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THE JERUSALEM POST

Volume XCIV, Number 28626 FOUNDED IN 1932 NIS 13.00 (EILAT NIS 11.00)

MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2026 ▪ 11 ELUL, 5786



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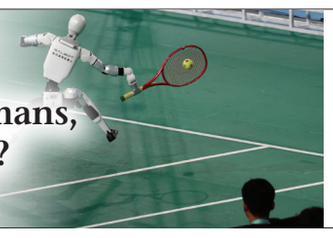
'Over half of Israelis fear being identified abroad'

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The future

Robots can now outrun humans, but can they plug in a cable?

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Fan favorite

How 'Widow's Bay' became an Emmy darling

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SMOKE AND a fireball rise during an Israeli strike, carried out after the military warned Palestinian residents to evacuate the area of al-Zawayda in the central Gaza Strip yesterday. (Eyad Baba/AFP via Getty Images)

Mossad head, Syria FM hold positive de-escalation talks

Asaad al-Shaibani: Israel has 'historic opportunity' for diplomacy • IDF struck Syrian airbase last week

• By AMICHAI STEIN and IDAN KWELLER

A meeting held on Sunday between Israeli and Syrian officials "went well" amid ongoing efforts to lower tensions between the two countries, a source familiar with the meeting told *The Jerusalem Post.*

Those in attendance included Mossad chief Roman Gofman and Syrian Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shaibani, according to N12 News.

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The meeting came after comments from Shaibani to Reuters on Saturday, in which he urged Israel to seize a "historic opportunity" for diplomacy.

"We believe there should be contact, especially with a party that constantly threatens the security of Syria. But if this contact doesn't bring results, then we don't need it," he said. "We do not trust Israel currently."

Shaibani's comments follow Israel's strike against Syria's Abu al-Duhur military airfield on Tuesday.

Two sources told the *Post* on Saturday that the strike was intended to prevent the placement of a Turkish radar and air defense system.

Shabaini emphasized to Reuters that the Abu al-Duhur was not at risk of becoming a Turkish base and said he believed Israel carried out the strike even after that message was conveyed.

A spokesperson from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office, in a statement

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SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER Asaad al-Shaibani speaks during an interview with Reuters in Damascus on Saturday. (Khalil Ashawi/Reuters)

'What did first IDF war crimes report mean, and what's next?

ANALYSIS

• By YONAH JEREMY BOB

In many senses, the IDF's first official alleged war crimes report regarding Israeli soldiers' conduct during the Israel-Hamas War was too little, too late.

The report was released on Wednesday. From a pro-Israel perspective, for nearly three years, Israel and the IDF have not been fully putting forth their narrative into the public sphere to defend themselves against genocide and other allegations.

Sure, there have been generic defenses about Hamas using human shields and the IDF trying to evacuate civilians away from the fighting (both of which are true), but at some point militaries have to address the specific allegations of distinct incidents.

For Israeli critics, the nearly three-year delay has solidified their conclusion that the IDF and Israel are not interested in true justice, but in a fancy whitewash process.

And yet, after both of those criticisms, the report was an important start.

The IDF only gave the public an update on five of its 150 criminal probes, not to mention over 3,000 disciplinary probes.

But the results in the five probes defied some critics'

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THE CASE OF TOM BARRACK:

When the mediator is part of the dispute

ANALYSIS

• By HERB KEINON

A statement Defense Minister Israel Katz put out via X/Twitter was unusual on two counts.

First, it was posted on Shabbat afternoon – something generally done only in emergencies or especially unusual situations. Second, it included a frontal critique of an influential US administration figure: Washington's ambassador to Turkey and special envoy to Syria and Iraq, Tom Barrack.

On Friday, Barrack was hosted on Mario Nawfal's podcast and, while discussing last Tuesday's IDF bombing of the Abu al-Duhur airbase in northern Syria, made several remarks that – and this is an understatement – raised eyebrows in Jerusalem.

First, he contradicted US policy and said that Israel was occupying the Golan Heights in contravention of UN resolutions and the "international order." In 2019, US President Donald Trump issued a presidential proclamation recognizing Israeli sovereignty over the Golan.

Second, he said that Israel's attack may have been an attempt to "bait" the Turks before the October 27 election, something he said would play well with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's base.

Third, he said that the US checked into intelligence Israel provided showing that Turkey was planning to move troops and equipment into the site and found that it was incorrect.

And, fourth, he said that Turkey, including its president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, was not interested in "attacking" or in any kind of "adversarial" relationship with Israel. Ironically, this statement came just as Turkey called for Interpol to issue a request to law enforcement agencies worldwide to arrest Netanyahu and a number of other Israeli officials on various charges, including genocide.

Barrack's version of what happened last Tuesday is pretty significant. It goes beyond the boilerplate complaint that Israel often hears from Washington after carrying out a strike: that it was done without sufficient coordination with the US. Here you have a senior US official publicly disputing Israel's threat assessment and floating an electoral motive for the attack.

Apparently, Katz thought Barrack's comments serious enough to warrant a swift response – even on Shabbat.

He wrote that Israel had clear intelligence indicating that Turkey planned to take

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IDF captures young terrorist who stabbed soldier near Jericho

• By MIRIAM SELA-EITAM and CORINNE BAUM

The IDF captured a teenager who stabbed an off-duty IDF soldier in Jericho on Sunday, moderately wounding him. The man, 24, was moderately wounded in the terror stabbing attack in the area of Al-Auja, a Palestinian village located on Route 90 near Jericho in the West Bank, the IDF said on Sunday morning.

The victim was moderately wounded in the attack and has been evacuated to Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem to receive medical treatment, Magen David Adom said.

According to Israeli media, he is a haredi (ultra-Orthodox) Jew from Betar Illit.

He was stabbed from behind after stopping at a shopping complex near Al-Auja.

The terrorist, who is reported to be 16 years old, fled the scene immediately, prompting a massive ongoing IDF and Israel Police manhunt. After hours of searching, the IDF apprehended him in the Al-Auja area.

Shlomo Hanaya, the victim's brother, told KAN Reshet Bet that the fact that his brother was only moderately wounded in the terror attack is a "great miracle."

"My brother was [standing] outside the car, while his wife and children were inside," Hanaya said. "It's a great miracle."

He added that his brother is an IDF soldier who was vacationing in the area with his family. "He stopped to buy cigarettes on the way, and the terrorist was simply waiting for him."

Hamas praised the terror attack in a Sunday statement, claiming that it came in response to settler violence in the West Bank and "escalating desecration" of al-Aqsa.

Authorities established blockades in the area. A security source told KAN News

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Ex-spy Pollard joins MK Haskel's party

• By KESHET NEEV and SHIR PERETS

Jonathan Pollard, a former US Navy intelligence analyst who was jailed (from 1987 to 2015) for spying for Israel, announced on Sunday that he was joining MK Sharren Haskel's Israel First party ahead of the upcoming Knesset election, in a joint statement filmed near the Western Wall in Jerusalem.

Pollard publicly declared his support for Haskel and the political direction of Israel First, a new right-wing party that the former deputy foreign minister launched in July.

"I believe in Sharren. And I believe in Israel," Pollard said.

Haskel welcomed Pollard's support, describing his decision to join the party as a significant boost for Israel First.

"The Israel First party is receiving significant reinforcement today from Israeli hero Jonathan Pollard, who paid a very heavy personal price for his commitment to Israel and the Jewish people," Haskel said.

"To stand here today, near the Western Wall, and hear from him that he places his trust in me and in the path of Israel First is a great privilege and a great responsibility. I accept that trust with humility and determination."

Pollard spent 30 years in prison after he was sentenced to life in 1987 for spying and providing Israel with top-secret classified information. He pleaded guilty to the charges. He was released on parole in 2015 and stayed in the US until 2020. He then

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Hamas talking to Dahlan ahead of Palestinian election

• By DANIELLE GREYMAN-KENNARD

Hamas is exploring potential alliances with figures and factions once considered to be on the opposite end of the Palestinian political spectrum, including former Fatah figure Mohammed Dahlan and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), ahead of the Palestinian Legislative Council elections, the terror group and other factions confirmed.

The election, set to be held on November 28, 2026, will be the first Palestinian legislative election in two decades, following Hamas's takeover of the Gaza Strip a year after the previous election in 2006.

Dahlan met with Hamas chief Khalil al-Hayya in Egypt on Monday to discuss "unity of the national position," the Democratic Reform Bloc, a breakaway faction of Fatah led by Dahlan, confirmed in a statement.

Imad Mohsen, spokesperson

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A MAN drives past portraits of Palestinian president Yasser Arafat (center) and former Fatah security chief in Gaza Mohammed Dahlan (right) in Beirut's Burj al-Barajneh Palestinian refugee camp, in 2024. (Joseph Eid/AFP via Getty Images)