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IDF readies for cease-fire's 'next phase' in north

Hezbollah rejects imposed cease-fire, soldier killed by anti-tank missile

Rawan Suleiman, Liza Rozovsky, Jack Khoury and Reuters

Israeli forces are preparing for the "next phase" of the cease-fire in Lebanon, a source familiar with the matter told Haaretz on Thursday, while Hezbollah rejected the U.S.-sponsored deal in an open letter to its followers.

According to the source, Israeli forces are not withdrawing, as ground troops are still deployed in southern Lebanon.

Also Thursday, an Israeli soldier was killed by an anti-tank missile in southern Lebanon, the military said. Capt. Eitan Shmuel Lem-

berg, 21, was a commander in the Armored Corps.

Another Israeli source said Israel does not intend to withdraw from areas south of the Litani River but it has agreed not to carry out offensive actions against Hezbollah—including the demolition of homes—in exchange for the cessation of offensive actions by Hezbollah against Israeli forces. The source said "quiet would be met with quiet," adding that Israeli forces will respond significantly to any threat.

In a letter addressed to the Lebanese public, Hezbollah leader Naim Qassem demanded a comprehensive cease-fire and rejected any division between northern

and southern Lebanon. "As long as our villages are being bombed, northern Israel will not be safe," he said. Less than an hour after Qassem's speech, air-raid sirens sounded in northern Israel.

Israel could not have a free hand to kill people in Lebanon, Qassem said, adding that the anti-Israel resistance would continue so long as the occupation persists. He urged Lebanese officials to "end the farce" of direct negotiations. "A fictional cease-fire spells surrender, defeat and achieving Israel's goals," he said.

The United States announced on Wednesday that

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Some of the thousands of participants at the Jerusalem March for Pride and Tolerance on Thursday. See story, *Page 4*. Itai Cohen

62 arrested in Haredi riot at justice's home

Chen Maanit and Josh Breiner

Police arrested 62 people during a violent protest Wednesday night outside the home of Supreme Court Deputy President Justice Noam Sohlberg.

The demonstrators, mainly ultra-Orthodox men, were protesting against the arrest of ultra-Orthodox, or Haredi, men who have ignored military conscription notices.

In response to the disturbances, Supreme Court President Justice Isaac Amit said that the disturbance crossed "a red line."

"The acts of violence directed at Deputy President Sohlberg and his wife are in fact an attack on the entire judicial system and the rule of law in Israel," Amit wrote in a letter sent to all Israeli judges on Thursday. He added that the protester's behavior exceeded "the boundaries of legitimate protest and represents an attempt to undermine the sense of security of judges and their families."

The demonstrators came to Sohlberg's home in the West Bank settlement of Alon Shvut and tried to break into the property, vandalized the entrance to the house, smashed flowerpots and windows, and shattered the windows of his car. The attackers also scattered leaflets in the street reading, "Sohlberg, take your hands off ultra-Orthodox Judaism."

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With announcement, Trump saves Israel from itself – again

Analysis Amos Harel

Early Thursday morning, the U.S. State Department issued an announcement that was almost celebratory. Israel and Lebanon agreed to implement a cease-fire, following another round of talks in Washington involving Israeli and Lebanese ambassadors and officials.

The agreement has an unofficial third party, Hezbollah, and its implementation depends largely on the Shiite

organization. Hezbollah Secretary-General Naim Qassem threatened on Thursday, "As long as our villages are being bombed – northern Israel will not be safe." According to the American announcement, Hezbollah will pull back its personnel to north of the Litani River, and "pilot zones" will soon be created, to be under the responsibility and control of the Lebanese army.

Airport becomes U.S. parking lot
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Thursday indeed saw a significant reduction in the exchange of fire on Israel's border with Lebanon. Still, we've seen several American declarations of this sort in the last few months that fade away in light of developments on the ground. We'll have to wait and see.

The new understanding was anticipated by an angry phone call between U.S. President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday evening, Israel time. Their conversation reflects a sharp clash between the two, irrespective of how many expletives Trump hurled at the Israeli leader (the two later confirmed, in separate interviews, the report by Barak Ravid on Israel's Channel 12 News).

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Israeli dignitaries at the parade in New York on Sunday.

Eduardo Munoz/Reuters

Inside the Israeli far right's big weekend out in New York

Etan Nechin

NEW YORK – Sunday's Israel Day Parade on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan was, until it began, ruled by the controversy of New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani's decision to break with tradition and skip the parade. In response, Israel sent its largest delegation ever to march in the event.

The Israeli Consul General in New York, Ofir Akunis, framed the turnout as an act

of defiance rather than a celebration. "We must show them that the blue and white flag will never be taken down," he wrote ahead of the parade, which was also attended by city and state officials.

After officials dispersed and the march was in full swing, the Knesset delegation, attending as guests of the Israeli consulate, arrived. Holding the banner alongside the Consul General were Knesset Speaker Amir Ohana and members of Itamar Ben-

Gvir's far-right ultra-nationalist Otzma Yehudit party, ministers Amichay Eliyahu and Yitzhak Wasserlauf, as well as Likud MKs Ariel Kallner and Ofir Sofer.

But it was Israel's far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich – against whom the International Criminal Court has requested an arrest warrant, according to him – who drew the most attention, prompting New York officials

See **RIGHT**, *Page 5*

11 dead in Gaza strikes, 947 killed since Oct. cease-fire

Rawan Suleiman

Israeli strikes in Gaza Wednesday and Thursday killed 11 people, including three women and two children, and injured 32 more, the Hamas-run Health Ministry reported.

Medical sources at Al-Shifa Hospital said that nine people were killed in attacks by the Israel Defense Forces overnight in Gaza City. The military had not commented on the strikes by publication time.

Palestinian media outlets reported that the Israel Air Force struck four apartments in Gaza City simultaneously, and in one of them, five members of a single family were killed. A fire broke out in one of the apartments following the attacks.

According to the Health Ministry's statement, the number of dead since the start of the October cease-fire stands at 947, while the total death toll since the outbreak of the war has risen to 72,956.

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The Faculty of Health Professions at Ono Academic College invites you to a scientific conference on:

Challenges and Transformations in the Health Professions

Wednesday | June 17, 2026 | 8:30 AM–3:15 PM
The Ono Academic College Campus, 1 Academic Boulevard, Kiryat Ono

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Scientific Committee Chair: **Dr. Sirat Abu-Hamad**

9:15–10:15 AM
Opening Remarks and Presentation of Outstanding Faculty Research Posters

10:15–11:15 AM
Keynote Lecture: Prof. Gil Siegal
"Transformations in the Ethics of the Health Professions – From Hippocrates to Claude"

12:00–1:30 PM
Parallel Sessions:
Session 1: Mind-Body and Resilience in the Technological Era
Chair: Dr. Sirat Abu-Hamad

Session 2: Human-Machine-Intelligence: Smart Care Interfaces in the Era of Digital Health
Chair: Dr. Assaf Lev

1:45–3:15 PM
Parallel Sessions:
Session 3: Ethics, Professional Identity, and Dilemmas in a Changing Era
Chair: Dr. Efrat Selanikyo

Session 4: Innovation in Teaching and Clinical Training in the Health Professions
Chair: Dr. Limor Adi-Bensaid



To register, scan the QR code.
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