

The state of Israel

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The IDF said it shot dead a Palestinian who crossed the Yellow Line into the Israeli-controlled part of Gaza. A Palestinian detained by Israel since June died in custody, the Palestinian Prisoners Society said. Storm Byron flooded and collapsed tents used by displaced Palestinians across the Gaza Strip. Palestinian sources said Israel detained dozens of Palestinians in the West Bank. Parents of victims of the Oct. 7 attack protested at the courthouse where PM Netanyahu's corruption trial is being held, calling for a state commission into the attack. Channel 12 reported that associates of Israeli President Herzog began drafting a proposal for a pardon for Netanyahu several years ago.



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■ **ISRAEL: A 21-year-old Palestinian detainee died in Israeli custody**, the Palestinian Prisoners Society, representing Palestinians imprisoned and detained in Israel, said. Abed al-Rahman Sufian Muhammad al-Sabatin, from the West Bank town of Husan, was detained by the IDF in late June and died at Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem, the organization said. No additional details were released regarding the circumstances of his death.

- **Bereaved parents who lost their children during the October 7 attack** arrived at the Tel Aviv courthouse hosting Netanyahu's corruption trial to call for the establishment of a state commission of inquiry. Court security confiscated their protest signs and ordered them to leave. When they refused, the judges declared a recess in the proceedings.
- **Channel 12 News reported that associates of**

President Herzog explored the possibility of granting a pardon to Netanyahu before he became president and prior to Netanyahu's indictment. The report published a legal opinion allegedly drawn up by associates of Herzog in 2019, while he was still heading the Jewish Agency for Israel.

- **Anti-judicial overhaul activists canceled a planned meeting with Herzog** to discuss Netanyahu's request for a pardon following the report.
- **The winter storm dubbed Storm Byron prompted flood warnings across Israel** as it drenched Israel in heavy rain, particularly in the coastal and northern areas.

"Assuming that the pardon request Netanyahu submitted to President Isaac Herzog is effectively the opening shot of negotiations between the two men over what price Netanyahu would have to pay to halt his trial, it's not ridiculous to assume that Netanyahu is seeking to lower that price by leveraging the carpet-bombing of democracy that the coalition has spearheaded in recent weeks" - Ravit Hecht

■ GAZA: **The IDF said that two Palestinians had crossed the Yellow Line** marking the boundary of Israeli-controlled territory in Gaza, and one was "eliminated in order to remove the threat."

- **As Storm Byron swept across Gaza, families reported their shelters collapsing, flooding or being carried away** by strong gusts. Local responders said they received dozens of reports of tents collapsing entirely, especially near Rafah and Khan Yunis, where much of Gaza's displaced population is concentrated.
- **Videos shared online showed desperate parents** clutching at tent poles and crying children as water poured onto their blankets and mattresses. In some camps,

residents stood ankle-deep in muddy water, trying to salvage their belongings.

■ WEST BANK: **Palestinian security sources said the IDF detained dozens of Palestinians, including senior Hamas members**, overnight into Wednesday. Seventeen Palestinians were detained in the city of Nablus and about 20 in the village of Abu Dis, east of Jerusalem, the sources said.

- **The IDF uprooted hundreds of olive trees in the West Bank village of Qaryut** in what locals said went far beyond the scope of a military order. The order authorized the uprooting of trees on some 20 acres of village land, but the village council said trees were removed from around 37 acres, of which only around three acres are defined as state-owned land. The order called for the trees to be relocated somewhere else, but footage shows the roots have been destroyed, making replanting impossible.

"Netanyahu's government has been waging a campaign of political and cultural cleansing against a large segment of Jewish Israeli society. That group's leadership has already been defined as an internal enemy that, 'for the sake of national unity,' must be nullified. ... This is a well-planned, systematic campaign that is being carried out with virtually no interference. It has employed legal tactics to warp the country's democratic foundations and incited its thugs to fuel a violent, threatening public atmosphere. And it won't be satisfied with the "judicial overhaul." Its goal is to forge a uniform, homogenous, obedient, intimidated society not only in public spaces, but also in private ones" - Zvi Bar'el

■ SOUTH AMERICA: **Israel and Bolivia have officially renewed diplomatic relations**, severed in October 2023 by then-President Luis Arce, who criticized Israel's "aggressive and disproportionate" military actions in Gaza. Arce was succeeded by Bolivia's current president, Rodrigo Paz, in November.

■ SYRIA: **Israeli Druze leader Sheikh Mowafaq Tari said he urged the U.S. to guarantee the security of the Druze community in Syria** to prevent a recurrence of violence earlier this year in Sweida, a Druze-majority province in Syria. Tarif said during an official visit to the UN in Geneva that Washington needed to fulfill its "duty" to safeguard the rights of Syria's minorities to encourage stability, adding that U.S. support would also remove the need for Israeli intervention in Syria's south.



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