

Israel Today – January 1-3, 2016
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Encouraging Domestic/Diplomatic News

Improving Living Standard of Arabs (*Reuters*)

Israel will spend ~\$3.3 billion over five years to improve the standard of living of its Arab minority (a fifth of Israel's population) and narrow gaps w/ its Jewish population. Investment will occur in education, infrastructure, culture, sports and transportation. "Arab citizens will receive their relative share in the state budget," said the Social Equality Minister.

Common Israeli-Arab Interests (*JPost*)

In an interview w/ the Saudi-owned *Elaph* online newspaper, Israel FM DG Gold: "History teaches that when Israel signs a peace treaty w/ the Arabs, Israel honors the treaty forever." Gold spoke of the common interests between Israel and the Arab states, including a nuclear armed Iran and ISIS.

Test of Stability in Arab World - Eyal Zisser

The overwhelming majority of those on the Pal. street are not being sucked in by the lone attackers, even though they support their actions. Pals recognize the calm offered by the Israeli presence. Their current status is excellent in comparison to most other Arab societies in the region.

Jordanian Security / Israeli Policy - Y. Amidror

Pilots from the Royal Jordanian AF recently conducted a "working visit" to Israel. Its fighter pilots train w/ Israeli counterparts at a US-hosted AF exercises and have even refueled from an Israeli tanker over the Atlantic Ocean. Israel has a strategic interest in, and long-standing commitment to, the safety, security, stability and prosperity of Jordan. Broad-based cooperative ventures in the strategic, security, diplomatic, economic and energy fields buttress the bond. Jordan's stability and prosperity has been a central element of Israeli nat'l security policy for generations. These days helping Jordan cope w/ the influx of Syrian refugees - is crucial. Israeli NGOs and youth movements play a covert, symbolically significant role in providing elementary support for its 1m+ Syrian refugees. A shop owner in Irbid, Jordan, who painted an Israeli flag at his shop's entrance so that clients entering would step on it, was arrested by Jordanian authorities for insulting a nation considered a "friend." Jordan has a peace treaty w/ Israel.

Israel Donates to Kenya Flood Victims (*The Star*)

The Israeli gov't donated to Migori county flood victims in a show of friendship w/ Kenya: 100 bags of maize, 44 bags of beans, 3 bulls, 400 blankets, 192 rubber boots, 6 water tanks, 200 mosquito nets and several cartons of cooking oil. The Israeli gov't also donated a solar water

heater for a school. Obado said Israel was the first country to respond to his pleas.

Hungary: Labeling Counterproductive (*Times of Is.*)

"Hungary does not consider that the indication of origin of products from Israeli settlements is effective and timely, as it weakens the position of the EU in the ME peace process and does not contribute to the practical solution of the conflict," per the Hungarian FM.

Bedouin Arabs/Christians In IDF (*Daily Mail-UK*)

M. Ka'abiyah, like almost all the men in his Bedouin village in N. Israel, volunteered to serve in the IDF; he served in a helicopter unit. Now a poli-sci science student at Haifa U., he says, "I am proud of being Bedouin, Arab, Muslim and Israeli." Though not obligated, ~1,700 Bedouin serve in the IDF. "The Bedouin and the Jews made a blood pact," he says. "It will never be broken." *JPost*: The number of Christians in the IDF has increased from 40 in 2012 to 100+ in 2014. In 3/15, 102 Christian Arabs were inducted. Fr. G. Nadad of Nazareth. "I believe Israel's Christian community should integrate more into mainstream Israeli society." There are ~ 165,000 Arab Christians in Israel.

Danon: UN Quietly Admires Israel (*JPost*)

Israel's UN Amb. Danon: "Quietly you see that there is a lot of appreciation, I would even say admiration, for Israel." Still: "We are fighting hundreds of people who wake up in the morning and think: What can we do to bash Israel at the UN? The strong democracies are not in charge in the UN; a majority of small countries, most of them not democratic, who have the control."

Emerging Relations in Mediterranean - E. Lerman

Despite his roots in the country's anti-Zionist left, last month Greek PM Tsipras paid a visit to Israel. Cypriot Prez Anastasiades recognized that J-lem will continue to be, "the eternal capital of the Jewish People."

Palestinians

Hamas to Resume Suicide Attacks (*Times of Is.*)

Hamas plans to resume suicide bombing attacks vs. Israelis, incl. "political and security figures inside Israel," per Lebanon's *The News*. Info from interrogations of Hamas operatives arrested recently by PA security reveals orders from leaders in Gaza and abroad to escalate activities, protests and stabbing attacks as well as more dramatic and deadly assaults on Israeli civilians. 25 Pals, many students at Abu Dis U. near J-lem, have been arrested for planning to carry out suicide bombings in Israel. Its leader was trained by Hamas in Gaza to manufacture explosive belts

PA Security Suppress Pal. March (*Ma'an News-PA*)

PA security forces Wed. stopped hundreds of Pal. marchers in Ramallah from reaching a checkpoint outside the nearby Israeli town of Beit El. PA security also blocked protesters from reaching Beit El last week.

Arab Politics Slows Gaza Rebuilding (*WSJ*)

Political differences among wealthy Arab Gulf states play a large role in who gets to rebuild their lives in Gaza. After the 2014 war, foreign donors pledged \$3.5 billion in reconstruction aid. \$1.2 billion has been delivered. Qatar supports Hamas; S. Arabia and the UAE have grown more aggressive in their opposition to Islamist groups. Qatar won't shell out more until other donors fulfill their pledges. The UAE is funneling some of its assistance through a Hamas political rival; Kuwait is working w/ the PA.

Israel Screens Gaza Imports (*Ynet*)

Hamas' military is building stockpiles. 10 tons of iron oxide for rocket propulsion were seized at a border crossing (20K rockets). 6.3 tons of aluminum oxide (620 rockets); 4 tons of graphite (1,300 rockets). Other materials stopped: advanced cameras, scuba diving equipment, multicopter drones, bullet-proof vests, generators, solar panels, communication devices, fiber optics, radios, computers, welding equipment, and water pumps purchased for the tunnels. Hamas does have some successes. An Israeli truck carrying bulletproof plates was discovered at a border crossing w/ Gaza Wed.

Palestinian Revolution "w/ Blood" (*PMW*)

The FB page of the spokesman of the PA Sec. Forces posted a message on 12/21 from a youth movement to children that the way to succeed in "revolution" vs. Israel is to "water it w/ blood."

Anti-Semitism

Why Only Palestinians "Martyrs"? – A. al-Hadlaq

Thousands of Muslims are killed in conflict worldwide every day. Only when a Pal. is killed - in battle, in a fight or when gunshots are fired at a wedding, does the Arab media applaud him w/ the name "*shahid*." *The writer is a Kuwaiti journalist who writes for Al-Watan.*

Amer. Jsh Aid Workers Expelled (*Israel Today*)

A group of Jewish women were expelled from a refugee camp on the island of Lesbos; they had traveled from the US to volunteer w/ IsraAID. Some working w/ other aid groups hurled anti-Semitic/Israel slurs at them; a security guard joined in the verbal assault, insisting they leave the camp, because "we are all the same - murderers. He threatened to arrest us if we didn't leave the camp." Coming to their aid was an Israeli Arab member of IsraAID who notified the camp administration.

BDS and Campus Politics - Mark Yudof

At UC Berkeley, a prof. who attended a BDS debate reported that IDF soldiers were accused of knowingly killing women and poisoning wells. Rabbi E. Goodman: "At a university ... there must be space for legitimate political discourse....But when [Israel] is obsessively singled out for condemnation, Jewish students recognize that their own religious and cultural identity is being called into question." While China, Iran, Russia, Syria and others get a pass on campuses, Israel is the sole object of BDS. Those who seek to silence pro-Israeli campus speakers argue that they have a First Amendment right to drown out opponents. *The writer is president emeritus of the UCal.*

BDS Stripped from UK Councils (*AP*)

The UK Dep't for Communities and Local Gov't is drawing up new guidelines to prevent local authorities from mounting their own "boycott and sanction" campaigns. Policies must be consistent w/ UK gov't foreign policy, "not be using pensions and procurement policies to pursue their own boycotts and sanctions against foreign nations," a spokesman said.

World Sailing to Investigate Malaysia (*JPost*)

World Sailing announced that it is investigating Malaysia over the Youth Sailing World Championships that after Israel was unable to send a delegation. Organizers demanded that the windsurfers not compete under the Israel flag and should an Israeli win a gold medal, the Israeli nat'l anthem would not be played.

Sweden's Jews Live in Fear Climate (*Times of Is.*)

In Sweden's 3rd largest city, Malmo, at an Oct. pro-Pal. rally, protesters screamed "Death to the Jews" and "More stabbings." "Right now, a lot of Jews in Sweden are scared. Parents are scared to drop off their kids at the Jewish preschool," says a Jewish journalist who lives in Stockholm. "People of all ages are scared of going to synagogue." FM Wallstrom has created a climate where constant criticism of Israel is the norm.

Complaints over Slanted Reporting (*Ynet*)

CNN: "4 Die in Violent Stabbing at Jaffa Gate." *CBS*: "2 Pals Killed after Stabbing Attack in J-lem." "We believe that combining the 2 murderers w/ the 2 victims into 'Four dead' - is not only dishonest and unethical journalism, but also borders on incitement since the viewer can easily misinterpret it.... "The person who wrote this headline had a clear political agenda." An *AP* headline ignored the Israeli deaths, and cast the attackers as victims. After CAMERA contacted *AP*, they revised the headline.

Other News

Islamization of Britain in 2015 (*Gatestone*)

Britain has the 3rd-largest Muslim population in the EU, 5.5% of the 64 million. British intelligence monitors 3,000+ homegrown Islamists, many in their teens radicalized to the point of violence. Hospitals across Britain deal w/ ~15 new cases of female genital mutilation (FGM) daily. Illegal in Britain since 1984, there has not been a single conviction.

Israel's Pop. ~8.5M at End of 2015 (*Globes*)

At the end of 2015, Israel's Jewish pop. was 6.335 million (74.9%), the Arab pop. 1.757 million (20.7%), and 370K (4.4%) others. Last yr., 176,700 babies were born and 28K immigrants came to Israel: 25% from France, 47% from Ukraine/ Russia, 9% from the US.

A Reason for Israelis to Celebrate (*Is. Hayom*)

Israel was ranked 18th out of 188 countries and territories on the UN 2015 Human Dev't Index. From 1980 to 2014, its life expectancy at birth increased by 8.3 years (82.4 years); mean years of schooling increased from 9.8 to 12.5 years; expected years of schooling increased from 12.6 to 16 years. Israel's GNI per capita increased by ~111.6% from 1980 (to \$30,676). In the OECD, Israel has the highest labor force participation rate (63.4%) and a lower total unemployment rate. Israel compares well to other First World democracies, especially considering that the founders of modern Israel had to pull themselves up from complete devastation and near annihilation a mere 70 years ago.

Stabbing Maximize Damage (*Israel Hayom*)

The Pal. "attackers know where they need to hit; it's not something random," said a medical official [They] know where to strike."

Al-Qaeda-Linked Groups in Spotlight (*WashPost*)

Al-Qaeda's affiliates still pose a global threat. One affiliate claimed responsibility for the Nov. 20 attack on the Radisson Blu hotel in Mali. In Yemen, another has captured Yemen's largest province, and has seized towns elsewhere. Another claimed responsibility for the assault in Paris that killed 17 people last January.

Recapturing Gas Rigs (*Natural Gas Europe*)

In the exercise, in which terrorists captured hostages in the rig's control room, Israeli commandos sailed to the rig and retook it while having to deal w/ limits on the use of firepower because of the rig's vulnerability.

Attacks in Israel

In W. Bank: (1) 2 IDF soldiers were wounded in a stabbing attack by Pals. Soldiers killed the attackers. (2) An IDF soldier was stabbed in the back. A security guard helped to overcome the terrorist. (3) Israeli security forces arrested a Pal. woman who tried to stab a security

guard. (4) Israeli soldier was wounded in a car-ramming attack. The assailant was killed. (5) 2 Israeli security guards were wounded in a stabbing attack at an industrial zone. Guards killed the terrorist. (6) An IDF soldier was wounded in a car-ramming attack. The driver was shot and killed by soldiers at the scene. (7) A Pal. attempted to stab an Israeli soldier at a checkpoint. He was shot dead by soldiers. (8) A knife-wielding Pal. was killed after he attempted a stabbing attack in J-lem. (9) 2 died from gunfire when border guards shot and killed Pal. terrorists during a stabbing attack at the Jaffa Gate in J-lem. (10) A Pal. tried to run over soldiers and border police officers north of J-lem. He was shot. One soldier was injured.

Living w/ Near-Daily Attacks in J-lem (*USA Today*)

There have been ~120 attacks and attempted assaults by Pals against Israelis since Oct. 20. Israelis have been killed; 80+ Pals have been killed. The uprising appears to be leaderless. Pal. officials have not condemned the killings or called for them to stop. The attacks seem opportunistic, poorly planned and badly executed - although often deadly. A survey released found that 2/3 of Pals support the knife attacks. Israeli: "This is our city, this is our country, and we need to show that we cannot be intimidated.... Co-existence in Israel is possible between Jews and other groups, but this current situation reminds us that Pals see us as their enemy, reject our existence here. And the moment that they have the chance they will - literally - stab us in the back." Cal Thomas: Today in Israel, there are many prosperous Arab neighborhoods - defying much of the propaganda about how Israelis mistreat Muslims.

Russia's Role in Syria Changes (*Sputnik-Russia*)

Netanyahu and Putin discussed the war on terror, including the Syrian front, in a phone conversation. They agreed to maintain active dialogue at various levels, including to further coordinate the anti-terrorist front. US sanctions against Hizbullah were recently increased.

Christmas Tree Arson in W. Bank (*AP-NYT*)

PA security forces arrested radicals who set fire to a Christmas tree in a Christian majority village in the W. Bank. PA security forces also arrested a dozen radical Islamists in Bethlehem Wednesday.

Journalistic Failure – G. Shaviv and T. Sternthal

"They (Israelis) are trying to uproot us from J-lem, stealing houses, trees and the stones of the city," laments a Pal. woman featured in an AP article, reflecting the supposed Jewish encroachment at the expense of blameless, dispossessed Pals. The family never owned the property, but enjoyed "protected tenant" sta-

tus. That status is lost if the tenant abandons the property without intention of returning. The court found in 2014 that the family has been living w/ their extended family in another ap't for 30 years. From 2010-14, they "pretended" to live there. Electricity and water bills for the property during this period showed virtually no usage.

J-lem's Archaeology - Historic Jewish Ties (*JPost*)

The chair of the House Subcommittee on the ME:
"Denying the historic connection of the Jewish people to J-lem is false. Amazing archeological discoveries prove that "not only is Israel the religious center for Jews, it is their ancestral and historic homeland." A team headed by Haifa U. recently unearthed a monumental Hebrew inscription at Kursi, on the eastern side of the Sea of Galilee on the Golan Heights, conclusive evidence that the Roman- and Byzantine-era town mentioned in the NT and Talmud was Jewish. Digs this month yielded a large slab of imported Greek marble on which 7 lines of Hebrew and Aramaic text were carved - a standard dedicatory text from a synagogue that likely dates ~ 4th or 5th centuries CE, w/ script highly reminiscent of an inscription found at the base of J-lem's Temple Mount.

J-lem Bus Stops Get Security Upgrade (*Ynet*)

The J-lem Municipality is erecting steel columns to shield 300 bus stops around the city to prevent terrorists from committing car-ramming attacks on riders.

Record Immigration of Jews from France (*Reuters*)

7,900 French Jews relocated to Israel in 2015, a 10%+ from the previous year. Jewish immigration to Israel reached a 15-year high in 2015, ~30K new arrivals.

Counter Anti-Israel Sentiments on Campus (*JTA*)

The Academic Engagement Network, an initiative to combat rising anti-Israel and anti-Semitic activity on campus, will facilitate civilized discussions relating to Israel on campuses, promote academic freedom and freedom of expression, stand for human rights for Arabs and Jews, and engage colleagues and students to better understand these complex issues. The network is preparing a manual for university administrators addressing threats to academic freedom posed by the

Iran

Iran's Uranium to Russia (*NYT*)

A Russian ship has carried almost all of Iran's stockpile of low-enriched uranium, fulfilling a step in the nuclear deal struck last summer. Iran's "breakout time" to produce a weapon moves from 2-3 months to 6-9 months. *JPost*: Per Mark Dubowitz: "Tehran will emerge in 10-15 years as a much more dangerous foe w/ a massive nuclear program, an advanced centrifuge-powered rapid

path to a bomb, intercontinental ballistic missiles, regional dominance and its economy immunized against future sanctions."

Iran's Economy/Drought - Patrick Clawson/*NYT*
Plunging oil prices are dampening Iranian leaders' hopes of a financial windfall and making it hard for Iran to persuade oil companies to develop Iran's long-neglected oil/gas fields, to support their energy infrastructure and energy production. IMF: In 2015/16, Iran's GDP will remain unchanged; consumer prices and unemployment will increase. Iran is in the grip of a 7-year drought w/ no sign of breaking; has consumed 70% of its groundwater supplies over the past 50 years; is home to 4 of the 10 most polluted cities in the world.

Iran's Response to New Sanctions (*Fars-Iran*)

Iran's Prez Thurs. ordered an accelerate dev't of Iran's missile capability in response to US sanctions. *WSJ*: The WH has delayed its plan to impose the sanctions for its missile program. Treasury had planned to impose sanctions on some dozen companies and individuals in Iran, Hong Kong and the UAE for their role in developing Iran's ballistic missile program. Treasury claims a right to blacklist Iranian entities involved in missile dev't, as well as those that support int'l terrorism and human-rights abuses. - M. Singh: UN sanctions require meaningful responses to Iranian provocations. If Iran disregards int'l injunctions, it cannot be long before it treats the nuclear deal the same way. *The Hill*: The Senate is heading toward round 2 in the fight over the Iran nuclear deal by extending a package of sanctions set to expire next year. The Administration views new sanctions as a violation of the agreement.

ISIS

ISIS Ally in Syrian Golan Heights (*Ynet/JPost*)

The IDF follows the rebel orgs fighting one another in the Syrian Golan Hghts. It tracks the capabilities/intentions of every armed group in S. Syria.

Defectors from Islamic State - Anne Speckhard

13 Syrian defectors spoke on life inside ISIS. Syrians are rewarded w/ salaried jobs. Foreign fighters receive: wives, sexual slaves, and sometimes homes and cars. *For. Policy*: Defections result from exposure to extreme brutality, disgust over the slave trade, and a mismatch between the words and deeds, including unnecessary deaths in their own ranks. The vast majority of Arabs, consistently upwards of 95%, express a negative view of ISIS. Between 20% and 60% of Muslims are at least "somewhat supportive" of violence, suicide bombings, and terrorism so long as it is perpetrated "in defense of Islam."

The Retaking of Ramadi in Iraq (WSJ)

The retaking of central Ramadi by Iraqi security forces was accomplished largely by the Iraqi military's Sunni forces w/ the help of local Sunni tribes, and aided by US training and weapons. Retaking Ramadi is a step toward shattering that Islamist illusion. *NYT*: Amer. Special Ops troops are taking on a larger combat role in Afghanistan. They are headed to Syria to help fight ISIS in its stronghold. Mr. Obama recently ordered nearly 300 to Cameroon to assist African troops in their battle against a militant group that has pledged loyalty to ISIS. A. D. Miller: 60% of the major Syrian rebel groups are Islamic extremists. About a third identify w/ ideologies similar to those claimed by ISIS. Groups w/ extremist orientations and ideologies are waiting to inherit Syria if ISIS falls. Defeating ISIS won't address the problem of the *jihadis*, unless it is accompanied by an intellectual and theological defeat of the pernicious ideology that drives it.

Terrorism in US in 2015 - a Record (WashPost)

The Justice Dep't has charged at least 60 people in 2015 w/ terrorism-related crimes, an unparalleled number that officials attribute to a heightened threat from the ISIS and the influence of social media on potential recruits. "The common connection we're seeing is - in almost every case - a tie to social media," said the AG's office.

The Evolving Face of ISIS (JPost)

Hamas has been significantly helping Ansar Bait al-Maqdis in Sinai after swearing allegiance to the ISIS. Today, Sinai Province operates Fajr rockets, aerial defense systems, advanced antitank missiles, shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles, explosives, mortars, advanced communication means, and satellite phones. Per updated estimates, Sinai Province numbers 500-1,000 members, including 100-200 who received combat training in Syria and Iraq from global *jihadi* elements.

Egypt

Egyptian Planes Using Israeli/Gaza Airspace (Ynet)

Egyptian AF planes have in recent months crossed into Israeli airspace w/ Israel's permission. The IDF is devoting more resources to intelligence gathering on the Egyptian border because of threats by IS. The Egyptian AF struck Thurs. an ISIS group near the border w/ Gaza, entering Gaza's airspace in their attacks. 15 died.

Muslim Brotherhood/Hamas in Egypt - Erez Striem

The Muslim Brotherhood almost all of whose leadership is in prison or exile, is exposed to the external influences of Salafi operatives and religious figures holding more extreme attitudes. Some activists have joined the ISIS branch in the Sinai over the past 2 years. Global *jihadi* groups affiliated w/ the ISIS and al-Qaeda are strenuously trying to fill the vacuum left by the decline in

Brotherhood and its huge reserve of angry and frustrated young people eager to take revenge against the regime. *Sputnik*: Russia has struck a deal w/ Egypt to deliver 46 Kamov Ka-52K navalized attack helicopters.

Egypt's Threatened Jewish Artifacts (JPost)

Israel has asked Egyptian authorities often to allow an immense cultural heritage, of Torah scrolls and a huge amount of books and manuscripts to be transferred to synagogues in Israel, but these requests have been rebuffed.

Syria/Lebanon/Turkey

ISIS in Southern Syria - A. Zelin and O. Alrifai
ISIS's assets and presence in S. Syria could provide a longer-term threat to the regime, for Jordan and perhaps Israel. Compared to where it was in 12/2013 or 12/2014, the group is far stronger and is gaining steam.

War's Consequences for Hizbullah (Times of Israel)

Per Lebanese media, Hizbullah failed to pay Nov. and Dec. salaries to its officials. *The Hill*: The US House voted 425-0 on Wed. to sanction banks found to be handling transactions w/ Hizbullah. The Senate passed a companion bill last month. The measure directs the administration to report on the group's drug trafficking and organized crime activities and its global support networks. A transition that sidelines Assad would be a loss for Hizbullah, rocking its status/power in Lebanon, empowering domestic opposition to the group, and impacting on its relationship w/ the Lebanese Shiite community. Because of its military support for Assad, Hizbullah is seen as a key enemy by groups operating within the "Salafi-jihadist" camp such as Jabhat al-Nusra and ISIS. *Daily Beast*: 3 Hizbullah reservists say that they are no longer willing to die in Syria's unending civil war.

Israel and Turkey Nearing Reconciliation (JPost)

Israel and Turkey are on the verge of a diplomatic reconciliation. The sides will re-station ambassadors. Turkey agreed to nullify legal claims vs. IDF soldiers involved in the *Marmara* incident of 2010. Israel will establish an aid fund for the families of those who died in the raid. Turkey will cease permitting Hamas terrorists freedom of operation in Turkey. Turkey will permit a gas pipeline to run through its territory, and Ankara has agreed in principle to purchase natural gas from Israel. Netanyahu: "There are ongoing talks ... but there are no understandings" for a reconciliation agreement. "We want to ensure that there is no terrorist activity against Israel from Turkey."

Israel Technology

Israel's First Bio-Waste Power Plant (*Globes*)

Doral Energy is teaming up w/ Kibbutz Lahav to build the first facility in Israel to generate energy from organic waste and animal waste.

Spotting Water Leaks by Satellite (*Israel 21c*)

The Israeli company Utilis uses existing satellite imagery to pinpoint underground leaks. The customer gets a detailed graphic leakage report overlaid on a map w/ streets, pipes and information on the size of the leak.

Israeli-Invented Device Saving Lives (*Times of Is.*)

An Israeli-invented mini-ventilator. The Pocket BVM is used to treat people at the scenes of natural disasters, like in the earthquake that devastated Nepal earlier this year. Americans adopted it last year, along w/ several NATO armies, first-aid groups in Europe and Asia, businesses, hospitals, and airlines among others." With patents in 27 countries, Pocket BVM is a big hit w/ first-responders the world over.

Israeli Tech in World's Smart TVs (*Times of Is.*)

1/3 of the smart TVs sold in the world today contain technology made by Tel Aviv start-up Giraffic. Samsung and LG use Adaptive Video Acceleration technology to ensure flawless playback of streaming content on Internet-connected TVs, the industry's standard.

Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas (*JPost*)

(1) WonderVoice, a voice-interaction interface is a personalized voice ass't for social networking and messaging w/ hands-free interaction w/ FB, Twitter, Spotify, Youtube, Glympse and Pocket, capable, e.g., pf detecting vacant parking spaces or sharing of location. (2) StoreDot produces a battery capable of charging a smartphone in 30 seconds and an electric car in 5 minutes. (3) Urban officials are aiming to swap existing energy-inefficient streetlights w/ more efficient and smart LED streetlights. Ga'ash Lighting is installing such streetlights that include wifi repeaters, security cameras, sensors to measure temp. and air quality, and systems to measure traffic congestion. It helps cities save money on energy; gives them data to determine where to deploy police, where to pick up garbage, how to prevent traffic jams, and more. Apollo smart streetlights allow a tech. to set lighting at the max efficiency.

Chinese Investment Flooding Israel – R. Fannin

Chinese investment is flooding into Israel's venture capital funds and high-tech companies. 80 Israeli companies and 11 Israeli venture capital funds have raised money from China sources, mostly since 2011. China-Israeli tech deals totaled \$300 million in 2014, per Israel's Nat'l Economic Council. (*Forbes*)

Israeli Tech to Clean Up Australian Wastewater.

Israeli firm Mapal Green Energy announced a major contract to supply beverage maker Schweppes in Australia w/ its aeration recycling system to clean up industrial waste from its bottling plants. (*Times of Is.*)

Solution for Snoring Noise (*Times of Is.*)

The Active Noise Cancellation (ANC) tech used by Silent Partner senses the amplitude and frequency of snoring noise and broadcasts in real-time a sound wave w/ an inverted phase to cancel/reduce the sound. Designed in Israel; manufactured in China; ready by mid-2016.

Israel-Indian Barak 8 Missile Test (*JPost*)

The Israeli-Indian-developed Barak 8 missile system carried out successful interceptions from an Indian Navy ship that demonstrate its readiness. The system protects ships and offshore gas rigs from hostile aircraft, missiles, rockets. Its radar is produced by Israel Aerospace; Rafael produces the interceptor missile.

Robot Fits in Your Hand (*Fox News*)

Israeli scientists have developed a robot that is 5" long and weighs > ounce. They printed out the body of the robot on a 3D printer. It can jump 11 feet high and cover a horizontal distance of 4.5 feet in one leap. The small size allows them to traverse difficult and unknown terrain.

Israel's New Missile Defense System (*JPost*)

The new David's Sling system for intercepting medium-range missiles, originally was intended to intercept rockets w/ a range up to 200 km. has now been equipped w/ tech advancements that will enable it to intercept missiles at greater ranges and higher altitudes. A short-range Iron Dome interceptor missile costs \$70,000, each David's Sling interceptor missile costs \$1m.

Israeli Robots Take Fight to Terrorists (*Bloomberg*)

A portable, stair-climbing robot sniffs out booby traps, the Israeli firm Roboteam Ltd. got the \$25 million contract, its 2nd order for the US military in 2 years. Roboteam undercuts rivals w/ lighter robots that sell for about half the industry average. Its smallest robot, IRIS, weighs 3.6 pounds and can be lobbed into a building, providing a video stream to security outside. The largest, PROBOT, carries 1,650 pounds of equipment. Roboteam machines helped IDF ground forces fight Pal. militants firing rockets and infiltrating Israel through tunnels. The robots were also used to detect Hamas booby traps.