



**War footing**  
Parents at home struggle to work, care for kids  
Page 5

**Unsporting fate?**  
Fears raised for safety of Iran women's soccer team  
Page 12



**Opening up**  
Holocaust survivor and teen bond in 'The Optimist'  
Page 16



## IDF sends 36th Division deeper into south Lebanon

*Hezbollah fires precision long-range rockets into central Israel, causing casualties*

• By YONAH JEREMY BOB and MAYA ZANGER-NADIS

The IDF announced on Monday that Division 36 had penetrated deeper into southern Lebanon as part of the conflict with Hezbollah.

Already last week, three IDF divisions – 91, 210, and 146 – had expanded Israel's security zone in southern Lebanon to prevent Hezbollah from even contemplating an invasion.

By Wednesday night last week, the IDF announced that the 91st Division had expanded Israel's security zone in the eastern portion of southern Lebanon, the 210th Division had expanded its presence in the Mount Dov area, and the 146th Division had done the same in the western portion of southern Lebanon.

The 36th Division, includ-



ST.-SGT. OR DEMRY (IDF)

ing the 7th Brigade, has invaded the Rab al-Talateen area in an effort to further remove Hezbollah threats, which could harm either the IDF troops in broader parts of southern Lebanon or the Israeli home front.

In the wake of the terror group's attacks on Israel launched on March 2, the IDF has responded with a

ferocious counterattack, with 700 strikes as of Monday, including several dozen massive attacks on Hezbollah's Dahiyeh stronghold in Beirut.

In turn, prior to Monday, the terror organization responded with much more extensive rocket and drone attacks on Israel's North, including Haifa, and activated anti-tank and mortar cells, killing two Israeli soldiers and wounding around 15 in southern Lebanon.

The IDF released the name of the second of two soldiers who were killed in action in southern Lebanon on Sunday in an ambush close to the border. Staff-Sergeant Or Demry of Moshav Liman, was killed alongside Sergeant 1st-Class Maher Khatar of Majdal Shams while deployed

See *LEBANON*, Page 7

## One killed, many casualties from Iranian rocket barrages

*IDF continues strikes in Iran, including southern area*

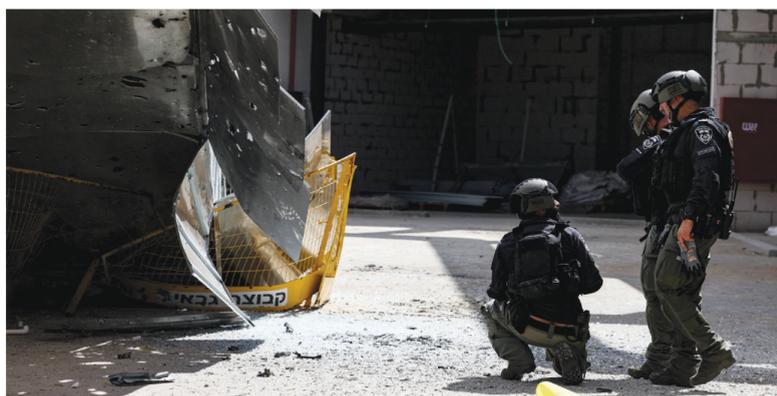
• By MAYA ZANGER-NADIS, YONAH JEREMY BOB and MIRIAM SELA-EITAM

One person was killed and multiple others were seriously wounded during one of several Iranian ballistic missile barrages toward central Israel, Magen David Adom confirmed on Monday afternoon.

Cluster munitions were reportedly used by Iran, with around half a dozen sites hit.

In some of the locations that were hit, no early warnings or rocket sirens were sounded, and IDF Spokesperson Brig.-Gen. Effie Defrin said the military was reviewing what might have gone wrong.

In the past, cluster munitions or missiles that otherwise broke apart sometimes confused military warning



EMERGENCY RESPONDERS work at an impact site following the deadly Iranian missile strike in Yehud yesterday. (Nir Elias/Reuters)

systems looking for full-sized missiles.

The individual who was killed was found and declared dead at the scene after resus-

citation efforts. He and one of the wounded are foreign Chinese workers, according to N12.

One of the wounded was

evacuated from a construction site in serious and unstable condition to Sheba Medical

See *ROCKET* Page 7

## 'Hezbollah tells its fighters to attack Lebanese army if they are confronted'

• By AMICHAJ STEIN

Hezbollah has instructed its members to confront the Lebanese Armed Forces should it attempt to intervene with the terror group's activities, a source familiar with the details told *The Jerusalem Post*.

"The instruction is very clear: If the Lebanese army attempts to dismantle a position or prevent rocket fire, confront them," the source said.

The directive comes as Beirut has recently begun to take steps against Iranians and

members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps in Lebanon.

Among other measures, the Lebanese government has announced that Iranian citizens can now only enter the country with a visa, designated the IRGC as an illegal organization, and expelled senior Iranian officials from the country.

These moves follow Israel's demand to act against Islamic regime members operating on Lebanese soil.

See *ARMY*, Page 7



A HEZBOLLAH flag is seen in front of buildings destroyed by an airstrike in Nabi Chit, Lebanon, on Saturday. (Adri Salido/Getty Images)

## War helps bolster ties with Middle Eastern countries

• By YONAH JEREMY BOB

Israel's relations with Middle Eastern countries are progressing as the war with Iran advances, *The Jerusalem Post* has learned.

Several Abraham Accords countries have been working directly with Israel militarily at particular junctures, and even those not yet part of the accords have been, at times, working in parallel to Jerusalem through US Central Command (CENTCOM), since the war has impacted those countries even more

than it has the Jewish state.

Tehran's latest massive ballistic missile and drone attacks on Middle Eastern nations have served to draw them closer to Jerusalem and Washington in a variety of ways. There are many dimensions to these ever-evolving relations.

Certain Abraham Accords countries, such as Morocco, the UAE, and Bahrain, have all, separately, increased military exchanges with Israel since the accords were signed in 2020.

On February 16, for exam-

ple, Morocco became one of a group of countries slated to participate in the International Stabilization Force expected to be deployed in Gaza to supervise the Israel-Hamas ceasefire. Prior to the Abraham Accords and the ongoing positive military interactions and trust built between Jerusalem and Rabat, this might not have been possible.

In November 2025, around 130 foreign military officials visited Israeli military installations and received classified

See *TIES*, Page 7

## Board of Peace issued tenders to build Gaza villages, troop base

EXCLUSIVE

• By ZVIKA KLEIN

US President Donald Trump's plan for postwar Gaza continues to move forward despite the US-Israel war

with Iran, with the Board of Peace already issuing tenders for projects on the ground, two sources close to the initiative told *The Jerusalem Post* on Monday.

According to the sources, the initiative has moved beyond diplomatic planning and into early implementation. The Board of Peace is already operating as an official entity, they said, and has opened a bank account with

an initial budget of between \$60 million and \$70m. The funding is allegedly not from the US or from Israel but from other entities in the region.

The sources said the Board of Peace had already issued tenders for three projects: refugee villages in Gaza, a base for international troops expected to serve there, and a management headquarters in Israel.

See *GAZA*, Page 7

## Lebanon security zone being considered

ANALYSIS

• By HERB KEINON

Following the Hamas attack on October 7, Israel established what is effectively a Hamas-free buffer between Gaza and Israeli communities in the western Negev known as the Yellow Line.

This zone reflects a lesson that has shaped Israel's security strategy since the attack: Hostile forces cannot be allowed to sit within immediate striking distance of Israeli civilian communities.

The same logic has guided Israeli moves elsewhere during the war.

Following the collapse of Syrian president Bashar al-Assad's regime, Israel moved to establish a buffer area in parts of southern Syria, creating distance between Israeli communities on the Golan Heights and hostile forces across the border.

Now, after Hezbollah has entered the current war on Iran's side by launching rockets and drones toward Israel, voices inside the Jewish state

are increasingly calling for a similar step in Lebanon.

And those voices are not coming only from the political Right.

Opposition leader Yair Lapid told i24 News last week that Israel may ultimately have no choice but to create a sterile strip inside southern Lebanon. The idea, he suggested, would be to create a zone resembling the Yellow Line in Gaza – "an area with no Lebanese villages in it, a completely clean strip between the last Lebanese

and the first Israeli community."

Lapid acknowledged that "it may be unaesthetic, unpleasant to scrape away two or three Lebanese villages," but that Lebanon brought this upon itself. "No one told them they had to become a host state for a terrorist organization," he said.

His comments reflect increased talk among Israeli political and military leaders about establishing a security

See *ZONE*, Page 7



### THE JERUSALEM POST

In collaboration with CHECK POINT



## WOMEN LEADERS SUMMIT

March 24, 2026



**Adv. Michal Herzog**  
First Lady of the State of Israel



**Prof. Tzipi Strauss**  
Founder and Head of Sheba longevity



**Shira Lev Arni**  
Head of the National Digital Agency

For more details and collaborations: [conferencep@jpost.com](mailto:conferencep@jpost.com)

For tickets:

