



Rabbinic Recap

The week of October 11, 2017

IRAN

Trump to announce broad Iran strategy this week: White House

U.S. President Donald Trump will make an announcement this week on an “overall Iran strategy,” including whether to decertify the international deal curbing Tehran’s nuclear program, the White House said on Tuesday. “He’ll make that later this week,” White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders told reporters when asked about the certification decision and the administration’s broader strategy on Iran. Trump, who has called the 2015 pact agreed between Iran and six world powers an “embarrassment,” is expected to announce that he will decertify the deal ahead of an Oct. 15 deadline, a senior administration official said last week. [According to Reuters](#), Trump is also expected to designate Iran’s most powerful security force, the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corp, as a terrorist organization as part of a new Iran strategy. “The president has reached a decision on an overall Iran strategy and wants to make sure that we have a broad policy to deal with ... all of the problems of Iran being a bad actor,” Sanders said. Trump accuses Iran of supporting terrorism and says the 2015 deal does not do enough to block its path to acquire nuclear weapons. Iran says it does not seek nuclear weapons and in turn blames the growth of militant groups such as Islamic State on the policies of the United States and its regional allies. The hawkish turn in U.S. policy toward Iran has alarmed many of its European allies. British Prime Minister Theresa May told Trump by phone on Tuesday that the deal was “vitally important for regional security.” German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel on Monday urged the United States “not to call into question such an important achievement that has improved our security.” France voiced concern on Tuesday that designating the Revolutionary Guards a terrorist group could exacerbate tensions in the region. If Trump declines to certify the Iran deal, U.S. congressional leaders would have 60 days to decide whether to reimpose sanctions on Tehran suspended under the agreement. Iranian authorities, who have said Tehran would not be the first to violate the accord, have stepped up their rhetoric against the Trump administration over the possible terrorist designation of the Revolutionary Guards. “The Americans have driven the world crazy by their behavior. It is time to teach them a new lesson,” Iranian armed forces spokesman Masoud Jazayeri said on Tuesday.

HEZBOLLAH

Israel's Next War Will Be Fought Against Both Hezbollah and Hamas, Defense Minister Says

The next war will be fought on two fronts, with Hezbollah along Israel's northern border and Gaza in the south regardless of where the initial conflict begins or what causes it, Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman said Tuesday, as [reported by Haaretz](#). “There are no more one-front wars. That is our basic assumption. That is what we are preparing the military for,” Lieberman told soldiers at the Israeli army's headquarters in Tel Aviv as he hosted them for an

event called, "The Defense Minister's Sukkah" to celebrate the Jewish holiday of Sukkot. Lieberman spoke of the importance of preparing for various scenarios, warning the next conflict with Lebanon would also involve Syria. "If once we talked about the Lebanon front then there is no longer such a front it will be one front of Syria and Lebanon together, Hezbollah, the Assad regime and all the collaborators of the Assad regime," said Lieberman. He also said the Lebanese army had been co-opted by Hezbollah. "The Lebanese army has become an integral part of the Hezbollah force and under its command. The Lebanese army has lost its independence and become an inseparable part of the Hezbollah force," he added. Lieberman has also raised his concerns about the Lebanese army in meetings with the U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis. In recent years, the United States has given American weapons and other aid to the Lebanese army.

PALESTINIANS

Belgium suspends funding for Palestinian schools

The [Associated Press reported](#) that the Belgian government is suspending funding for two school construction projects in the Palestinian territories after it emerged that a school it backed was later renamed after a woman it considers a terrorist. Belgium said it backed a school in the south of Hebron only to find out in 2013 that local authorities changed its name to "Dalal Mughrabi Elementary School." Foreign Minister Didier Reynders said that Mughrabi was "a Palestinian terrorist" who led a 1978 attack against Israel which killed 38, including 13 children. "Belgium will not allow itself to be associated with the names of terrorists in any way," a statement from Reynders' office said. Two projects totaling \$3.9 million have been put on hold.

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

Israeli takes silver in Gymnastics Worlds, 3 Israeli judokas take gold at Tashkent Grand Prix

The [Jerusalem Post noted](#) that Artem Dolgopyat became just the second Israeli to claim a medal at the Artistic Gymnastics World Championships on Saturday, taking a silver in the floor final in Montreal, Canada. The 20-year-old followed in the footsteps of his idol and mentor Alex Shatilov, who took bronze medals in the floor in the 2009 and 2011 editions of the championships. Shatilov decided to skip the competition in Montreal due to the birth of his first child. Dolgopyat registered a score of 14.533, lower than the 14.666 he recorded in the qualifiers, but still good enough for second place behind Kenzo Shirai of Japan, who won his third straight world gold in the floor with 15.633. Dolgopyat was fourth in the floor final at the European Championships earlier this year, with Shatilov, the country's greatest ever gymnast, claiming the bronze. The same weekend Dolgopyat won silver, the [Times of Israel added](#) that three Israeli judokas also won gold medals in their respective weight classes on Saturday and Sunday at the Tashkent Grand Prix. Or Sasson took first place in the men's over-100 kilogram grouping, after beating Kyrgyzstan's Iurii Krakovetskii. Sasson won the bronze medal in the same category during the 2016 Rio Olympic Games. In the men's under-81 kilogram class, Sagi Muki won gold on Saturday after defeating Nyamsuren Dagvasuren of Mongolia. The tournament was the first time Muki competed in the under-81 kilogram group, having previously fought in the under-73 kilogram weight class, according to Judo Inside. On the women's side, Israel's Betina Temelkova took gold in the under-52 kilogram group. Temelkova used to compete for Bulgaria, but switched over to the Israeli national judo team earlier this year.