



Rabbinic Recap

The week of November 3, 2017

IRAN

Iran Debuts Nuclear Power Plant in Bushehr

A new nuclear power station, including two nuclear reactors, was dedicated Tuesday during a festive ceremony in the southern port city of Bushehr in Iran, as [reported by the Jerusalem Post](#). The inauguration of the reactor took place in the presence of representatives of the Russian nuclear program. Ali Akbar Salehi, head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, expressed hope that within seven years his country would inaugurate the second unit at the Bushehr nuclear power station. "This is a symbol of the strategic cooperation between Russia and Iran," the Iranian official said at the cornerstone-laying ceremony for the project. [...] Meanwhile, Iranian National Security Council head Ali Shamkhani said that, "Iran is not prepared to discuss any part of the nuclear agreement and issues related to Iran's defense measures. Our defensive capabilities are built on an internal basis, we will not negotiate our missile program," he said. The Iranian war messages aimed at the United States also continued, by way of Iranian Revolutionary Guards commander General Mohammad Ali Jafari's provocative statements. "Iranian missiles are capable of reaching all American targets in the region," Jafari said. "We are capable of expanding the range of our missiles, but the current range of our ballistic missiles – 2,000 kilometers – is enough to harm our enemies," the senior Iranian officer told reporters at the World Without Terror conference.

GULF STATES

In fresh snub, UAE gives medals to all UNESCO members but Israel

According to [the Times of Israel](#), the United Arab Emirates snubbed Israel again on Monday, when its diplomats handed out gifts to all delegations at the UN cultural agency except Israel. The incident came on the heels of UAE's refusal last week to allow Israeli athletes to display the Israeli flag and play the national anthem at a judo tournament in Abu Dhabi. An Emirati judoka also refused to shake hands after losing to his Israeli competitor, although the country's top judo official later apologized to his Israeli counterpart for the snub. At Monday's opening of UNESCO's 39th General Conference in Paris, the Emirati delegation placed a box containing a silver medal on the desk of each foreign delegation in honor of the UAE having sponsored the renovation of the conference hall. The medals bear a portrait of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the deputy ruler of Dubai and finance minister of the UAE, who sponsored the renovations. No box, however, was placed on the desk of Israel's ambassador to UNESCO, Carmel Shama-Hacohen. "The State of Israel has no need for gifts, but this ugly and uncivilized step, here in the world's organization for culture and education, which follows the outrageous treatment of our judokas during the tournament in the UAE's capital, shows how much hatred, incitement and dark mentality surround these people," Shama-Hacohen said. Money can buy

many things, but not reason and good manners, the Israeli diplomat added, quoting a Jewish proverb that says, “Those who hate presents will live.”

PALESTINIANS

Exploded tunnel was dug for soldier abductions, Gaza terror leader says

Senior Palestinian Islamic Jihad leader Khaled al-Batsh said Tuesday that the attack tunnel stretching from Gaza into Israeli territory that was blown up by the IDF the previous day had been built by his group for the purpose of kidnapping Israeli soldiers, the [Times of Israel reported](#). “The purpose of the tunnel was kidnapping soldiers in order to free prisoners [from Israeli prisons],” Batsh said, speaking at a funeral in Gaza for five PIJ terrorists — including two senior commanders — and two terrorists from Hamas’s armed wing who were killed as a result of the tunnel’s destruction. “Islamic Jihad will not allow the occupation to impose new rules of engagement on us,” he added. The PIJ leader said his group would dig another tunnel at a later date in order to abduct soldiers to trade for prisoners in Israel. Hamas, the terror group that controls the Gaza Strip, has kidnapped Israeli soldiers in the past in order to use them as bargaining chips for prisoner swaps. Kidnapping soldiers, the group has said, is one of its main priorities.

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

Israel’s Iron Dome Technology Protects New York Power Plants

Using Israeli technology, three power plants under the auspices of the New York Power Authority (NYPA) will now be able to prevent power outages before they begin, as [reported in AIPAC’s News Hub](#). The technology will be expanded to 50 plants statewide in the coming months. NYPA turned to Israeli start-up mPrest—which developed the command-and-control software behind the Iron Dome missile defense system—following failures of two of its largest transformers in 2012 and 2014, costing upward of \$5 million in repairs. Using mPrest’s Asset Health Management application, New York can now examine the “health” of a transformer utilizing data derived from the transformer itself, sensors, complex algorithms, historical performance data and lab reports. According to Alan Ettlinger, NYPA’s director for research, technology, development and innovation, “the system automatically shuts down and reroutes power if a problem is detected. That means the lights stay on, field workers are protected from the dangers of an explosion, and NYPA can save money.” “If you prevent an unplanned outage, then there is no outage to speak of,” said Doron Gover, a retired Israel Air Force pilot now in charge of corporate development for mPrest. “In my personal history as a pilot, I am proud of all the cases where I prevented hazardous events long before they might occur and risk life or damage expensive equipment.”