

Ynet-News, October 18, 2022 – Tuesday

October 17 – Sunday FOW -07
October 09 – Sunday Feast of Weeks -01
October 08 – Saturday FOW preparation
October 06 – Thursday tradition Atonement
October 05 – Wednesday tradition Fast
October 04 – Tuesday Atonement
October 03 – Monday Fast

10.17.22 – Mo- - - News Placed in October 17 spot – Monday
Australia scrubbed government webpage of West Jerusalem as capital of Israel

10.18.22 – Tu- - - News Placed in October 18 spot – Tuesday
Netanyahu associates refuse photo op with MK Ben-Gvir during Sukkot event

10.16.22 – Su- - - News Placed in October 16 spot – Sunday
Israel is 5th-most educated country by Erudera report; OECD placed Israel 3rd

10.13.22 – Th- - - News Placed in October 13 spot – Thursday FOW -05
Abbas with Putin summit in Kazakhstan, rule out US role as mediator

10.13.22 – Th- - - News Placed in October 13 spot – Thursday FOW -05
Israel reservists alert as mass riots in east Jerusalem from PA 'day of rage'

10.12.22 – We- - - News Placed in October 12 spot – Wednesday FOW -04
Israeli ministers give preliminary approval for Lebanon maritime border deal

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Egypt & PA work to develop Gaza coast gas field, beginning early 2024

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 Hamas delegation to visit Syria this month aiming to revive ties, sources say

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Netanyahu hospitalized after falling ill during Yom Kippur service

10.17.22
Australia scrubbed government webpage of West Jerusalem as capital of Israel

10.17.22

Australia drops recognition of West Jerusalem as capital of Israel, report says
Language scrubbed off government webpage lays out Canberra's recognition of West Jerusalem as Israel's capital and intention to move embassy there after Israeli-Palestinian conflict solved

Itamar Eichner | Published: 10.17.22, 15:31

Australia seems to have quietly scrapped its recognition of West Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, The Guardian reported on Monday.

According to the report, the country's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has scrubbed off its website language that lays out Canberra's recognition of West Jerusalem as the Israeli capital and its intention to move its embassy there after a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict been achieved.

The webpage now shows a text affirming Australia "is committed to a two-state solution in which Israel and a future Palestinian state co-exist, in peace and security, within internationally recognised borders" but no longer includes mentions of West Jerusalem. The freshly deleted sentences said: "Consistent with this longstanding policy, in December 2018, Australia recognised West Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, being the seat of the Knesset and many of the institutions of the Israeli government. Australia looks forward to moving its embassy to West Jerusalem when practical, in support of, and after the final status determination of, a two-state solution."

The move constitutes a reverse course from a 2018 policy adopted by the administration of then-prime minister Scott Morrison following the moving of the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

10.18.22

Netanyahu associates refuse photo op with MK Ben-Gvir during Sukkot event

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Netanyahu refuses photo op with far-right MK Ben-Gvir during Sukkot event
The two lawmakers were taking part in a Simchat Torah event when former PM demanded that Ben-Gvir leaves; campaign says their joint photo would 'prevent' option of broad government with Gantz; Ben Gvir blames aids

i24NEWS, Ynet | Published: 10.18.22, 09:26

Opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu allegedly refused to share the stage with far-right lawmaker Itamar Ben-Gvir during an event in honor of the holiday of Sukkot in order to avoid being photographed with him, sources reported late Monday.

The two politicians were attending a Simchat Torah event in the central Israeli village of Kfar Chabad on Monday night when the incident occurred.

Netanyahu's office initially told organizers he would not participate in the event, but later apparently changed his mind upon learning that Defense Minister Benny Gantz would also be there.

According to the sources, Netanyahu was called on stage, but refused to go up as long as the far-right lawmaker was still there. Several of the event organizers went on stage to attempt to remove Ben-Gvir in response to Netanyahu's demands. The far-right lawmaker, seemingly angered by the move, responded: "Shame on you."

In some clips, organizers can be heard saying, "He (Netanyahu) won't go up if Itamar doesn't go down."

Ben-Gvir can also be heard arguing with someone who says, "I am not letting anyone speak, just Bibi," referring to the former premier by his nickname. It is only after Ben-Gvir headed for the stairs that Netanyahu agreed to get on stage.

According to the sources, one of Netanyahu's associates told Ben-Gvir that their joint photo would "prevent the option of a broad government with Gantz."

In an interview with Ynet on Tuesday, Ben-Gvir said Netanyahu's aids were behind the demand he leaves the stage, and that the Likud leader expressed his respect and praise for the legislator in private conversations.

He added that despite the efforts of lowly aids, a Netanyahu-Gantz coalition would be a danger to Israel.

10.16.22

Israel is 5th-most educated country by Erudera report; OECD placed Israel 3rd

10.16.22

Israel is fifth-most educated country in the world, report says

Education search platform Erudera's report says countries with highest percentage of post-secondary education graduates share common characteristics, including relatively high GDP per capita and lower unemployment rates

i24NEWS, Ynet | Published: 10.16.22, 22:44

Israel is the fifth-most educated country globally, with roughly half of the Jewish state's citizens achieving a higher education degree, according to a report from the education search platform Erudera.

The number one country in the world for higher education was Canada, with nearly 60 percent of its citizens completing a tertiary degree - referring to all post-secondary education, including universities, colleges and vocational schools.

Rounding out the top five were Japan, Luxembourg and South Korea.

"Each of these countries have a higher share of the population with a higher tertiary degree than the OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) average, which stands at 39 percent," the report noted.

The top countries share some common characteristics, the report continued, including relatively high GDP per capita, lower unemployment rates and higher spending on education. However, out of the top ten countries, Israel ranked ninth in terms of spending per student in higher education.

Erudera's report also pointed out a correlation between the top ten most educated populations and countries that rank high in happiness per the World Happiness Report, where Israel placed ninth in 2022.

In 2018, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, or OECD, placed Israel as the third most educated country worldwide, only below Canada and Japan.

"In Israel, 88 percent of adults aged 25-64 have completed upper secondary education, higher than the OECD average of 79 percent," the OECD found.

10.13.22

Abbas with Putin summit in Kazakhstan, rule out US role as mediator

10.13.22

With Putin, Palestinian leader rules out U.S. role as mediator

As Russian president looks on Mahmoud Abbas says does not trust U.S. to be an honest broker but makes no comment on Russian invasion of neighboring Ukraine and ongoing war

Associated Press| Published: 10.13.22, 19:22

The Palestinian president on Thursday used an audience with Vladimir Putin to denounce the United States, telling the Russian leader that he has no faith in Washington as a Mideast peace broker.

Abbas spoke with Putin at a regional summit in Astana, Kazakhstan. His comments about the U.S., traditionally the main broker between Israel and the Palestinians, came at a time when the U.S. and Russia are at loggerheads over Putin's invasion of Ukraine.

"We don't trust the U.S.," Abbas said, speaking in Arabic, as Putin looked on. "We don't accept the U.S., under any condition, (as) a single party in solving the Middle East problem," he added.

He said the Palestinians would only consider U.S. mediation if it were part of the "Quartet," a grouping of nations that includes Russia.

With Thursday's meeting, Abbas became one of the few world leaders to sit down with Putin since Russia launched its war on Ukraine in February. In his public comments, Abbas did not mention the war, nor did a statement released later by his office.

Abbas' remarks reflected his frustration with the U.S., which has stepped back from its once-intense mediation between Israelis and Palestinians. Instead, it has turned its focus toward other pressing global issues like the war in Ukraine, relations with China and economic woes.

The comments also follow a crisis of confidence between the Palestinians and the U.S. after the Trump administration cut funding to the Palestinians and pursued policies that were favorable toward Israel. That included moving the U.S. Embassy to Israel to the contested city of Jerusalem.

President Joe Biden has restored the funding, but kept the embassy in Jerusalem. He also has not attempted to restart peace talks, focusing instead on more modest goals such as boosting the Palestinian economy.

Israel and the Palestinians have not held substantive peace talks in more than a decade, and Israel's military occupation over captured lands sought by the Palestinians is now in its 55th year.

The U.S. has been central to previous negotiations, brokering interim peace deals in the 1990s that created the Palestinian Authority, which Abbas leads.

Abbas' words, however, come in what could be the waning years of his leadership.

The 87-year-old heads a weak Palestinian leadership with no real succession plans for the day the long-serving leader is gone.

The internationally recognized Palestinian Authority is committed to nonviolence and a negotiated peace agreement creating an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel.

At home, however, the authority administers a series of autonomous areas in the West Bank. It has become increasingly unpopular and is viewed as weak, corrupt and despotic.

Israel captured the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem in the 1967 Six Day War. The Palestinians seek those territories for their hoped-for, independent state.

10.13.22

Israel reservists alert as mass riots in east Jerusalem from PA 'day of rage'

10.13.22

Israel puts reservists on alert as mass riots engulf east Jerusalem

Border Police chief places 10 companies on alert as several officers were left wounded during clashes with Palestinians; Israeli security forces nab 9 rioters during home raids;

Palestinian factions call for 'day of rage' on Friday

Ynet| Published: 10.13.22, 09:43

Israel said Thursday it has put Border Police reservists on alert as massive, violent riots that began a day earlier spread all across east Jerusalem.

Palestinians say they are protesting Israeli police raids in the Shuafat refugee camp in Jerusalem's eastern sector to hunt for a suspect in a deadly terror attack at a checkpoint on Saturday that killed a female Border Police officer Noa Lazar.

Riots and clashes that began late on Wednesday, continued well into the night, with Palestinians hurling rocks, firing fireworks at Jewish houses, throwing Molotov cocktails at cars, and assaulting security forces.

The rioters also set tires and garbage dumpsters on fire to block roads and entrances to Palestinian neighborhoods in Jerusalem.

Two Israel Police officers were lightly wounded while attempting to disperse a violent riot in the neighborhood of Issawiya. The police suspected the injury was a result of shrapnel from pipe bombs thrown at the officers.

Earlier on Wednesday, Israeli security forces arrested five Palestinians during rioting across the eastern part of the capital.

As clashes continued into the early morning hours, Border Police troops and undercover personnel raided several houses of suspected rioters, arresting nine Palestinians.

At the end of a situational assessment, Border Police chief Deputy Commissioner Amir Cohen decided to place 10 reservist companies on alert in case the situation escalates further.

"We will continue to act with determination against violent rioters, we bolstered Jerusalem and the West Bank with troops to address such events," Cohen said.

Rocks were also thrown at Jerusalem Mayor Moshe Lion's vehicle as he was driving in the east Jerusalem neighborhood of Ras al-Amud to a city council member.

However, Lion denied it. "I trust the security forces who work day and night to make sure order is restored, and Jerusalem can return to holiday routine and host hundreds of thousands of visitors," Lion said.

Meanwhile, during the night, IDF forces accompanied dozens of Jewish worshippers who entered Joseph's Tomb in Nablus. Palestinian militants opened fire at them as they entered the grave, but there were no casualties or damage to property.

In addition, a Jewish family of five, driving in the Beit Hanina neighborhood of east Jerusalem late on Wednesday, managed to escape a lynch mob.

The vehicle with the parents and their three children, including two babies, was attacked with stones and other objects that were thrown at them by Palestinian rioters after encountering an improvised roadblock. They were rescued unharmed, the police said.

The Palestinian factions in Jerusalem issued a statement calling for reinforcing the presence of rioters and protests against the alleged siege on the Shuafat refugee camp. They also called for mass prayers and declared Friday as "the day of rage" in Jerusalem and the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

10.12.22

Israeli ministers give preliminary approval for Lebanon maritime border deal

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The draft will later be presented for review to the Knesset; reports say deal will enter into force once Lebanon and Israel send letters to U.S. indicating agreement

Ynet| Updated: 10.12.22, 13:47

Top Israeli ministers convened on Wednesday to give preliminary approval for the maritime border agreement between Israel and Lebanon, which is intended to be a lasting resolution to the longtime dispute.

On Tuesday, negotiators from the two countries said Lebanon and Israel have received a final draft of a mediated maritime border deal from U.S. envoy Amos Hochstein and it "satisfied" all of their requirements.

The draft will later be presented for review to Israel's parliament, the Knesset. According to the parliament's Speaker Mickey Levy, the cabinet secretary requested for the Knesset to meet despite the ongoing Jewish holiday of Sukkot due to the "importance of the matter."

Officials said they would also likely also submit it for a two-week parliamentary review, followed by the full Israeli cabinet convening for final approval, after which Washington could declare the deal in force.

On the day Washington sends that notice, Lebanon and Israel will then simultaneously send identical coordinates to the United Nations laying out the location of the maritime boundary.

Prime Minister Yair Lapid's government wants the deal done soon but has denied that the Nov. 1 election is the deadline. Some officials cited imminent plans to extract at Karish gas rig, others the fact that Lebanese President Michel Aoun steps down at month's end.

"There's a good chance that for months or maybe more there won't be a president in Lebanon, and only the president can sign that kind of agreement," Internal Security Minister Omer Barlev told Ynet Radio.

According to the recent opinion polls, 40% of Israelis welcomed the agreement, while 29% were against it. Opposition Leader Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday criticized Lapid for a "historic surrender" and condemned his decision to approve the deal via cabinet vote only ahead of the upcoming November election.

Other Israeli politicians also argued that the agreement which involves the demarcation of borders should stand a vote in the Knesset or be submitted to a referendum.

10.09.22

Egypt & PA work to develop Gaza coast gas field, beginning early 2024

10.09.22

Israel to allow natural gas extraction off Gaza

Secret Egyptian-mediated bilateral talks 'finally able to reach a compromise that would benefit all parties involved' after years of Israeli objections for security reasons
i24NEWS| Published: 10.09.22, 17:56

Israel has responded to Egyptian efforts to allow the Palestinian Authority to produce natural gas off the coast of Gaza, the Al-Monitor website reported on Sunday, a report confirmed by a PL executive committee member.

Egypt has been holding secret bilateral talks for several months after years of Israeli objections to producing natural gas off the coast of Gaza for security reasons.

The field in question, located about 19 miles west of the Gaza coast, was discovered in 2000 by British Gas (now BG Group) and contains more than 1,000 billion cubic feet of natural gas. The cost of its development is estimated at \$1.2 billion.

The senior Egyptian intelligence official told Al-Monitor on condition of anonymity that "an Egyptian security delegation discussed for several months with the Israeli side the issue of allowing natural gas production off the coast of Gaza. The delegation was finally able to reach a compromise that would benefit all parties involved."

On February 21, 2021, the Palestinian Authority and Egypt signed a memorandum of understanding on offshore gas field development in Gaza.

Under the terms of the agreement, the Egyptian Natural Gas Holdings Company and the Palestinian Authority will have to work together to develop the gas field, transfer gas to the Palestinian areas and eventually sell it to Egypt. The Egyptian official explained that Israel had requested that operations extract the gas from Gaza begin in early 2024.

10.06.22

Hamas delegation to visit Syria this month aiming to revive ties, sources say

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Following a trip to Algeria to make amends with the Fatah movement, Hamas will ease into reconciliation attempts with Damascus after a long shunning due group's support of anti-Assad rebels

Reuters| Published: 10.06.22, 21:38

A Hamas delegation will visit Syria later this month, two sources said on Thursday, in a move by the Palestinian Islamist group to rebuild ties after shunning President Bashar al-Assad for years over his violent crackdown on protests.

A senior Hamas official said the visit would take place after a Hamas delegation concludes an Oct. 10 trip to Algeria to discuss reconciliation with the rival Palestinian Fatah movement of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

A second source, a Palestinian official familiar with the issue, confirmed details of the Syria trip. A Palestinian source in Syria denied that a visit would take place, while Hamas officials in Gaza, the coastal enclave where the group has ruled since 2007, declined to comment. There was no immediate comment from the Syrian government.

Hamas leaders publicly endorsed the 2011 street uprising against Assad's dynastic rule, and vacated their Syria headquarters in Damascus in 2012, a move that angered their common ally, Iran.

Hamas's relations with Iran were later restored and Hamas officials praised the Islamic Republic for help with building up their Gaza arsenal of longer-range rockets, which they have used in fighting Israel.

Normalizing ties with Assad's government could help restore Hamas's inclusion in a so-called "axis of resistance" against Israel which also encompasses Iran and Lebanon's powerful armed Shi'ite Hezbollah group.

In June, two Hamas officials claimed the group had decided to restore ties with Syria. Hamas has eased into the process slowly, fearing a backlash from its mostly Sunni Muslim financiers and other supporters, given that most of the victims of Assad's crackdown in Syria were Sunnis.

10.05.22

Netanyahu hospitalized after falling ill during Yom Kippur service

10.05.22

Netanyahu hospitalized after falling ill during Yom Kippur service

The opposition leader was taken to a Jerusalem hospital, where he is to undergo additional tests while his aids say he is feeling well and regained consciousness; Prime Minister posts wishes for good health on Twitter

Moran Azulay, Ynet, Reuters | Published: 10.05.22, 20:50

Head of Opposition Benjamin Netanyahu fell ill during Yom Kippur services in a Jerusalem synagogue, he was taken to the Shaare Zedek Medical Center.

"Former Prime Minister Netanyahu felt unwell while praying at synagogue. He underwent a series of tests on site that came out normal and he now feels well," Netanyahu's office said in a statement. "He will undergo further examination to remove any doubt," it added.

The 72 year old former prime minister was in the midst of a contentious election campaign to regain power he had lost in the 2021 ballot after a 12 year run as Israel's leader.

He is on trial for bribery fraud and breach of trust in the Jerusalem District court, charges he denies and claims were trumped up the a judicial system out to get him.

Prime Minister Yair Lapid sent his wishes for a speedy recovery Netanyahu. In a Twitter post Lapid said he wished the opposition leader "good health."

The two politicians who are both hoping to form the next government after the November 1 elections, recently feuded over social media on the pending agreement to end the maritime border dispute with Lebanon.

As Lapid said the U.S. mediated negotiations were nearing an agreed conclusion, which he described as aligned with Israel's national security interests.

Netanyahu accused Lapid of surrendering to Hezbollah and endangering Israel's security and economic interests.

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Ynet-News, October 05, 2022 – Wednesday

10.04.22 – Tu- - - News Placed in October 05 spot – Wednesday
25 IDF battalions on West Bank barrier for Yom Kippur curfew of terror cells

10.04.22 – Tu- - - News Placed in October 02 spot – Sunday
Lebanon Hezbollah refuse to recognize line of UN buoys marking maritime border

10.04.22 – Tu- - - News Placed in October 03 spot – Monday
Lapid two-state solution renewed EU dialogue allowing agri-exports to Europe

09.30.22 – Fr- - - News Placed in September 30 spot – Friday
Putin ceremony at Moscow annexed four Ukraine regions; UN cites no legal value

09.29.22 – Th- - - News Placed in September 29 spot – Thursday
Arab Balad party disqualified from elections For not accepting Israel as a Jewish state

09.25.22 – Su- - - News Placed in September 25 spot – Sunday Rosh Hashanna
US will not restrict Israel's retaliation on Lebanon if Hezbollah attacks Karish gas field