

Israel Today – March 4-6, 2016
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Advanced Missile Defense Systems (*WashPost*)

When complete, Israel's multibillion-dollar missile defense system will rival, even surpass, in speed and targeting, air defenses deployed by Europe and the US. The US has provided \$3.3 billion over 10 years to support the system, which will be able to knock down ballistic missiles and orbiting satellites. Israel's defense establishment and its American partners have designed a layered system that responds to simultaneous attacks from multiple fronts - rockets lobbed from Gaza, mid-range rockets from Lebanon, and long-range ballistic missiles being developed by Iran. Israel's new X-Band radar will allow it to detect incoming missiles 500-600 miles out. A Juniper Cobra US-Israel air defense drill, recently underway in Israel, tested all layers of Israel's defense network - Arrow-2 and Arrow-3; Patriot PAC-2 air defense batteries; Iron Dome; and the not-yet-operational David's Sling Weapon System took part in simulations vs. coordinated, sustained salvo attacks from multiple fronts. They were joined in simulated battles by the Aegis destroyer *Carney* and THAAD and Patriot PAC-3 batteries participating via data links from the US and Europe.

Joint Chiefs of Staff Chair in Israel (*Times of Is.*)

The chair of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Joseph Dunford, landed in Israel Thurs. for talks w/ senior Israeli officials. A new 10-year military aid package from Wash. is under discussion. Israel and the US kicked off their biennial ballistic missile defense exercise - Juniper Cobra - on Sunday. Over "1,700 US Service members, civilians and contractors" will take part in the multi-day drill, the eighth such exercise since the Juniper Cobra program began in 2001," said Maj.-Gen. Mark Loeben of US EUCOM. "Support for Israel's defense has been an integral part of US policy in the region for decades, and this exercise has, and will continue, to directly support that policy."

A Nation of Heroes - Warren Goldstein

Since Sept. there have been 307 attacks on Israelis, in which 33 have been killed and 360 injured: 192 stabbings, 76 shootings and 39 vehicular attacks. For decades without respite, Israelis have fought w/ heroism and bravery in their armed forces to defend their homes and cities from murderous attacks. All the while, they have created a flourishing society, absorbed millions of refugees, established a haven of freedom and prosperity in a region of hatred and oppression. And they have done so w/ positive energy and even optimism. All people in every civilized country should be grateful to the Israeli people for standing so resolutely on the front lines.

PA Funding to Terrorists - Lenny Ben-David

A Pal. attacker who murder is assured that if arrested, he will receive a monthly salary; if killed, his family will receive a monthly pension; if his home is destroyed, the family will receive a generous award to rebuild it. Per one study "Terrorists in prison receive higher average salary than PA civil servants and military personnel.

Pal. Christians Fleeing Bethlehem – R. Nicholson

It is no coincidence that Bethlehem was mostly Christian until the 1990s. Until then, Bethlehem was ruled directly by Israel. In the mid-90s when Israel agreed to let the PLO rule parts of the W. Bank under the Oslo Accords, Christians were relegated to the status of second-class citizens. In public, Bethlehem Christians who laud their happy coexistence w/ their Muslim neighbors, don't have a choice. They are hostages inside their own city.

Egypt's Leaders View Israel as an Ally (*Al-Monitor*)

Egypt's higher stratum view Israel as an important, powerful ally in regional struggles. Prez Sisi, in 3/2015, said he speaks to Bibi frequently. On the list of Egypt's close allies, Israel is a front-runner. Intelligence info is almost totally shared between the sides w/ regard to the IS branch in the Sinai. They rely on one another in their joint struggle against Hamas.

Kenya-Israel Partnership (*Standard Digital-Kenya*)

Israel is sending salt water from the Med. Sea via desalination plants and practices waste-water recycling to give its citizens millions of cubic meters of water in excess of their needs. Israel will double the number of Kenyans training in Israel and to establish the Irrigation and Water Eng. Inst. in Kenya to give Kenya capability as it increases its acreage under irrigation..

Voice of Arab Doctor in Israel (*Times of Israel*)

Faiza, the head of the intensive care unit at a major private hospital in Israel, lives in Shuafat, an Arab neighborhood in J-lem where there are recurrent disturbances. She comes from a family of 11, most graduates of Israeli universities. "I love living in Israel. I thank Allah every day for having given me the opportunity to grow up here.... Were it not for this country, I would never be what I am.... Israel gives you the opportunity to express your human potential.... Israelis put their own lives in danger crossing the border in order to take the wounded Syrians to Israeli hospitals." (*AP*)
Dr. Saleem Haj-Yahia performed the first-ever successful artificial heart transplant in the W. Bank last month. The British-educated cardiologist returned

home in 2014 to become dean of the medical school at the An-Najah teaching hospital in Nablus. He seeks to increase Pal. medical self-sufficiency, and make the Pal. medical system less dependent on its Israeli counterpart. Transferring Pal. patients to Israeli hospitals has dropped by 30% in the last year.

IDF's Highest-Ranking Muslim (*Jsh Chronicle-UK*)

I am an Israeli, an Arab, and the highest ranked Muslim in the IDF. The town I grew up in did not recognize the right of Israel to exist as a Jewish state. I was raised to believe the worst things about Jews, and, had I not eventually met and worked alongside them, I might still believe those things today. Peace - real peace - will only come when people talk to each other. The irony of Israeli Apartheid Week is that it wants individuals to focus on differences, not similarities. Instead of building bridges between communities, it wants to build walls. During my time in the UK, I spoke alongside a fellow soldier, a medic who has treated both Israeli soldiers and Pal. terrorists without distinction. We were the Muslim who protects Jewish lives, and the Jew who saves Muslim lives. There's only one country in the ME that could produce a couple like that. Every moment of cooperation between Israeli Arabs and Israeli Jews reduces the risk of war, and makes the chances for peace higher."

Swarm Boat Attacks (*JePost*)

An Israel Navy source: " Hamas is building up its ability to cause much damage from sea-based attacks ... improving its diving commando units, and creating sea forces that are more capable than they were before.... They will try to attack our vessels w/ swarms." The navy is planting more sonar sensors underwater, and practicing a set of fast responses for when suspicious activity has been detected. The Israel Navy uses Protector unmanned sea vehicles to enforce the 6-nautical-mile fishing zone off the Gazan coast..

Anti-Semitism: The Devil that Never Dies (*WashPost*)

At a conference at Georgetown's Center for Jewish Civ., Daniel Goldhagen called anti-Semitism "the devil that never dies" - it takes on different forms in different cultures. A consistent trait: The idea that Jews - 0.2% of the world's population - represent an evil threat.

MDA Gets \$25 Million (*JTA*)

Magen David Adom, the provider of emergency services in Israel, has received a donation of \$25 million from the Atlanta-based Marcus Foundation for a new blood services center in Ramle in central Israel.

NATO Commander on Refugee Crisis (*WashTimes*)

NATO's top commander: ISIS is using the Syrian refugee crisis to "mask the movement" of terrorists infiltrat-

ing the West, "taking advantage of paths of least resistance, threatening European nations and our own." Russia is thus "weaponizing" the Syrian refugees.

Jordan Troops Hunt Militants at Border (*Reuters*)

Jordanian security forces killed several Islamists Tues. in a border city w/ Syria. Jordan has tried and sentenced dozens of militants who returned from Syria.

Blame for Gaza's Terrible State – B-D. Yemini

Gaza has a 40% unemployment rate, no electricity during most daylight hours; polluted water that does not always flow. The only relief comes w/ the hundreds of supply trucks that arrive daily from Israel. This is the last barrier that prevents hunger. When Israel left Gaza, the Pals got sovereignty over territory. Anywhere an Islamic org. takes over, the result is destruction and ruin. It has nothing to do w/ Israel. Political Islam does not know how to build. It knows how to destroy. The same is happening in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Somalia, Yemen, Nigeria, the Sinai, and Libya.

Gulf States: Hizbullah - Terrorist Org. (*Reuters*)

The 6-member Gulf Coop. Council named Hizbullah a terrorist org. It imposed sanctions on Hizbullah in 2013 after it entered Syria's war in support of Assad.

Israel 8th Most Powerful Country in World

The "Best Countries Rankings" recently published by the Wharton School of Business was ranked as the #8 power in the world based on 3 things - military power, int'l influence and int'l alliances. (*Is. Hayom*)

J-lem Downplays Turkish Claim (*Israel Hayom*)

Israeli politicians downplayed reports from Turkey that the countries were on the verge of a deal to normalize relations. Israel said parameters for reconciliation had been agreed upon, but a comprehensive deal, which would include the mutual reinstatement of ambassadors, has yet to be finalized.

Israel's Parliament Speaker (*Telegraph-UK*)

Yuli Edelstein, speaker of the Knesset, will visit Parliament this week at the invitation of the House of Commons. He'll speak to a joint session of peers and MPs in the first-ever official visit by an Israeli Knesset speaker. *JPost*: PA FM Malki told the UN Human Rights Council that the int'l community should not allow Israeli settlers to enter their countries.

BDS "Momentum" - a Myth (*Commentary*)

In 2005, when the most recent wave of BDS activity commenced. 10+ years of relentless campaigning against Israel later, 62% sympathize more w/ Israel, 15% more w/ the Pals.

Fight Against Tunnelers w/ "The Obstacle" (WSJ)

Israel is training its soldiers in underground combat and recently asked the Knesset for funding to develop and construct a system to detect and destroy cross-border tunnels. Known as "The Obstacle," the system is being funded in part by the US gov't.

Pentagon Deploys Cyberweapons Against IS (WSJ)

The US military is using new digital weapons to try to neutralize Islamic State's ability to communicate, control forces and manage finances in Syria and Iraq: "to interrupt ISIL's command and control, to cause them to lose confidence in their networks, to overload their networks so that they can't function."

BDS Destroys Livelihoods of Pals (Times of Is.)

2 years ago, SodaStream's plant at the W. Bank industrial zone of Mishor Adumim employed 350 Israeli Jews, 450 Israeli Arabs and 500 W. Bank Pals. It moved its plant last Oct. to Rahat in S. Israel and announced that it was laying off its last 75 Pal. workers.

Farce of Iranian Elections (Is. Hayom)

Whoever was elected - even if committed to reform and change - is not looking forward to the regime's collapse. He may try to make improvements. If the Rev. Guards sense that Rouhani is threatening the revolution or their own status, they are likely to try to overthrow him. Aaron David Miller: Khamenei has no intention of letting Rouhani slip significant change through the back door of the nuclear agreement. Interactions w/ the Americans are purely functional. M. Rubin: Isn't the ouster of some conservative figures and the triumph of a few reformers significant? No no. It serves as little more than a rubber stamp body for pre-ordained decisions. *Bloomberg*: One expert on Iran: "Putting a reformist or moderate label on hardliners does not make them reformist or moderate." Another: "Many... candidates described as reformists...are actually moderates who were endorsed by reformist leaders as a fallback after the Guardian Council disqualified most of the reformists trying to run." This is hardly a victory for democratic change in Iran.

Roots of Pal. Uprising, (J-lem Ctr for Pub.Affairs)

Abbas and those under his authority are goading young Pals through deliberate, distortion and fabrication, portraying the Pals as the victims in a whitewash of terror. A carefully calibrated policy has brought the Israeli-Pal. conflict to one that generates terror without fingerprints, but which adroitly serves Fatah's strategy of an endless war of attrition against Israel.

Americans' Views of Israel Positive (Gallup)

62% of Americans say their sympathies lie more w/ the Israelis and 15% favor the Pals (Feb. 3-7).

US, Israel on New Defense Aid Agreement

Persian Gulf nations are in an intense arms race. Iran plans to spend \$20 billion to finance a weapons procurement plan. Because the US is committed to maintaining Israel's qualitative edge, Israel is expected to receive increased aid, to ensure this advantage.

IDF Preparing for Third Lebanon War (Ynet News)

Hizbullah can launch 100K rockets at Israel at a rate of 1,200 a day from batteries hidden in dozens of villages in S. Lebanon. It plans to take over Israeli towns near the border fence. The IDF is building a new defensive line w/ barriers, ten meters high, to prevent infiltrations of Hizbullah special forces into Israeli towns.

J-lem Mayor Questions Cameron

In response to PM Cameron's calling Israeli settlement construction in east J-lem "genuinely shocking," J-lem Mayor Barkat questioned the PM's knowledge of facts on the ground: "What construction is he 'shocked' by? By the newest, most advanced schools we are building to educate youth? By the new roads we are paving for the residents? By the childcare and community centers we are establishing for the benefit of the families?" "The quality of life for east J-lem residents is constantly progressing and is far superior to the quality of life for residents in any of our neighboring countries." He added that the majority of Arab residents of the city have repeatedly indicated their preference for a united J-lem in the "most recent independent, int'l surveys.... I personally invite PM Cameron ... to visit and see for himself our commitment to our Arab residents in east J-lem and the tremendous advancement we have made in bridging gaps across the city." (*JPost*)

Egypt's First Israeli Ambassador Since 2012s -

Egypt's new ambassador to Israel handed his diplomatic credentials to Prez Rivlin in J-lem., officially becoming Cairo's first senior emissary to Israel since 2012. *JPost*: An Egyptian MP hosted Israeli Amb. to Cairo for a dinner at his house. 2/3+ of Egypt's parliament voted to dismiss a parliament member for hosting Israel's ambassador to Cairo at a dinner last week.

Israel's Power - Dr. Eran Lerman

"Today Hamas is much worse off than it was in the past. They are preparing for the next war, and there's no reason to think they won't start one, but the fact that Hamas says, 'We need to kill the Zionists, but not this week,' is the best deterrence we can achieve.... We're in a new world in which Syria doesn't exist, Lebanon is a fiction, Jordan is Israel's ally, and Egypt a partner." D. Pollock: Per public opinion polls, in Muslim-majority societies, ideology is not the first thing on most people's minds. When asked open-ended questions

about their personal priorities, large majorities give pride of place to practical issues - like jobs, family, education, health, or income.

Passing Humanitarian Supplies to Syria (*Israel21c*)

Several times a year, D. Gold, an Israeli Jew, goes undercover to organize a mission of humanitarian aid for Syrian NGOs. ~200 Israeli volunteers are working for her nonprofit, I4Syrians. It passed survival kits, medical devices and even 3K chemical suits to protect the doctors working w/ patients who had been victims of chemical attacks. The group supports 17 field hospitals/surgery rooms in Syria; has provided 4 3D printers and trained 22 orthopaedic doctors to print out prosthetic limbs.

Boy Finds Ancient Figurine (*Times of Is.*)

A 7-year-old boy uncovered a 3,400-year-old figurine during a hiking trip to the Beit She'an Valley in N. Israel. The head of archaeological excavations at Tel Rehov, said the statue is "typical of Canaanite culture from the 15th to 13th centuries BCE."

Earn Three Times as Much as in the PA (*Reuters*)

~36K Pals work in Israeli towns in the W. Bank, earning up to 3x as much as the average Pal. Israel has established industrial zones for Pals. *Ma'an News*: Civil servants hired by Hamas in Gaza held a 1-day strike to protest unpaid salaries. Since 2014, they've received only 40% of what is owed to them. *Ha'aretz*: A teachers' strike has brought more people into the streets than any protest against Israel over the past 5 months. ~20K people attended a teachers' demonstration in Ramallah. The teachers see the unfair distribution of the nat'l income: excessive allocations to the security services, waste, corruption, preference given to cronies, and exorbitant salaries of senior officials.

Products Passing thru Israel to Arab States (*JPost*)

Because of the civil war in Syria, Israel has in recent years become the main land bridge between some European and Arab countries. Turkey and Bulgaria, which used to ship products to Iraq, Jordan and the Persian Gulf overland through Syria, now put trucks on ferries or load containers that are shipped to Haifa, and driven overland to Jordan. Last year 13K trucks from these countries passed through Israel.

Israel's Freedom of Action in Syria (*Ha'aretz*)

The US and Russia recognize Israel's "freedom to act and to defend our interests" in Syria, DM Ya'alon said during a visit aboard the US Navy destroyer currently docked in Haifa Port. Col. Jacques Neriah: ISIS, under attack by Russian and the Western military forces, is feeling the crunch. Thousands of its fighters have been killed or incapacitated by the air raids. It is mobilizing children and youth at an increasing and unprecedented

rate, and enough energy to continue to fight in Syria and Iraq, but sooner or later the traditional forces will destroy it. We shall soon confront a new map of the ME w/ new entities born or re-born.

Attempt to Smuggle Drones into Gaza (*JPost*)

Crossings Authority inspectors recently foiled an attempt to smuggle commercial multicopter drones into Gaza. The drones were earmarked to gather intelligence on IDF movements.

Overlooked Iranian Missile Threat (*WSJ*)

Iran possesses cruise missiles capable of delivering a nuclear warhead: Russian-made Kh-55 cruise missiles, procured illegally from Ukraine w/ a range of 1,500 miles. The regime has also copied that design to create its own Soumar missile. Cruise missiles have short launch times and sophisticated guidance systems that allow them to fly close to the ground and around obstacles, making them more difficult for radar to track.

Sisi: Stand Up to Khamenei - Malcolm Hoenlein Amer. Jsh leaders met w/ Prez Sisi. Sisi: "If 30 years ago I would have said to you that 1,000 Egyptian war tanks would enter the Sinai, and Egyptian war planes would fly every day along the Israeli border, and nobody has to worry about a stray bullet, would you have believed me?" He says you've got to be tough w/ terrorists and their supporters ... to take the words of their leaders seriously. When they say they want to destroy Israel; to establish hegemony ... all those things they mean and they're doing much of it today.

Syrian Creates Site to Thank Israelis (*Israel21c*)

A Sunni Muslim from Homs, living in Istanbul, has created a website - Thank You Am Israel - dedicated to the Israeli and Jewish orgs and people helping Syrian refugees. "It is imperative that Syrians reciprocate the enormous goodwill shown towards us by Israelis and the Jewish people.... Whatever supposed reasons we may have had to be adversaries is dwarfed by the compassion shown to us during our darkest days."

Ivy League Crybullies vs. Sharansky (*WashPost*)

An article from the *Brown Daily Herald* discusses how Brown students' emotional and academic well-being is suffering because they are so busy fulfilling their "social justice responsibilities" as student activists, e.g., protesting an appearance on campus by Natan Sharansky, a former dissident and survivor of years of harsh confinement in Soviet prison camps. They complain of the risk of emotional breakdown due to the presence of one of the stoic heroes of the Cold War on their campus?

Israel Strikes Syrian Outposts near Damascus

Alliance w/ US Helps Israel at the UN – D. Danon

Obama and Netanyahu will sign an agreement that signals the close cooperation between the administrations. Add this MOU to the military and intelligence collaborations over the past 7 years, and you understand the level of commitment of the American gov't to Israel's security and well-being. At the UN, US Amb. Power and the American delegation plays a key role in our successes. Over the past 6 months this relationship has assisted us in making imp't inroads at numerous int'l bodies where we are contributing to the betterment of the world. Additionally, we are now seeing a record number of Israelis integrated into official UN bodies and orgs. Zalman Shoval: Obama has agreed to increase defense spending by billions. Israel wants to acquire advanced attack aircraft, missile defense systems, cyber equipment and technology, and advanced countermeasures to fight the tunnel threat, as well as the means to counter threats posed by Iran's aggressive regional policies and the loopholes in its deal w/ the West.

Power Hears Tales of Rocket Fires (*JPost*)

Visiting US UN Amb. Power met. w/ Israeli mothers at Kibbutz Nahal Oz on the Gaza border, which suffered 265 rocket and mortar hits during the 2014 war. One killed Daniel Tregerman, age four.

Cyber Attacks on Vital Infrastructure (*Ynet*)

The IDF's new cyber security division will be to defend against cyber attacks on vital Israeli infrastructure such as water, electricity, banking, cellular networks, and more. "Cyber attacks have turned into a legitimate weapon of war," an IDF officer said.

Apple Chief Chipmaker, Israeli Arab (*Bloomberg*)

J. Srouji's division makes processor chips for the iPhone, iPad, Apple Watch, and Apple TV. He is a Christian Arab born in Haifa, who learned at the Technion.

Delegation in Moscow for Talks (*JPost*)

Israel Foreign Ministry D-G Gold met w/ Russian FM Lavrov in Moscow. Lavrov praised Israeli-Russian cooperation. Putin and Netanyahu speak often on the phone. The sides signed an agreement outlining cooperation in 14 fields, including strategic planning.

Merkel: Not the Time for Pal. State (*Times of Is.*)

"Now is certainly not the time to make really comprehensive progress" toward the creation of a Pal. state, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said in Berlin Tues. at a joint press conference w/ visiting Israeli Netanyahu, "but you can achieve improvements in certain places." Netanyahu: "The State of Israel has to be treated fairly. We are not the root cause of the problems. We are an important part of the solution."

Iran Remains Off Limits to US Banks (*AFP*)

Iran remains essentially off limits to US banks, despite the lifting of some US sanctions following the Iranian nuclear deal. Most "primary" sanctions remain in effect, blocking US businesses from joining a rush to cash in on Iran's potential revival. Foreign banks operating in the US also remain hemmed in by the sanctions still in place: they may not clear US dollar-denominated transactions involving Iran through US banks. In addition, some 200 Iran-related individuals and entities remain on a list of "blocked" persons.

Do Pal. Leaders Believe Their Own Rhetoric? -

Khaled Abu Toameh: Thanks to the poison w/ which the PA has indoctrinated its people, Pals are now unable to condemn the murder of any Jew or even call to keep their teens from becoming deadly attackers ... much less to talk about peace. Abbas and friends fool many people much of the time. Gadi Taub: Signing a peace treaty w/ Israel would require giving up the Pal. refugees' right of return, for which any Pal. politician would pay a heavy price. Tiny, w/ institutions not been groomed for nation-building and w/ a shaky economy that's dependent on others, would not be a particularly safe bet, especially when all that separates it from the IS caliphate is Jordan.

Kuwaiti Columnist: Israel Outdoes Us (*MEMRI*)

Columnist A.Al-Sarraf in Kuwait's daily *Al-Qabas* on 2/1: "Israel has outdone us in all fields - military, scientific, and cultural; we have refused to consider the reason for its obvious superiority to us, and have never stopped calling it 'the monstrous entity'....Since its founding, Israel has been committed to democracy, while we refuse to even speak of it, let alone adopt it....Israel gives its minorities rights that most citizens in most Arab countries do not even dream of. Furthermore, the freedom of worship there exceeds that in any Arab or Islamic country." "Israel has managed to unite people emigrating to it from 50 countries, and to forge a single people from them, while we have not managed to create a [joint] army out of the [Arab] people....Israel has known law and order since its first day, while we still try to comprehend the meaning of both these words....Israel has developed its technologies and developed its agriculture, industry, and military, becoming an advanced and respected country, while we currently occupy the bottom slot in every field."

Britain Bans Public Boycotts of Israel (*Reuters*)

Under new gov't rules, local authorities and public-sector orgs in Britain are banned from boycotting Israeli suppliers; violators could face severe penalties.."

Israel's Yael Naim "Singer of the Year" (*Israel21c*)

Yael Naim, a French-born, Israeli-raised soul singer, won Female Artist of the Year at the 2016 Victoires de la Musique (France's Grammys). Her album, *Older*, was nominated for Album of the Year.

Egyptian Schools to Teach Peace Treaty (*Ha'aretz*)

PA, Israeli Officials on Security Concerns

Pal. and Israeli officials met to exchange information and reaffirm security cooperation. *JPost*: 67% of Pals oppose security coordination between the IDF and the PA. 69% want the current intifada to continue.

US Envoy Condemns UN's Anti-Israel Bias

During a visit to Israel, the US ambassador to the UN, Samantha Power, accused the world body of harboring a bias against Israel. "Bias has extended well beyond Israel as a country," she said of the UN and particularly its Human Rights Council. "Israel is just not treated like other countries (*Times of Is.*)

World's Oldest Bible to Registry (*i24news*)

UNESCO added the Aleppo Codex, believed to be the world's oldest copy of the Hebrew Bible, to its Int'l Memory of the World Register. The Codex, which resides at the Israel Museum in J-lem, was written in Tiberias ~930 CE; then moved to J-lem; it was stolen when the Crusaders sacked the city in 1099; then ransomed by the Jews of Cairo. In the 14th C. it found its way to Aleppo, Syria, and arrived in Israel in 1958.

Tourism to Israel Remains Strong (*Times of Is.*)

Tourism in 2015 was about 3% lower than in 2014, due to a falloff in tourism from Russia and E. Europe. Tourism from the US in 2015 was actually up over the year previously." In 2015, 463 Brazilian Jews immigrated to Israel, a record number, amid the country's worst economic crisis in a century.

First Muslim Deputy Commissioner (*Israel Hayom*)

Assistant Police Commissioner Jamal Hakroush is set to head a new division within the force tasked w/ promoting law enforcement in Israel's Arab sector. He will become the first Muslim Arab in Israel w/ the rank of deputy commissioner. Hakroush has served as the Deputy Chief Officer of the Coastal Police District since 2010.

Betraying Israel's Arabs - Khaled Abu Toameh

In meeting w/ families of Pals who attack Israelis, 3 Israeli Arab MKs acted against the interests of 1.5 million Arab citizens of Israel. The result: injury to Arab citizens' efforts for full equality. These politicians vie for the distinction of being the most vitriolic provocateur against their country. Jonathan S. Tobin: Those who sit and grieve for terrorists rather than their victims are a fifth column, not a loyal opposition. Those who truly

support Israeli democracy should be scolding the Arab MKs for confirming the worst fears of their Jewish fellow citizens. L. Akerman: Most Israeli Arabs consider themselves Israeli and are faithful, law abiding citizens. At the same time, the majority of Israeli Arabs identify culturally as Pals.

Limited Growth for W. Bank Economy (*AFP*)

The Int'l Monetary Fund said Thurs. that economic growth in the W. Bank was 2.8% in 2015 and was likely to remain below 3% this year.

S&P: Israel to Weather Global Volatility (*Globes*)

Int'l rating agency S&P's has reiterated its A+/A-1 rating for Israel, w/ a stable outlook ... "thanks to its diversified economy, strong external position, and flexible monetary framework," S&P said.

Hurdles for Israel-Turkey Reconciliation (*Ha'aretz*)

Another round of talks between Israel and Turkey was held. Turkey demands free access to Gaza; Israel wants to maintain the naval blockade. Egypt objects to increased Turkish involvement in the Strip. Israel claims Hamas still operates a Hamas HQ in Istanbul. Israel is demanding that any agreement w/ Turkey include the return of the bodies of 2 Israeli soldiers killed in the 2014 Gaza war.

Turkish Prez Erdogan Hosts US Jewish Leaders

Turkey's Erdogan and PM met w/ a delegation from the Conf. of Presidents of Major Amer. Jsh Orgs. The CoP and Erdogan discussed the current stage of the normalization talks between Turkey and Israel. Members of the CoP expressed their support for the normalization of Israeli-Turkish relations.

Hamas Operatives Killed in Cave-Ins (*Times of Is.*)

A Hamas member was killed in a tunnel under the Egypt-Gaza border, this a day after another Pal. was killed when a smuggling tunnel caved in.

Israel Pays Family of Dead UNIFIL Soldier (*Ynet*)

Israel recently paid compensation of 200K euros to the family of Spanish UNIFIL soldier who died during IDF shelling towards Lebanon on 1/15. The shelling retaliated for Hizbullah anti-tank fire that killed 2.

Israeli-Pal. Peace Process - Dead - Thomas Friedman

The Is.-Pal. peace process is dead. Hamas devotes all its resources to digging tunnels to attack Israelis from Gaza rather than turning Gaza into Singapore, making a laughingstock of Israeli peace advocates. Abbas sacked the only PM dedicated to fighting corruption and proving that Pals deserved a state by focusing on building institutions, not UN resolutions. (*NYT*)

Science and Technology

Stem Cell Research Agreement w/ California Inst.

Israeli Science and Tech. Min. signed an agreement Mon. w/ the CA Inst. for Regenerative Medicine for research cooperation in the field of biotechnology, w/ a focus on stem cells. (*JPost*)

Cisco Buying Israel's Leaba Semiconductor

Cisco Systems said on Wednesday it plans to acquire Israel's Leaba Semiconductor, a designer of networking chips, for \$320 million. (*Reuters*)

Gates: Is. Tech "Changing the World" (*Times of Is.*)

Bill Gates told over 2K people at the Microsoft Israel R&D Center's annual Think Next event in Tel Aviv that Israeli dev'ts in tech areas like analytics and security were "improving the world.... I think the technology they have produced over the years more than justifies our decision" to build in Israel.

MIT-Israel Collaborations (*MIT News*)

The MIT-Israel Program has sent 485+ students to Israel for fully-funded industry and research internships: testing new ventilation techniques for hospital patients; co-authoring articles about learning robots; researching new genetic cancer markers; creating new mobile features for cybersecurity companies; installing solar panel arrays, and hundreds of other significant projects. The program also sent ROTC students to Israel to visit military bases and meet w/ current and former IDF soldiers.

Israeli Tech. Detects Terrorists through Fog (*Ynet*)

The Israeli company Controp has developed a device that will allow drones to identify moving objects through even early morning fog. It identifies silhouettes or moving objects in fog from up to 20 km.

Bandage Stops "Uncontrollable" Bleeding (*Reuters*)

An Israeli-developed bandage aims to save lives in cases of severe bleeding, where orthodox treatment procedures could fail to stop a deadly hemorrhage. WoundClot bandage stops severe bleeding within minutes - without the need to apply pressure on the wound - and enhances the blood's natural process of clotting. It transforms blood into a gel state." The more blood absorbed in the bandage, the quicker the clotting process will proceed.

Sealant for Collapsed Lungs (*Times of Is.*)

Vigor Medical Technologies makes a system that seals internal and external wounds without suturing, bandages, or tape. The system is designed for use in cases of thoracic trauma, a chest injury that can cause the lungs to collapse. The company's sealant devices can be carried in the field by medical personnel and administered in case of an emergency.

Device Slows Progress of Alzheimer's (*Israel21c*)

Based on a just-completed study involving 131 patients, Israel's Neuronix medical device company will apply for US FDA approval for its neuroAD system to slow and even reverse the progression of Alzheimer's. The technology combines transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) and cognitive training of specific brain regions to slow the rate of mental deterioration in patients w/ mild to moderate Alzheimer's and other neurodegenerative disorders. The treatment is commercially available in Europe and Asia. In 2015, Korean researchers said a clinical trial showed that neuroAD "was remarkable in the memory and language domains, which are severely affected by Alzheimer's disease."

Breakthrough Cancer Cure (*Times of Is.*)

27 out of 29 patients w/ an advanced blood cancer saw their cancers go into remission or disappear altogether when they received genetically modified T-cells that targeted and destroyed the tumor cells. The Weizmann Inst.'s Eshhar was one of the first to work on the innovative immunotherapy technique. He cautioned that the breakthrough did not represent a "cure for cancer" since "you have to develop specific T-cells for each kind of cancer."

The Optometrist in Your iPhone (*Times of Is.*)

The Israeli medl tech start-up 6over6 has developed a technology to enable anyone to "self-prescribe" eye-glasses via a smartphone app. A user puts their phone in front of their eyes for a few minutes and gets as accurate a reading as they could at the optician.

Small Portable Ultrasound Syst. (*Jsh Bus.News*)

The Technion has developed an advanced ultrasound probe that eliminates the need for large ultrasound devices. Ultrasound scans can then be performed in disaster areas or in developing countries w/ limited medical infrastructure. Uploading the scan results to a cloud enables a doctor to view the findings on a mobile device. Using a new algorithm, the data can be reduced at the initial scanning stage, so that it can be uploaded without harming image quality and without loss of data.

"Drone Guard" Counter-UAV Systems (*Is. Def.*)

Israel Aerospace revealed the Drone Guard at the Singapore Airshow - new systems for detection, i.d.ing and flight disruption of hostile drones. ELTA offers 3D radars and electro-optical sensors for detection and identification, and dedicated electronic attack jamming systems for disrupting drone flight. The jamming causes the drone to return to its point-of-origin or to shut down.

Manage Your Medical Information (*Israel21c*)

The Hello Heart free mobile therapeutic app helps people w/ chronic heart risk and high blood pressure manage their lab results, doctor visits and medications. After six weeks of using the app, 25% of users had reduced their blood pressure by 10 points or more.

Oracle Buys Ravello Systems for \$500 M. (*Globes*)

US software giant Oracle has acquired Israeli cloud software company Ravello Systems for \$500 million.

System Revolutionizes Parking Garages (*Israel21c*)

Orthodox parking garages take up lots of land and resources + the gasoline wasted as waiting cars troll for spots. Unitronics Group's automated parking lets you drive your car into an entry bay, turn off the engine, lock up, take a ticket and go on your way. A robot lifts the vehicle, transports it to a destination, and positions it w/ no chance of a fender scrape or space-hogging parking. There are no emissions in the building, for a need for lighting or ventilation inside the garage. Because the facility lessens the likelihood of injury to car owners and car theft, it reduces insurance costs.

US to Stock Is. Cure for Lethal Radiation (*JPost*)

Israel's Pluristem Therapeutics has developed an anti-radiation therapy that the US gov't will likely begin stocking, and which is able to cure nearly all patients exposed to lethal doses of radiation from incidents such as "dirty" bombs or attacks on nuclear power plants. Within 48 hours of someone receiving the injections, bone marrow blood cell production levels return to normal.

Reducing Foot Ulcers in Diabetics (*Israel21c*)

The BioDesign Medical Innovation program at Hebrew U. has developed SenseGO, a machine-washable sock containing dozens of micro-fabricated pressure sensors to monitor foot ulcers resulting from diabetic neuropathy. "We can dramatically reduce healthcare costs related to diabetes," said the program director.

Military Sales/Applications:

India's \$3 Billion Defense Deals (*Economic Times*)

India is close to concluding bilateral military deals w/ Israel, collectively worth \$3 billion. The main pact concerns the joint dev't of a medium-range, surface-to-air missile system for the Indian Army.

Philippines to Acquire Israeli Radar (*IHS Jane's*)

The Philippines Dep't of Nat'l Defense has contracted w/ Elta Systems, a subsidiary of Israel Aerospace, to supply its ELM-2288 air defense and air traffic control radar – this for \$56 million - to enhance the surveillance of territory in the South China Sea.

New Weapons at Singapore Airshow (*Ynet*)

At the Singapore Airshow this week, Israel Aerospace unveiled its new "Roamer" class missiles. It hovers in the air like a UAV, locks on the target, then collides w/ it and destroys it. IAI also unveiled the Rotem, a tiny drone equipped w/ an electro-optical thermal camera that enters thru windows and maneuver around fences.

BDS

Healthy Insts Don't Boycott Israel (*The Federalist*)

Investment in Israel is rising, esp. from Asia. Trade w/ the EU is unimpeded. No university or corp. has sold its stock in companies like Intel or Caterpillar for doing business in Israel. Many states have proposed/passed laws to ban anti-Israel discrimination by their agencies, including pension funds. The Conservative Party has proposed to restrict the ability of local councils and pension funds to discriminate against Israel on political grounds. Even at universities, in no case have university administrations, boards of trustees or investment managers, followed suit. Indeed, Israel boycott and divestment resolutions are regularly denounced. *Montreal Gazette*: McGill Students Reject BDS.

Boycotting Israel Doesn't Help Pals (*Ottawa Citizen*)

Bassem Eid, who founded a Pal. Human Rights Monitoring Group: "The BDS campaign ... has been catastrophic.... If you support BDS, you are not supporting the Pal. cause.... These activists believe ... there should not be a Jewish state, that the Jewish people should not exist." *Chicago Maroon*: An event featuring B. Eid abruptly came to an end when disagreements between Eid and members of the audience led to police intervention. Eid: "When will we, the Pals, start taking responsibility for what is going on?"

Obama Signs Anti-BDS Trade Bill (*Times of Is.*)

The WH announced Thurs. Mr. Obama will sign a trade bill despite a provision that lumps Israel and "Israeli-controlled territories." "The BDS provision also explicitly instructs US trade reps to discourage EU countries from engaging in Israel boycott efforts. M. Phillips: PM Cameron took action vs. the BDS movement, preventing public bodies from imposing a boycott on a member of the WTO, to which Israel belongs. No other country is subjected to such a campaign designed to turn the Israelis into devils in the Western public mind. Hamas and the PA persecute and tyrannize their people, jail dissidents and throw homosexuals off tall buildings. The BDS brigade is mute on the Pals' abuse of each other, as well as their hysterical incitement against and mass murder of Israeli Jews.