



FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2026 ■ 24 AV, 5786

4
Desperately sad

Yarden Bibas honors murdered son Ariel on his 7th birthday

12
TV time

Savor summer with Israeli classics and plucky pioneers

13
Restoring fear

Iran uses executions to quell defiance of January protests

The Sbarro attack, 25 years on
MAGAZINE

Two IDF soldiers killed, four wounded in S. Lebanon

• Jerusalem Post Staff,
 SARAH BEN-NUN and Reuters

Two IDF soldiers were killed, and four others were seriously wounded during a combat mission in southern Lebanon on Wednesday, the military announced on Thursday morning.

Maj. (res.) Harel Birenstock, 34, from Nokdim, was a company commander in Battalion 2855 of the 55th Reserve Paratroopers Brigade, while M.-Sgt. (res.) Tamir Vaknin, 33, from Eilat, served as a combat soldier in the same battalion.

Birenstock was married and a father of four, including a six-month-old baby.

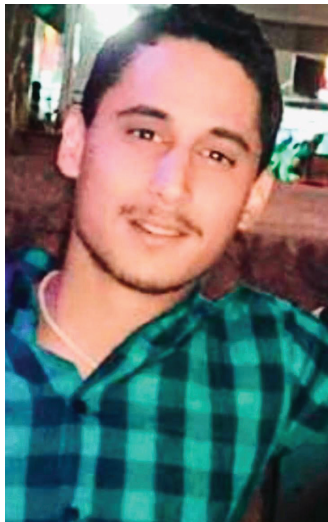
Rambam Medical Center said on Thursday morning that the conditions of the four wounded soldiers were serious, adding in the afternoon that one of them had regained consciousness.

Birenstock and Vaknin were killed during a search operation in Majdal Zoun in southern Lebanon, in an area that previously had not been inspected by the IDF after Hezbollah fighters withdrew from the town in March.

According to the military, the squad entered a booby-trapped house, where an explosive device detonated upon their entry, causing part of the building to collapse. Troops rushed to assist the soldiers trapped beneath



MAJ. HAREL BIRENSTOCK (IDF)



SGT.-MAJ. TAMIR VAKNIN (IDF)

the rubble. Birenstock and Vaknin were evacuated along with four other soldiers who were wounded.

The IDF carried out strikes in the area of Mansouri in southern Lebanon on Thursday, targeting what it said were Hezbollah weapons-storage facilities and command centers. The military also issued evacuation warnings for the town.

The Lebanese Health Ministry said on Wednesday that one person was killed and 12 others were wounded in an Israeli strike on the southern town of Tibnin, about 25 kilometers from Mansouri.

The flare-up took place as Israel continued to hold areas

in a security zone in southern Lebanon and as talks between Israel and Lebanon continued in Rome.

The talks, which began on Tuesday and were expected to continue through Thursday, came after the two countries agreed in June to a US-brokered security arrangement intended to ease hostilities along the border.

The IDF also said on Thursday that its troops had located and dismantled thousands of Hezbollah infrastructure sites during months of operations in southern Lebanon.

The sites included command posts, operational and

See IDF, Page 10

Secret X bot army based in City Hall boosting Mamdani

EXCLUSIVE

• By MATHILDA HELLER

Dozens of suspected bot accounts on X/Twitter are amplifying content from New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani and his circle, and reportedly can be traced to New York City Hall IP infrastructure, the World Zionist Organization told *The Jerusalem Post* exclusively.

As part of its activities against the waves of antisemitism online, WZO's dedicated Department for Combating Antisemitism was presented with data and findings collected by cyber experts specializing in the field. The information included an analysis of IP addresses and mapping of activity patterns and distribution networks of suspected bot accounts.

WZO's technological examination of activity on the X network points to dozens, if not hundreds, of accounts with unusual characteristics.



NYC MAYOR Zohran Mamdani holds his hand over his heart during the national anthem at the National Night Out Against Crime in the confines of the 79 Precinct, in New York City, on Tuesday. (David Dee Delgado/Reuters)

See SECRET, Page 10

Former UN envoy Gilad Erdan launches new right-wing party

To 'Post': Would consider joining Eisenkot; vows equal IDF service

• By KESHET NEEV
 and SAM HALPREN

Former Israeli ambassador to the UN Gilad Erdan launched a new party on Tuesday, ahead of the election, vowing right-wing principles and universal IDF conscription.

The party, which has not yet been named, was launched with MK Yuli Edelstein, who

recently left Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's ruling Likud Party.

The new party will compete against the Likud in the October 27 elections, and will be led by Erdan. Further political figures are expected to be added, and its official name is still to be released.

At the party's launch in Tel Aviv, Erdan laid out policies calling for haredi (ultra-Or-

thodox) conscription to the IDF amid the military's severe manpower shortage.

He called to pass a Basic Law that would require all Israeli citizens to perform either military or national service. "The law will establish a simple principle: In the State of Israel, every citizen has rights, but also responsibilities," he said.

See GILAD, Page 10

Police confirm Eldar Dayan's body found near Petah Tikva

• By SARAH BEN-NUN
 and Jerusalem Post Staff

Police confirmed on Thursday that a body found earlier in the day near the Yarkon Interchange was that of Eldar Dayan, a 23-year-old Dimona resident who had been missing for nearly three weeks.

The body, which was in an advanced state of decomposition, was discovered in an open area during police

searches for Dayan. It was transferred to the L. Greenberg Institute of Forensic Medicine at Abu Kabir for identification and an examination of the circumstances of death.

Police had not, by press time, announced the cause of death or said whether there was evidence that Dayan had been the victim of a criminal act.

The investigation was transferred from the Dimo-

na Police Station to the Central District, with the Sharon District Central Unit taking the lead after police said the searches and investigative

See BODY, Page 10

SHABBAT	BEGINS	ENDS
Jerusalem	6:50 p.m.	8:09 p.m.
Tel Aviv	7:14 p.m.	8:11 p.m.
Haifa	7:03 p.m.	8:12 p.m.
Beersheba	7:13 p.m.	8:10 p.m.
Eilat	6:58 p.m.	8:06 p.m.



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