

The week of November 25, 2016

ISRAEL AND THE WORLD

India Strongly Backs Israel on Iran, President Rivlin Says

President Reuven Rivlin said on a visit to India that New Delhi backs Israeli policy on Iran "more than most other countries." "We made clear the position of the Israeli government about the threat Iran poses to us and stressed that it's a country that seeks to destroy us," Rivlin said on Sunday. According to [Haaretz](#), in response, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi said of the threat that "it shall not come to pass," Rivlin added. Rivlin further quoted Modi as saying "we are in good relations with Iran but we still support you in all instances in which international organizations accept absurd resolutions from your standpoint." "India wants to show anyone in the world who speaks about boycotting Israel that it is not hiding its relationship with us," Rivlin said.

ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS

Palestinian killed while trying to stab guard at crossing

A Palestinian man armed with a knife was shot and killed by Israeli security forces as he attempted to stab a guard at a crossing outside Jerusalem Tuesday morning, police said. The incident occurred at the Qalandiya Crossing north of Jerusalem, which links the capital to the Palestinian refugee camp of the same name. The attacker was declared dead of his wounds at the scene, a police spokesperson said. The Palestinian Health Ministry identified the man as Jihad Mohammad Sa'id Khalil (48), from Beit Wazan, located west of Nablus. According to police, the assailant walked toward guards manning an area meant for vehicular traffic, reports [The Times of Israel](#). When asked for his ID, he drew a knife and "tussled" with a guard. He was then shot by responding forces. "A Palestinian terrorist armed with a knife attempted to stab a security guard. The security guard responded at the scene," a police spokesperson said in a statement. The guard was not hurt. Police added that the area had been closed off and an investigation launched. A spate of stabbings by Palestinian assailants a year ago has waned over the last six months, though sporadic attacks have persisted.

Israeli Navy destroys Gaza-bound ship smuggling weapons

A Palestinian boat disguised as a fishing vessel was caught on camera by the IDF while attempting to smuggle weapons into the Gaza Strip before eventually being destroyed. The boat was observed departing from the southern Gaza Strip and heading towards the Sinai, reports [Ynet News](#). Several days later, the ship suspiciously reappeared with the rear of the vessel weighed down by cargo. Intelligence information that found its way to the 916th squadron based in Ashdod allowed IDF forces to intercept the vessel off the coast of the Gaza Strip and attempt to detain those on board. During the course of the interception, naval forces fired warning shots at the boat in an attempt to force it to a stop. However, the two Palestinians on board jumped into the water and managed to

make it ashore, which prompted forces to fire on this ship's motor. The motor subsequently caught fire, which spread to the cargo causing the weapons on board to explode. "We observed the boat approaching from afar and using special sensors which we use to mark and catalogue Palestinian ships entering the southern Gaza Strip, identified it as a suspicious vessel," Maj. Maor told Ynet. "Secondary explosions completely destroyed the ship."

IRAN

Israel accuses Iran of sending Hezbollah arms on commercial flights

Israel has accused Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) of using commercial airline flights to ship weapons to the Lebanese Shi'ite Muslim group Hezbollah. According to [Reuters](#), in a letter to the United Nations Security Council on Tuesday, Israeli U.N. Ambassador Danny Danon accused Iran of using airlines such as Mahan Air. The United States has sanctioned the Iranian carrier for providing services to the Quds Force, a special forces unit of the IRGC, as well as Hezbollah. Iran's mission to the United Nations and Mahan Air were not immediately available to comment on the accusations. Danon wrote that Quds Force officers pack arms and materiel into suitcases that are transferred to Hezbollah either by commercial flights to Beirut or commercial flights to Damascus in Syria, and then transferred by land to Lebanon. "It is clear that Iran is still the primary supplier of arms and related materiel to Hezbollah, in blatant violation of numerous Security Council resolutions," Danon wrote. "The Security Council must condemn Iran and Hezbollah for the violation of its resolutions."

ISRAEL AND THE WORLD

Israeli, Palestinian leaders meet with FIFA on soccer issues

FIFA says Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas have met with its envoy trying to broker better relations between the two sides' soccer federations. FIFA says its monitoring committee chairman, Tokyo Sexwale of South Africa, held separate talks in Jerusalem and Ramallah on Monday and Tuesday. FIFA says President Gianni Infantino and secretary general Fatma Samoura "have both committed to visiting the region at the appropriate time in the near future." According to [USA Today](#), Palestinian soccer leaders want Israel expelled from FIFA over security restrictions on players and opposing teams moving in and out of its territories, plus Israel allowing clubs from settlements to play in its competitions.

Coldplay's Chris Martin surprises Tel Aviv

Coldplay's Chris Martin surprised many when he touched down in Tel Aviv and, with his unexpected arrival, kick-started the rumor mill that a local concert may be on the horizon, reports [Israel21c](#). According to Hebrew media, the British singer-songwriter arrived in Tel Aviv for one of two reasons: some gossip columnists say he's in town for a private visit, others say he came for advance talks with local producers. Over the years, concert promoters have tried time and again to secure a Coldplay concert in Israel. Some reports say the band has been offered as much as \$5 million for a one night show. The rock band has a huge following in Israel. The Yaron Yashinski Studio of Tel Aviv provided visual design and animation for the popular video, *Hymn for the Weekend*.