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Ben Gvir & Smotrich seek to overhaul judicial system if Lukid wins election

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Gantz asked Erdogan to warn Iran; smuggling to Russia will meet resistance

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Record number of 8000 Jews visit Temple Mount over High Holiday month

**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**

10.30.22
Ben Gvir & Smotrich seek to overhaul judicial system if Lukid wins election

10.30.22
Israel's far-right legislator says will end Netanyahu corruption trial
Itamar Ben Gvir says would legislate law grants sitting PM almost complete criminal immunity; co-leader Smotrich, says his proposal to remove breach of trust from criminal code, or Ben Gvir proposals would not apply to Netanyahu criminal trial
Moran Azulay|10:46

In a recording that reached Ynet on Sunday, far-right lawmaker Itamar Ben Gvir is heard saying he will demand legislation that would effectively end opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu's ongoing corruption trial.

Ben Gvir who was embraced by Netanyahu as a future coalition partner joined in an alliance of factions with Religious Zionist alliance leader Bezael Smotrich, who himself laid out his plan for an overhaul of the Israeli judicial system.

Smotrich's plan includes canceling the classification of fraud and breach of trust as crimes - a step that would void most of the charges Netanyahu is facing. Although Smotrich, publicly stopped short of saying whether the new law would apply to Netanyahu's criminal proceedings retroactively, Ben Gvir upped the ante and said last week to supporters that he would pursue a so-called "French Law" which grants a sitting prime minister almost complete criminal immunity retroactively.

Some lawmakers have floated the idea of introducing a French Law in the past but did not pursue the legislation for fear the Supreme Court would strike it down. Ben Gvir, on the other hand, said he believes that "the justices will understand the logic and purpose" behind the legislation and stated that similar laws exist in other countries. "The prime minister is also innocent until proven guilty and cannot be removed and overthrown on the whim of an attorney general," he was heard saying in the recording.

His political partner however was quick to claim that the proposed legislations would not be applied to Netanyahu. On Sunday, Smotrich issued a statement claiming the former prime minister's trial for bribery, fraud and breach of trust would not be effected.

"The Netanyahu trial will not be canceled - I promise that I will not promote legislation that will cancel it," Smotrich told Ynet.

Our legal program is a pre-condition for joining the coalition. We will not be able to do anything without fixing the legal system and returning the power to the representatives of the people in the government and the Knesset," he said.

"We will not have a situation in which the prosecution can trump up criminal cases against elected officials in order to remove them from politics and prevent the right wing from assuming power," he said.

Netanyahu has repeatedly said that he would not advance initiatives to cancel the criminal charges against him or end his trial, He claimed the charges were being debunked in court. But his political allies said that if the Likud bloc wins a 61 seat Knesset majority, there will be an opportunity for "fundamental change," they believe most Israelis would support.

10.27.22

Gantz asked Erdogan to warn Iran; smuggling to Russia will meet resistance

10.27.22

Israel urges Erdogan to oust Hamas as Turkey eyes Israeli security tech

Israeli security officials say Gantz asked Erdogan to warn Iran that arms smuggling to proxies through Syria will be met with Israeli resistance; Turkey seeks to bolster U.S. ties with by improved Israeli relations Yossi Yehoshua|14:02

Israel urged Turkey's president to banish Hamas leadership from its territory, security officials said.

In the unscheduled meeting between Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Defense Minister Benny Gantz, the minister accused Hamas leaders in Turkey of coordinating and funding terror attacks on the West Bank.

The officials also said that Gantz asked the president to relay to Iran that Israel would not stand for arms being smuggled via Syria to its proxies in the area, particularly the Lebanon based Hezbollah terror group.

Turkey, they said seeks to renew the purchases of Israeli weapon systems and technology from the defense industry as well as improve relations with the United States after ties with Israel are restored.

Israel is also interested in security cooperation with Turkey, in order to thwart Iranian terror activities, and to build a joint communication axis between the countries.

Gantz met with Erdogan at the Presidential Palace in Ankara during his visit to Turkey. The defense minister thanked the president for the actions taken by the Turkish security agencies "to save the lives of Israelis and Jews from the local community in Turkey," when Iranian terror squads were sent to target them on Turkish soil, earlier this year.

Gantz announced that now, two months after Israel and Turkey declared they would be normalizing relations between the countries, he instructed senior security officials in the Defense Ministry to contact their Turkish counterparts and "gradually resume cooperation."

"Turkey is an important member of NATO and has a relationship with the United States, our most important ally, Gantz said in a statement released by his office. "The positive ties that are formed between the countries significantly strengthen Israeli security, in addition to the existing ties with Greece, Cyprus, and the signatories to the Abraham Accords. I hope that Israel can use its growing ties with Turkey to help end conflicts in the region," Gantz said.

"In the past year, Turkey has proven itself by removing the threats on Israeli citizens," he said.

Gantz thanked Erdogan and Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar. "I believe there is much more to be done to reduce the impact of terror against civilians. I am also confident that strengthening relations between our countries can have a positive influence on the Palestinian issue," he said.

10.27.22

Israel signs maritime border deal with Lebanon, US would resolve future disputes

10.27.22

Israel signs maritime border deal, following Lebanon's suit

Israeli government earlier in a final vote okayed the agreement, which marks a diplomatic departure from decades of hostility and opens the way for offshore energy exploration
Reuters, Ynet|Updated:05:00

Prime Minister Yair Lapid on Thursday signed a letter approving a landmark U.S.-brokered agreement laying out the country's maritime boundary with Lebanon, after the Lebanese officials approved the agreement hours earlier.

The deal marks a diplomatic departure from decades of hostility, later in the day. Earlier on Thursday, the government officially approved the deal in a final vote.

The agreement opens the way for offshore energy exploration and removes one source of potential conflict between Israel and Iranian-backed Lebanese group Hezbollah and could help alleviate Lebanon's economic crisis.

Hailed by all three parties as a historic achievement, the deal was be signed separately in Jerusalem by Prime Minister Yair Lapid following his cabinet's approval.

Speaking from the presidential palace, negotiator Elias Bou Saab said the agreement marked the beginning of "a new era" and that the letter would be submitted to U.S. officials at Lebanon's southernmost border point of Naqoura later on Thursday.

Asked what happens in case of a violation by either of the sides, which remain technically at war, U.S. envoy Amos Hochstein said the U.S. would remain a guarantor to help resolve any disputes.

"If one side violates the deal, both sides lose," Hochstein told reporters.

An offshore energy discovery - while not enough on its own to resolve Lebanon's deep economic problems - would be a major boon, providing badly needed hard currency and possibly one day easing crippling blackouts.

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10.27.22

Gantz meeting with Turkish leader Erdogan to renew stance on Hamas

10.27.22

Gantz plans unannounced meeting with Erdogan to 'renew official security ties'

Defense minister travels to Ankara to meet with Turkish leader and Turkish counterpart with Iran on top of mind; 'This relationship strengthens Israel's standing in the region'

Yossi Yehoshua|03:57

Defense Minister Benny Gantz is set for an announced meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara Thursday afternoon.

Earlier this year, the Turkish leader met with President Isaac Herzog and Prime Minister Yair Lapid.

Gantz and Erdogan will meet at the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey, where Defense Minister Hulusi Akar will join them as well.

"This is the first meeting of the Defense Minister with his counterpart and state officials in Turkey in over more than a decade," the Defense Ministry stated. "In the framework of these meetings, Gantz will renew official security ties between the countries."

Gantz arrived in Ankara last night for an official visit ahead of the announcement of the resumption of security ties with the country, after Israeli security officials have spent the last several months carefully working toward renewing diplomatic ties.

A senior security official said that "Erdogan has proven that he knows how to act against terror. The security relations with Turkey are part of the regional architecture, and Israel can help Ankara make its case to the U.S."

According to the official, covert communications between the countries continued even after their political fallout, especially intelligence sharing to unwind Iranian plots to harm Israelis on Turkish soil.

"This relationship really strengthens Israel's standing in the region, the cooperation and coordination in the political, security-military and perhaps industrial channels in the future, with some of the countries. The maritime deal with the Lebanese is another significant dimension that strengthens ties."

Finance Minister Avigdor Liberman, who has previously criticized Erdogan, said Thursday morning that Gantz did not notify him about the meeting.

"Erdogan probably understood that he made severe mistakes, he made a U-turn from his past and all his troubles and remarks. It's good that he realized it," Liberman added. "We are not looking for true friendship here, there is an interest and he probably realized that his interests are elsewhere and not where he was looking up until now."

Gantz's visit marks the first by an Israeli defense minister since that Ehud Barak in 2012. According to a senior security official, Turkey is coming forth with a positive stance on Israeli demands to Hamas.

10.26.22 – We

Arab allies worried Israel MKs with Ben Gvir fiery rhetoric could sour ties

10.26.22 – We

Gulf allies worried Israeli government with Ben Gvir could sour ties

Abu Dhabi worried naming far-right firebrand minister would embarrass them and may make future cooperation with Jerusalem more difficult; Netanyahu reportedly in the know Itamar Eichner|09:26

Israel's Arabian Gulf allies are worried about the prospect of an Israeli government that may include far-right firebrand Itamar Ben Gvir after next week's general election, Ynet learned on Wednesday.

Senior officials in the United Arab Emirates recently said in closed conversations with Israeli peers that the possibility of Itamar Ben Gvir sitting in the next government as a minister embarrasses them, and may make future cooperation with Israel more difficult.

A senior Emirati official said that "if there is an extreme government in Israel, with fiery rhetoric, it may make it difficult to continue strengthening the relationship between the countries."

Emirati officials do not voice such concerns publicly or in official meetings, but they understand that after next week's elections, the relationship with Israel may face a hurdle. Axios reporter Barak Ravid said on Twitter that the Emiratis had made their concerns known to opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu.

"Emirati Foreign Minister Abdullah Bin Zayed told Israeli opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu he is concerned about the possibility of ultra-right extremists being included in a new government if he wins the upcoming elections," he wrote.

Last month, Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed arrived in Tel Aviv on an official visit to mark two years after the signing of the Abraham Accords.

He met with Prime Minister Yair Lapid, President Isaac Herzog, opposition leader Netanyahu and Defense Minister Benny Gantz.

Ben Zaid also visited Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum and laid a wreath in Ohel Yizkor Memorial Hall. This was the first time an Emirati foreign minister visited the place.

10.26.22 – We

Record number of 8000 Jews visit Temple Mount over High Holiday month

10.26.22 – We

Record number of Jews visit Temple Mount over High Holidays, report says

According to right-wing advocacy group, nearly 8,000 people made the stop at the location during month-long holiday season, which beats annual number of visitors to the site recorded in past 10 years Gilad Cohen|07:10

A record breaking number of Jewish people visited the Temple Mount during the Jewish High Holy Days, a right-wing advocacy group said on Wednesday.

The "Yaraeh" organization, which works to encourage Jewish to visit the holy site, provided the data **claiming nearly 8,000** people chose make the stop at the location during the month-long holiday season.

This is the most visits by Jews in one month, and beats the yearly number of visitors to the site recorded in the past 10 years.

According to Jewish administration in the Temple Mount, a total of **7,724 Jews visited** the site **during 2012**. That number was exceeded during the first month of the Jewish Year, with 7,795 Jewish visitors counted.

The Western Wall Heritage Foundation reported that over two million people visited the Western Wall during the Jewish High Holy Days.

Tensions were high during October due to a terror attack near the Shu'fat refugee camp and riots in Sheikh Jarrah, a Palestinian neighborhood in east Jerusalem.

Due to the tensions, Prime Minister Yair said last week that "we're not changing the status quo of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, we'll care for the Muslim freedom of religion."

He added that "**during the Ramadan one million people visited to pray at al-Aqsa**, and allowing them to do is our duty as a government."

Lapid also said that Jewish prayers will not be allowed to take place, and that visits will only be allowed under supervision. "We don't allow it. We allow Jews to visit the Temple Mount, but do so under supervision so as to not disturb the status quo."

The Jewish administration in the Temple Mount said they were pleased with "the surprising rise in number of Jewish visitors to the Temple Mount. According to them, "the public votes with its feet, and strengthens the Jewish connection to the holiest place of the Jewish people."

They added: "We **thank the visitors, rabbis and the police** on the positive change it has made in recent years, **which allowed for every Jewish person to visit the Temple Mount** in comfort, and according to government limitations, which are slowly being removed as more and more Jews arrive to witness this holy place **with respect.**"

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Ynet-News, October 26, 2022 – Wednesday

10.26.22 – We- - - News Placed in October 26 spot – Wednesday
Energiean 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