

Ynet-News, October 26, 2022 – Wednesday

**Note: A drastic change in Ynet News visual & content display Monday 10-24-22  
No tab for World & Mid-East News & no dates on News Articles**

10.26.22 – We - - - News Placed in October 26 spot – Wednesday  
Energean offshore Karish gas field began pumping reverse flow testing

10.25.22 – Tu - - - News – Tuesday  
London Amnesty International urges ICC probe of Gaza war crimes by Israel

10.25.22 – Tu - - - News Placed in October 24 spot – Monday  
West Bank Lion's Den destroyed with missiles, killing terror chief & four militants

10.23.22 – Su - - - News Placed in October 23 spot – Sunday  
Israel missiles from Sea of Galilee hit Hezbollah drone production in Damascus

10.24.22 – Mo - - - News Placed in October 22 spot – Saturday  
Netanyahu dominates Israel election with streams of criticism against Lapid

10.26.22 – We  
Energean offshore Karish gas field began pumping reverse flow testing

10.26.22 – We  
Israel grants Energean permission to start production at offshore Karish gas field  
Ahead of signing the maritime deal with Lebanon, Energean set to begin production of  
gas from gas fields, but does not set a specific date for extracting gas in maximum  
capacity Reuters|00:42

Israel granted Energean permission to start production at the offshore Karish gas field on  
Tuesday, an Energy Ministry statement said.

Energean has said its floating production storage and offloading vessel is due to start  
production at Karish in the third quarter but has not given a precise date.

On October 9, the London-listed energy group began pumping gas to its floating  
production facility as part of reverse flow testing procedures.  
Israel and Lebanon on Thursday are expected to sign a U.S.-brokered maritime border  
deal reached this month, opening the way for offshore energy exploration.

In the weeks running up to the deal, the development of the Karish field, about 80 km (50 miles) west of the city of Haifa, had raised tensions between the two countries drawing threats of war from the Iran-backed Hezbollah movement.

In July, the Lebanon based group dispatched three drones to the Karish gas rig, which were intercepted and shot down by the IDF.

"The production of natural gas from the Karish platform bolsters Israel's energy security, enhances our stature as energy exporters, strengthens Israel's economy, and helps in grappling with the global energy crisis," Prime Minister Yair Lapid said in a statement.

Where does new UK premier Rishi Sunak stand on Israel and Jewish issues?

Incoming British leader has shown willingness to discuss moving embassy to Jerusalem, says there is a 'very strong case' which would imply UK's recognition of Jerusalem as Israeli capital

10.25.22 – Tu - - -

London Amnesty International urges ICC probe of Gaza war crimes by Israel

10.25.22 – Tu - - -

Amnesty urges ICC probe of possible Gaza war crimes

The London-based organization presses the international court to 'urgently investigate any apparent war crimes committed during the August 2022 Israeli offensive,' detailing a strike that hit the Jabalia refugee camp that killed seven civilians

AFP|06:09

Amnesty International on Tuesday called for an International Criminal Court (ICC) probe into possible war crimes committed in August by both Israeli forces and Palestinian militants during deadly fighting in Gaza.

Thirty-one civilians were among the 49 Palestinians killed in the Israeli-blockaded Gaza Strip during the three-day conflict, the global rights group said in a new report.

The London-based organization pressed the ICC to "urgently investigate any apparent war crimes committed during the August 2022 Israeli offensive" in the Palestinian enclave.

"Amnesty International has collected and analyzed new evidence of unlawful attacks, including possible war crimes, committed by both Israeli forces and Palestinian armed groups," it said.

The report detailed a strike that hit the Jabalia refugee camp in northern Gaza, killing seven civilians.

The bombing was "likely to have been caused by a rocket launched by Palestinian armed groups that misfired," Amnesty said.

Fighting began on August 5 when Israel targeted the Islamic Jihad militant group in what it said were pre-emptive strikes to avert attacks.

The Palestinian organization responded with barrages of rocket fire that did not result in any Israeli casualties.

Amnesty's research found that an attack in which five children were killed at a cemetery "was likely to have been carried out by an Israeli guided missile fired by a drone".

A third incident Amnesty said may amount to a war crime was Israeli tank fire on a house in the southern Khan Yunis area, which killed one civilian.

The International Criminal Court has opened an investigation into the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, expected to focus in part on possible war crimes committed during the 2014 conflict in Gaza.

The probe is supported by the Palestinian Authority, but Israel is not an ICC member and disputes its jurisdiction.

The violence in August was preceded by four wars between Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza since 2008.

The Palestinian enclave has been under a crippling Israeli-led blockade since 2007, imposed after the Islamist movement Hamas took control of the territory.

Hamas said its militants did not participate in the August conflict.

10.25.22 – Tu- - -

West Bank Lion's Den destroyed with missiles, killing terror chief & four militants

10.25.22 – Tu- - -

Behind the scenes of Nablus operation to eliminate Lion's Den chief

Officials say operation was carried out with help of precise intelligence from IDF and Shin Bet, with an aim to prevent deterioration of security in the West Bank city

Elisha Ben Kimon|05:08

Israel's counterterrorism operation in the West Bank city of Nablus early Tuesday resulted in the death of the leader of the newly emerged terror group that has been wreaking havoc in the area in the past few weeks, security officials said.

The raid on the home of Wadia Alhuh, who founded the Lion's Den, was a preplanned joint operation, closely observed by the chief of staff, and the head of the Shin Bet, as well as others.

Forces entered the city's ancient market area to target an apartment owned by the Alhuh, which was also a laboratory for the production of explosive devices, and destroyed it with missiles killing the terror chief and four other militants.

The militants, who believed the apartment was safe from Israeli attacks because of its location in the narrow streets, used the premises to launch their terror strikes and to prepare their explosive devices.

According to security officials, the operation was a message to others that there is no safe place for terrorists to operate or hide.

In the past two months, security forces have clashed with militants in Jenin and Nablus on a nightly basis, resulting in Palestinian casualties.

Security officials said the Lion's Den numbered no more than 30, with occasional additions to the group, and was responsible for some 20 attacks.

"This is not a well-organized squad," the officials said. "Until this operation, we killed two or three members of the group, arrested five and others were arrested by the PA," an official said.

"The killing earlier this week of another of the group's members and our continued pressure is meant to prevent the situation in Nablus from deteriorating to a similar security problem that Jenin has become," he said.

The officials noted that the three-hour operation caught the terrorists off guard and was carried out well. "As soon as we entered the area, riots broke out. With the intelligence information we had, forces carried out their mission well," said one official.

"We knew there were explosives in the apartment and that they would be used by the group, after the terrorists used similar devices in a number of previous attacks.

"Palestinian nationalists, who are not affiliated with any terror organizations, have been launching attacks. They are not well-organized and are not the best terrorists in the world," the officials said. "But because of their proximity to settlements, they are a challenge to deal with."

"Our message to them is that no matter where they are in the West Bank, there will be nowhere to hide and nowhere to strike," they said. "These are sensitive times and there may be more people who are motivated to act but we are on high alert and that fact, may dissuade them from taking action," he said.

According to the officials, the reports that a member of the Palestinian Authority security services was killed are erroneous. "There was no altercation with member of the PA," he said. "I am sure that in the long-run our operation in Nablus would prove advantageous to the PA."

Prime Minister Yair Lapid praised the forces in a statement. "Our goal was, and remains, to inflict serious and continuous harm to terrorists in Jenin and Nablus, and to those sending them on their missions," Lapid said. "We will not ease our pressure for one minute. We will not allow such terror squads, which attack Israeli citizens and soldiers, to exist. "It must be clear that anyone who tries to harm us will pay in blood," Lapid said.

10.23.22 – Su

Israel missiles from Sea of Galilee hit Hezbollah drone production in Damascus

10.23.22 – Su

Israeli strike in Syria targeted Hezbollah unit and drone production, report says  
UK-based rights group says Friday's raid targeted Unit 4400, working with Quds force  
and charged with transport of Iranian weapons from Syria to Lebanon, often disguised as  
humanitarian equipment Daniel Salami|Yesterday | 09:54

The UK- based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which opposes the Assad regime,  
said Sunday that a strike carried out by Israel on Friday targeted an assembly line for  
Iranian drones as well as an elite unit of the Hezbollah terror group.

According to the rights group, a radar and runway were also damaged.

The Saudi Al Arabiya network added that the strike was aimed at members of  
Hezbollah's 4400 unit, charged with the transport of Iranian weapons from Syria to  
Lebanon, under the command of Hajj Fadi.

Fadi is believed responsible for the store of ammonium nitrate in the Beirut port, which  
caused the devastating explosion in 2020.

According to the report, the unit had been attacked by Israel a number of times in the past  
years after it was found to be coordinating weapons supplies with the Iranian  
Revolutionary Guard Corps, Quds force, often disguised as humanitarian shipments.

Israeli intelligence experts said that unit 4400 and the Quds force unit 190 are charged  
with the logistics of storing Iranian armament in Syria.

Syrian media reported on Friday, that the attack attributed to Israel was south of the  
capital in the same area previously targeted.

A military source in the Syrian capital said that Israel fired missiles from east of the Sea  
of Galilee towards targets in Damascus and that air defenses intercepted most of the. The  
source added that there were no casualties in the attack.

10.24.22 – Mo

Netanyahu dominates Israel election with streams of criticism against Lapid

10.24.22 – Mo

Netanyahu comeback dominates Israel election 'all about Bibi'

With corruption charges hanging over him and criticism mounting over his links to a  
rapidly growing far-right party he may depend on to form a government, surveys predict  
there will be no knock-out victory Reuters|04:03

At a dead-end road in a crime-hit town in central Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu stands on a  
mobile stage enclosed by a glass wall, pledging through a window to restore law and  
order as the crowd chants "Bibi the king."

Israel's longest-serving prime minister and the most dominant and polarizing political figure of his generation is back on the campaign trail as Israelis prepare to vote on Nov. 1 in their fifth national election in less than four years.

His Likud party is expected to win the largest bloc of seats in the Knesset. But with corruption charges hanging over him and criticism mounting over his links to a rapidly growing far-right party he may depend on to form a government, surveys predict there will be no knock-out victory.

For weeks, his "Bibi-bus" has been rolling through Likud strongholds across Israel as he seeks to drum up support from voters weary at the never-ending electoral deadlock that continues while the cost of living rises and security worries with Palestinian militants persist.

"Do you want to restore national pride? Reduce living costs? Restore personal safety?" a smiling Netanyahu asked the crowd. "I'm not a king. A king doesn't get elected. I need to be elected and that depends on you."

Netanyahu, a close ally of former U.S. President Donald Trump, has mounted a relentless stream of criticism against centrist Prime Minister Yair Lapid, whose ruling coalition patched together after the last inconclusive election lasted but a year.

But with few major policy differences between the parties on issues ranging from the Palestinian question and Iran to the economy, the election is largely seen as a personal referendum on Netanyahu, whose hawkish image has increasingly been tarnished by his legal woes.

Turnout in Likud towns is relatively low and, stagnating in opinion polls, Netanyahu, who was first appointed prime minister as long ago as 1996, needs every vote he can get.

In Ramla, the "Bibi-bus" drew around 250 people. Later, in nearby Lod, the 400-yard park outside the neighbourhood synagogue was only half full.  
"Rigged"

Israel has been stuck in an election loop since 2019, the same year which saw Netanyahu indicted for corruption on charges he denies. As his trial proceeds, the split between his supporters and detractors has deepened.

"The only thing that really matters is Bibi or not Bibi, unfortunately," said Hila Shay Vazan, former Knesset member and commentator.

Critics say that with help from the far-right, Netanyahu - presently opposition head, will seek radical judicial reforms that would allow him to stave off his trial and potential imprisonment if convicted - which he has denied.

The trial has overshadowed the achievements of Netanyahu's last term in office, when Israel signed the Abraham Accords, normalizing relations with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain under a process mediated by the Trump administration.

"He is with his back to the wall. And he feels, evidently, that this for him is a political battle for life and death," said political analyst Amotz Asa-El at Shalom Hartman Institute.

Polls show Netanyahu's bloc fluctuating between a narrow victory to just short of a ruling parliamentary majority with the far-right Jewish Power party of Itamar Ben-Gvir, an ultranationalist once convicted of racist incitement, set to play the role of coalition kingmaker.

Both outcomes would make the chance of radical reforms slim to none, said Asa-El. On his campaign, pushed hard on social networks, Netanyahu has said little about judiciary change, focusing his message on high living costs - a top concern for voters - and dismissing his trial as "rigged" and "a joke".

Like Trump, Netanyahu says he is a victim of a political witch-hunt, counting on support from voters with little interest in the legal details of the trial, Asa-El said. Netanyahu fans reject that notion.

"They say Bibi voters are stupid and ignorant," said Ramla-raised importer Moti Karo, 56. "It's not true. How can you dismiss street-smarts? Street-smarts is just what you need in the Middle East. And the street wants Bibi."

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Ynet-News, October 21, 2022 – Friday

10.20.22 – Th- - - News      Placed in October 21 spot – Friday  
Britain economy shockwaves lead PM Truss to resign when new leader is elected

10.13.22 – Th- - - News      Placed in October 15 spot – Saturday  
Arab summit in Algiers has 14 PA factions for elections, but doubts persist

10.18.22 – Tu- - - News      – Tuesday  
Taliban propaganda faction wants ties to Israel, our main enemy in the world

10.20.22 – Th- - - News      – Thursday  
Israeli soldier arrested in West Bank as IDF fails to deescalate PA tensions

10.19.22 – We- - - News      – Wednesday  
Kyiv furious after Gantz insists Israel will not provide arms to Ukraine

10.19.22 – We- - - News      Placed in October 20 spot – Thursday  
Saudi Arabia hails Australia's decision on Jerusalem, frees 12 PA for Hamas

10.19.22 – We- - - News      Placed in October 19 spot – Wednesday  
Iran has up to 50 trainers in Crimea to assist Russians using kamikaze drones