

Ynet-News, July 26, 2022 – Tuesday

07.26.22 – Tu- - - News Placed in July 26 spot – Tuesday

Liberals ensure police are allowed to remove partitions at Western Wall plaza

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Hezbollah threat to offshore rigs in Lebanon claimed borders mediated by the US

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Two week cap on wheat price hikes, gradual to 21% & further hikes in December

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Moscow iron curtain rid of Western organizations may prohibit Jews from leaving

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Israel estimating 6,000 teacher shortage as unions seek higher salaries

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Iran reported arrest of Israeli spy ring with powerful explosives at nuclear facility

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IDF sinks PA boat smuggling weapons & anti-tank rockets from Egypt to Gaza

07.26.22

Liberals ensure police are allowed to remove partitions at Western Wall plaza

07.26.22

Israel to enforce ban on partitions at Western Wall egalitarian plaza

Letter from Prime Minister's Office to management of Jewish Quarter in the Old City of Jerusalem asks officials to allow police to forcefully remove partitions brought unlawfully into mixed prayer plaza by ultra-Orthodox Jews

Kobe Nachshoni| Published: 07.26.22, 14:30

Israel's police will be allowed to remove partitions unlawfully brought into the Western Wall egalitarian plaza, it was announced Tuesday.

Ynet has seen a letter sent by the Prime Minister's Office to the Company for the Reconstruction and Development of the Jewish Quarter in the Old City of Jerusalem, asking it to ban the partitions in the plaza, a mixed-gender prayer pavilion at the holy site.

“Attempts to bring and place partitions in the Western Wall egalitarian plaza should be stopped,” said the letter.

"According to the Justice Ministry, ushers in the Western Wall aren't authorized to use force to prevent partitions from being brought into the plaza," but, "when it is needed, the police need to be involved so that the law can be enforced."

The letter was sent after a number of rows erupted at the plaza after groups of ultra-Orthodox Jews had placed partitions in the square legally to separate men and women, angering the progressive and liberal Jews.

The egalitarian square was approved by the government in 2016, but tensions surrounding the plaza between progressive and ultra-Orthodox religious Jews have not subsided ever since.

The Masorti Movement, a Conservative Judaism religious movement in Israel, said they were happy with the decision. "We see this decision as an important step to make sure the Western Wall remains a safe and communal home to all Jews, no matter who they are." They added: "We demand the police keep the right of people to pray in the egalitarian plaza, and to spend their time in peace and without any attempts of groups to sway or disturb what happened in the last few months. The Western Wall belongs to us all."

07.26.22

Hezbollah threat to offshore rigs in Lebanon claimed borders mediated by the US

07.26.22

'All of Israel's gas fields are under threat': Nasrallah in fresh threat over offshore rigs
In an interview, Hezbollah leader says his Iran-backed terror group has capabilities to strike at every gas field, adding 'we will have a problem' should Israel begin extracting gas in September

i24NEWS, Ynet | Published: 07.26.22, 09:16

Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah threatened Israel on Monday with an attack on one of its offshore oil rigs, according to an interview broadcast on the Lebanese Al-Mayadeen TV channel.

Hezbollah's secretary-general has been vocal about opposition to Israeli extraction of natural gas, which Lebanon claims is done from oil reserves within its maritime borders, specifically the Karish gas field.

"All of Israel's gas fields are under threat from our missiles - not just Karish," Nasrallah said. "The ships that extract the gas are Israeli, even if under a Greek banner.

"There is no target in the sea or in the air that is not within the range of Hezbollah's precise missiles. No one wants war, and the decision is in Israel's hands, not in our hands," he said.

"If the extraction of gas from 'Karish' begins in September before Lebanon gets its rights, we will have a problem," Nasrallah warned.

Israel disputes Lebanese claims, and tensions with Hezbollah come as Lebanon and Israel hold negotiations mediated by the U.S. to reach an understanding.

The Iran-backed Shiite militant group and political party was responsible for three drones approaching Israel's gas rigs on July 2, prompting Israel to destroy the drones.

Nasrallah touted his group's drone capabilities, claiming: "we have drones that can evade the enemy; a number of drones in recent years entered parts of the Galilee and returned without being shot down."

from i24News

07.25.22

Two week cap on wheat price hikes, gradual to 21% & further hikes in December

07.25.22

Government agrees to limit bread price hikes, control to end by April 2023

PM Lapid and Economy Minister Barbivai decide on scheme to moderate price increases, but another scheduled for December; food chains agree to put a cap on price rises for two weeks

Itamar Eichner | Published: 07.25.22, 22:43

Prime Minister Yair Lapid and Economy Minister Orna Barbivai agreed on Monday to limit planned price hikes for bread and implement a controlled gradual increase instead.

According to the agreement, the price of sliced bread will increase by 5.5% instead of 11%, the price of challah bread will rise by 8% instead of 21%, and the price of white bread will increase by 5% instead of 36%.

The Finance Ministry's pricing committee is expected to introduce further hikes to the prices of sliced bread and challah in December while the price of white bread would jump by 21% for a three-month period.

Ministers also agreed to do away with price control by April 2023. Lapid asked ministers to provide a suitable financing plan to tackle rising food costs.

The pricing committee noted the main reason behind bread price increases is skyrocketing wheat prices on the international market as a result of the war in Ukraine.

Economy Minister Barbivai appealed to food chains in a request to temporarily postpone price increases for regulated bread, with some agreeing to put a cap on prices for the next two weeks despite the pricing committee's decision.

Meanwhile, Israel's two largest bakeries Angel and Berman petitioned the High Court of Justice last week against Barbivai's intention to leave price control in place, contrary to the recommendation of the pricing committee.

07.25.22

Moscow iron curtain rid of Western organizations may prohibit Jews from leaving

07.25.22

Israel, Russia working to deescalate tensions amid Jewish Agency row

Days before Moscow court hears case to suspend agency's activities in Russia, both parties exchange reassuring messages to avoid political fallout; Moscow says issue should be considered strictly legal

Itamar Eichner | Published: 07.25.22, 21:56

Israel and Russia were working to deescalate rising diplomatic tensions after Moscow sought to terminate its local branch of the Jewish Agency, sources familiar with discussions told Ynet on Monday.

Moscow conveyed reassuring messages to Jerusalem that diplomatic ties between the countries remain unchanged and that the issue should be considered strictly a legal one.

Israel also sent messages of reassurance to Russia that it was looking to settle the dispute and return to normal.

Israel also reassured the Jewish community in Russia in an attempt to allay concerns about the impact closing the agency's offices could have on Israel-Russia relations and on Russia's relations with its Jewish community.

Meanwhile, a formal Israeli legal delegation is struggling to obtain a visa to Russia and it was not clear whether it will be able to fly out in time for a court hearing in Moscow scheduled for Thursday.

Jerusalem fears that such a move would undo the social fabric of the local Jewish community and herald additional measures against other Jewish organizations and even prohibit Russian Jews from leaving for Israel.

However, one senior Israeli source claimed that Moscow's targeting of the Jewish Agency is part of its campaign to decouple from the West as opposed to a reaction to Israeli policy.

"It's very difficult to interpret Putin. This seems very alarming, but it is in line with a general trend," the source said.

"Russia is bringing down the iron curtain. It's not against us in particular, but against the West as a whole and we are a part of it. We should examine this from the perspective of a new iron curtain. They are getting rid of all Western organizations.

"The agency is regarded as a pesky organization partially responsible for Russia's brain drain problem and anything smacking of the West is thrown away. It should not be tied to Israel's position on Ukraine."

The official estimated that the parties would eventually reach a solution to the Jewish Agency issue, but that may not be enough to end tensions with Moscow.

07.24.22

Israel estimating 6,000 teacher shortage as unions seek higher salaries

07.24.22

Israel stares down acute teacher shortage as thousands estimated missing
Education Ministry says Israel could be missing up to 6,000 teachers but numbers believed higher; principals admit to putting off teaching core subjects to next school year, hiring uncertified teachers

Tamar Trabelsi Hadad | Published: 07.24.22, 23:21

The Education Ministry sounded the alarm on potential staffing shortages in a report published Sunday, estimating Israel is missing some 6,000 teachers.

The ministry noted, however, that since research data was self-reported by school principals, the shortages may be even worse.

The ministry says that estimates may be higher since the available data often does not include teachers who are teaching subjects which they aren't trained to teach, and teachers who are barred from teaching due to various reasons.

Last year, the head of a powerful teachers' lobby pegged staff shortages in the Israeli education system a lot higher at more than 10,000 missing teachers.

The education system has been grappling with a severe lack of manpower over the past decade, prompting school principals to hire teachers without proper professional training. School principals have long voiced their concerns about teacher shortages hamstringing preparations for the following school year but the ministry insisted the issue concerned only certain specific schools before admitting to the crisis earlier this year.

Principals report having to put off teaching certain core subjects to the next school year. Some even admitted to hiring uncertified teachers.

The Education Ministry said the survey was commissioned to help draw up a national strategy to tackle the staffing crisis and improve the quality of education in Israel. The ministry said it will keep monitoring the situation until the start of the next school year.

Education Minister Yifat Shasha Biton said that "data prove that we are in the middle of a severe manpower crisis that only got worse in recent years and is putting the education system at risk. The crisis isn't specific to one school or subject, but exists throughout the system."

Shasha Biton also said she hoped the Education Ministry and teacher unions would reach an agreement on higher salaries for teachers soon.

“The **fight over teachers' salaries and conditions** is a fight for our children, whom we wish to give the best education possible,” she said. “An agreement on fair pay to teachers is in the interest of a country aspiring to success and excellence. Our economy and society have **no future without a strong, stable and advanced education system.**”

07.24.22

Iran reported arrest of Israeli spy ring with powerful explosives at nuclear facility

07.24.22

'Israeli cell planted explosives at nuclear facility,' Iran media says

Report says **cell arrested with 'powerful explosives', planned to blow up a 'sensitive center'** in central Isfahan province — **home to nuclear sites and missile bases**

Ynet| Published: **07.24.22**, 21:16

Iranian media reported on Sunday that an **"Israeli spy ring" was arrested** the previous day **after planting explosives at a nuclear facility in Isfahan.**

Tehran announced on Saturday that it had **arrested members of a "spy ring" working for Israel with "powerful explosives" hours before they managed to execute "terror attacks** in sensitive sites."

Iranian news website Nour News, which is affiliated with Iran's Supreme National Security Council, **reported** that the **cell planned to blow up a "sensitive center"** in Isfahan province in the center of the country. Isfahan is home to several major nuclear sites, as well as missile bases.

According to other reports, the **cell crossed into Iran from Iraq's Kurdistan region after "months of training" in Africa.**

Iran's Intelligence Ministry **did not specify**, however, **how many** cell members were **arrested** and did not publish details about their **nationality.**

Iran often accuses its rivals – including the U.S., Israel and Saudi Arabia – of trying to undermine its rule.

In several cases, detainees accused of espionage were executed.

In 2020, Iran executed a man who was convicted of leaking information that allegedly helped the Americans assassinate the commander of the Quds Force of the Revolutionary Guards Qassem Soleimani in an attack at the Baghdad airport in January of that year.

Last month, Iran announced that it would soon prosecute three "Mossad spies" who were arrested in April.

Justice Ministry official Mehdi Shamsabadi told state news agency IRNA that the three suspects were "planning to assassinate our nuclear scientists," without specifying the nationality of the detainees.

07.24.22

IDF sinks PA boat smuggling weapons & anti-tank rockets from Egypt to Gaza

07.24.22

IDF sinks boat suspected of smuggling weapons from Egypt to Gaza

Military claims vessel was carrying weapons, including anti-tank rockets, to Hamas in Strip; crew members jump off and swim to safety, while Palestinian fishermen's union denies IDF allegations

Reuters, Ynet| Published: 07.24.22, 12:27

The Israeli military said on Sunday that its naval forces thwarted a maritime weapons smuggling attempt from Egypt to the Gaza Strip.

"Overnight, a Palestinian vessel departed from Egypt to the Gaza Strip. The vessel deviated into a closed zone in the southern Gaza Strip, violating security restrictions," the IDF said in a statement.

"Israel's Navy soldiers instructed the vessel to halt, and after receiving no response, fired toward the vessel in accordance with standard operating procedures.

"The suspects that were on the vessel swam to the Gaza Strip. The supplies onboard the vessel were intended for the Hamas terrorist organization," the statement read.

The Palestinian fishermen's union said two crew members dove into Mediterranean waters and swam to safety before the Israeli navy fired on their boat. A picture circulated on social media showed black smoke rising close to the Gaza coast.

Nizar Ayyash, chairman of the fishermen union, described the two crewmen as fishermen. "The boat was completely burnt and destroyed, I think it may have sunk but fishermen on board jumped and swam to the shore. It wasn't the first time they made such allegations and at the end these allegations proved baseless," he said.

Earlier, two Palestinian gunmen were killed in a pre-dawn clash with the IDF in the West Bank city of Nablus. The Fatah Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades militant group claimed the two Palestinians slain at a house in Nablus as its members. The Palestinian Health Ministry said six others were wounded.

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Ynet-News, July 22, 2022 – Friday

07.22.22 – Fr- - - News Placed in July 22 spot – Friday

IDF missile strike on Damascus offices, airfield & Iranian weapons warehouses

07.21.22 – Th- - - News Placed in July 19 spot – Tuesday
Senior Iran chief interrogated by Israel Mossad in Iran, then released in EU

07.21.22 – Th- - - News Placed in July 21 spot – Thursday
Israel top court allows revoke of citizenship for terror, treason or espionage

07.20.22 – We- - - News
Lapid launches election campaign, vows to form unity government for future

07.20.22 – We- - - News Placed in July 20 spot – Wednesday
Settlers demonstration to establish outposts on West Bank opposed by Gantz

07.18.22 – Mo- - - News
Israel's chief of staff to explore defense training Morocco visit