Michael Gove - a member of his top ministerial team who was one of the first to tell him he needed to resign - in a bid to reassert his authority.

One ally had told the Sun newspaper that party rebels would "have to dip their hands in blood" to get rid of Johnson.

But by Thursday morning as a slew of resignations poured in, it became clear his position was untenable.

"This is not sustainable and it will only get worse: for you, for the Conservative Party and most importantly of all the country," Zahawi said on Twitter. "You must do the right thing and go now."

Some of those that remained in post, including defense minister Ben Wallace, said they were only doing so because they had an obligation to keep the country safe.

There had been so many ministerial resignations that the government had been facing paralysis. Despite his impending departure, Johnson began appointing ministers to vacant posts.

"It is our duty now to make sure the people of this country have a functioning government," Michael Ellis, a minister in the Cabinet Office department which oversees the running of government, told parliament.

From popular to deserted

The ebullient Johnson came to power nearly three years ago, promising to deliver Brexit and rescue it from the bitter wrangling that followed the 2016 referendum.

Since then, some Conservatives had enthusiastically backed the former journalist and London mayor while others, despite reservations, supported him because he was able to appeal to parts of the electorate that usually rejected their party.

That was borne out in the December 2019 election. But his administration's combative and often chaotic approach to governing and a series of scandals exhausted the goodwill of many of his lawmakers while opinion polls show he is no longer popular with the public at large.

The recent crisis erupted after lawmaker Chris Pincher, who held a government role involved in pastoral care, was forced to quit over accusations he groped men in a private member's club.

Johnson had to apologize after it emerged that he was briefed that Pincher had been the subject of previous sexual misconduct complaints before he appointed him. The prime minister said he had forgotten.

This followed months of scandals and missteps, including a damning report into boozy parties at his Downing Street residence and office that broke COVID-19 lockdown rules and saw him fined by police over a gathering for his 56th birthday.

There have also been policy U-turns, an ill-fated defense of a lawmaker who broke lobbying rules, and criticism that he has not done enough to tackle inflation, with many Britons struggling to cope with rising fuel and food prices.

"It should have happened long ago," Labour's Starmer said. "He was always unfit for office. He has been responsible for lies, scandal and fraud on an industrial scale."

07.05.22

Macron urges PM Lapid to make peace with PA West Bank settlements

07.05.22

Macron urges PM to make historical peace with Palestinians

French president says there is no alternative to political dialogue to ease tensions; Lapid says no new settlements to be established but construction to meet natural growth, expected adding Palestinian question not focus of talks

Reuters| Published: 07.05.22, 20:48

France urged Prime Minister, Yair Lapid, on Tuesday to restart peace talks with the Palestinians, but Lapid played down such prospects, citing rightist elements in his caretaker government ahead of a November election.

"The people of Israel is lucky" to have Lapid as its premier, French President Emmanuel Macron said ahead of a meeting between the two leaders in Paris.

Speaking to cameras, Macron said there was "no alternative" to political dialogue to ease tensions between Israelis and Palestinians.



"I know how much you can mark history if you relaunch this process, which has been broken for too long," Macron said, adding that he believed Lapid "has what it takes" to succeed.

Lapid, a secularist and centrist, has long argued that restarting talks on Palestinian statehood that stalled in 2014 would be good for Israel's long-time needs. But, having assumed the premiership from nationalist governing partner Naftali Bennett last year, he inherited a coalition that includes hawks opposed to ceding occupied land to the Palestinians.

"We spoke about the Palestinian issue, but it wasn't the major part of the discussion," Lapid told reporters in a briefing after his meeting with Macron.

"The government make-up remains what it is and the limitations remain what they are," he said, adding that the French "have a full understanding of this" although their questions were "totally legitimate."

Lapid said he did not rule out a meeting with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, but said it was unlikely in the coming four months, a reference to the Nov. 1 election.

"I don't hold meetings for the sake of holding meetings. They should have positive prospective outcomes for Israel. That is not the situation right now," he said.

Regarding Jewish settlements on West Bank land, a major Palestinian grievance in the decades-old conflict, Lapid said his policy was to allow their build-up to accommodate "natural growth", a reference to expanding resident families.

Israel will not build new settlements, he added.

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Ynet-News, July 03, 2022 – Sunday

07.03.22 – Su- - - News   Placed in July 03 spot – Sunday  
Supreme Court rules Ukrainian refugees granted Israel entry under 90-day tourist visa

07.03.22 – Su- - - News  
Israel bracing for potential terror attacks during Biden visit next week

07.02.22 – Sa- - - News   Placed in July 02 spot – Saturday  
Israel intercepts 3 Hezbollah drones en route to offshore gas field Saturday evening

07.01.22 – Fr- - - News   Placed in July 01 spot – Friday  
Yair Lapid is Israel's interim prime minister ahead of elections Nov 1

06.30.22 – Th- - - News   Placed in June 30 spot – Thursday  
PA gunmen fires on hundreds visiting Joseph's Tomb in West Bank

06.21.22 – Tu- - - News Placed in June 21 spot – Tuesday  
Finance MK Liberman's goal not on finance; only prevent Netanyahu's return

06.20.22 – Mo- - - News  
Bennett & Lapid dissolve Knesset; Netanyahu prepares right-wing without Arabs

06.20.22 – Mo- - - News Placed in June 20 spot – Monday  
Bennett, Lapid announce failed Knesset; Lapid is Interim to election Oct 25 or Nov 1

06.19.22 – Su- - - News  
Foreign Minister Lapid to visit Turkey this week warming NATO security ties

06.19.22 – Su- - - News  
Israeli government approves program to preserve heritage of Muslim world Jewry

06.19.22 – Su- - - News Placed in June 19 spot – Sunday  
NATO warns of 'years-long' Ukraine war as Russian intensifies assaults