

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2025 ■ 4 ELUL, 5785



Bring them home

Dror Or, 48, taken from Kibbutz Be'eri, killed on Oct. 7, body held in Gaza

History found in J'lem

Ancient Israel's largest dam

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Antisemitism expelled

Australia expels Iran's envoy

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ISRAELI SECURITY forces raid the West Bank city of Ramallah on Tuesday. (Flash90)

IDF CMDR. LT.-COL. A:

'If there is terror financing, we will seize it, wherever it is'

EXCLUSIVE

• By YONAH JEREMY BOB

Anywhere there is terror financing in the West Bank, the IDF will seize it, even if it is in the Palestinian Authority's capital, Ramallah, Lt.-Col. A, the IDF's 668th Ram Battalion commander, told *The Jerusalem Post* in an exclusive interview just after his unit busted Hamas's last banks in Ramallah on Wednesday.

Pressed on whether he was concerned about entering the PA's capital, where the IDF operates much less frequently, he responded, "If

there is terror financing, I will get there. There is no hesitation."

A's battalion was the one with "the most central role for penetrating the bank, seizing the terror funds and equipment, and arresting the Hamas-affiliated individuals close up," he told the *Post*.

Other battalions that were part of the brigade-level operation maintained external security around the bank to allow A's unit to accomplish its mission, he said, giving the other units credit.

Describing the operation, A said, "We entered Ramallah

in one of its central and most well-known public plazas in order to seize the remaining sources of Hamas's terrorist funds from two bank branches."

"Aspects of the terror financing were entrenched in local funds, whereas others were embedded in foreign currencies. We shut it all down, seizing all of the funds dedicated to terrorism there, as well as related computers, surveillance cameras, and those involved," he said.

While the IDF noted five individuals were arrested, A alluded to there being addi-

tional arrests.

He stated that his forces were in Ramallah for the operation for only a few hours.

According to A, he and his forces, along with related ones, had prepared and rehearsed aspects of the operation for several days before carrying it out.

While such operation rehearsals occur with special forces on targeted missions, it is a sign of how complex and unique the mission was that regular infantry were involved in such extensive

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US expects Gaza war to end by 2026, 'one way or another'

Trump to chair meeting on 'day after'

• Jerusalem Post Staff and Reuters

US envoy Steve Witkoff said on Tuesday that President Donald Trump was to chair "a large meeting" on Gaza at the White House on Wednesday.

Asked if there is a "day after" plan for Gaza, Witkoff told Fox News' Bret Baier: "Yes, we've got a large meeting in the White House tomorrow, chaired by the president, and it's a very comprehensive plan we're putting together on the next day."

When asked why he was optimistic about reaching a hostage and ceasefire deal,

Witkoff stated that the Trump administration expects the conflict to end by 2026.

"We think we're going to settle this one way or another," he said.

"Hamas is signaling that they're open to a settlement. The Israelis, when they announced this operation, also announced that they were funding \$600 million of aid to go into Gaza, and in addition, that they were open to continuing discussions with Hamas."

Witkoff added that the Trump administration suggested to Hamas that a good

start to begin negotiations would be to pay more attention to the hostages.

"We've suggested, by the way, that Hamas can begin by feeding the hostages, by giving them medical attention, letting the Red Cross come in, by doing the humane thing," he said. "The president is a humanitarian; that is what he wants to see."

Earlier, Witkoff reportedly told Trump that "they talk about you a lot in Hostages Square," during a cabinet meeting.

"I wish I had a camera to show you," Witkoff said.

EUROPEAN OFFICIALS TO 'POST':

E3 states moving to reinstate snapback sanctions on Iran

• By AMICHAI STEIN

The United Kingdom, France, and Germany are planning to initiate a process on Thursday to reinstate UN sanctions against Iran through their snapback mechanism, European officials told *The Jerusalem Post* on Wednesday.

Once announced, a 30-day grace period will be in effect, during which the mechanism can be halted. If it is not stopped, all the sanctions that were originally imposed on Iran in 2015 will be reinstated.

European nations are demanding that Iran resume negotiations for a new nuclear agreement and grant access to all of its nuclear sites, including the uranium stockpiles that were damaged during the war with Israel.

Deputy foreign ministers from Germany, France, and the UK met with Iran's deputy foreign minister on Tuesday.

The meeting yielded no significant progress, according to a source familiar with the matter.

Iran's Foreign Ministry

said after the meeting: "Iran remains committed to diplomacy and a mutually beneficial diplomatic solution. It is high time for the E3 and the UN Security Council to make the right choice and give diplomacy time and space."

According to a source familiar with the matter, the foreign ministers of Germany, France, and the UK, along with the European Union's foreign policy chief, Kaja Kallas, also held discussions with US Secretary of State

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Zamir delays Oct. 7 follow-up report after fight with PM

IDF chief also in dispute with State Comptroller

• By YONAH JEREMY BOB

Following a major fallout with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Israel Katz over the next stage of the war in Gaza and over IDF appointments, IDF Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Eyal Zamir, on Wednesday, took the highly controversial measure of delaying the publication of his follow-up report to the October 7 probes, which were approved by his predecessor, Herzi Halevi.

Zamir's decision is nearly a complete reversal of his earlier position that it was

crucial to rush out specific judgments on the conduct of specific IDF commanders on October 7 in order to lift the cloud still hanging over the military. The IDF chief had been critical of Halevi's probe for not assigning responsibility to commanders and merely describing the failures of the IDF as an institution.

To further his approach, Zamir had ordered Maj.-Gen. (res.) Sami Turgeman to produce a report providing evidence of personal responsibility on the part of certain commanders for the failures of October 7 within mere months.

The IDF's announcement on Wednesday only said that the report's publication needed to be delayed due to the next steps in the Israel-Hamas War, which may include an invasion of Gaza City, something which Zamir opposes but that Netanyahu has ordered him to carry out.

The chief of staff is against the invasion, saying it will achieve little and could seriously endanger the remaining 20 living hostages held by Hamas.

Netanyahu wants to go ahead with the invasion to

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Why has Israel failed to stop the Houthis?

EXCLUSIVE

• By YONAH JEREMY BOB

Israel has failed to stop the Yemeni Houthis from firing ballistic missiles and drones at it since October 19, 2023, because of a mix of failed strategy and capabilities, *The Jerusalem Post* has learned. From October 2023 until July 2024, when a Houthi drone killed an Israeli civilian in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem's approach was to avoid directly confronting the Houthis and to try to leave any fighting with them to the US.

Top Israeli officials – with US officials agreeing with them – during the early stages of the war told the *Post* that

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HOUTHI REBELS guard a missile carrier during a military parade in Sanaa in 2023. (Mohammed Huwais/AFP, Mohammed Hamoud/Getty Images)

Uman, draft evaders, and a tone-deaf gov't

ANALYSIS

• By HERB KEINON

It is hard to imagine a more striking display of political tone-deafness than the government's decision to allocate millions of shekels so that some 50,000 Israelis – many of them haredim (ultra-Orthodox) defying draft notices – can travel to Uman this Rosh Hashanah.

This comes at a time when wave after wave of reservists are being mobilized again – leaving families behind, interrupting jobs, and risking their lives – while the state makes special arrangements

so that young men who refuse to serve can bypass their travel bans and fly off on a state-subsidized spiritual holiday.

The symbolism could not be starker.

On the one hand, a nation girding itself for an assault on Gaza City, with families bracing for another High Holy Day with relatives absent because they are on reserve duty. On the other hand, the spectacle of a government negotiating with Moldova to pay millions for the logistics of shuttling thousands of pilgrims – including those evading the draft – to pray

at Rabbi Nachman's grave in Ukraine.

If the haredi political establishment has often been accused since October 7 of

being detached from the reality of what the country is going through, this move

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Ex-hostage's testimony at UN relegated by queries on hospital

• By DARCIE GRUNBLATT

Freed Hamas captive Ilana Gritzewsky appealed for the release of her partner, Matan Zangauker, who is still being held in Gaza, at a press conference ahead of a United Nations Security Council

meeting on Wednesday.

Gritzewsky described her experience being held in Gaza's underground tunnels, with little light and food, and the post-traumatic stress disorder she has faced since she was released. She recalled that during her captivity, when she was moved locations, she was forced to walk hand in hand with a terrorist as if she were his wife, so



ILANA GRITZEWSKY (WebTV UN)

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ELEGANCE & EXCELLENCE

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Included in tomorrow's paper

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