

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ashkelon beach: woman's body found

A 60-year-old woman was found lifeless on Bar Kochba beach in Ashkelon, according to media. Magen David Adom first responders attempted CPR on the woman before pronouncing her dead.

"When we arrived at the scene, we saw the woman lying unconscious, without a pulse and not breathing, with a severe injury to her body," an MDA paramedic said. "We immediately started advanced resuscitation procedures, but ultimately, we had to declare her death."

• Jerusalem Post Staff

Doctor suspected of smuggling bullets

A doctor from Bat Yam was arrested on Saturday on suspicion of attempting to smuggle about 5,000 blank rounds of ammunition from Georgia into Israel, police said Sunday. Detectives from the 747 Special Police Unit at Ben-Gurion Airport found suitcases that raised their suspicions when they arrived in Israel on a flight from Georgia.

After arresting the woman who collected the bags, the detectives discovered dozens of boxes of blank ammunition containing about 5,000 blanks. • Jerusalem Post Staff

Man indicted in Bnei Brak attack

A Bnei Brak resident was indicted on charges of employing the terrorist who committed a stabbing attack in the city earlier this month, police announced on Sunday.

Last week, a man was lightly injured after being stabbed by a Palestinian teenager in Bnei Brak, on the same day of the IDF's operation in Jenin. Police opened an investigation, and arrested a 68-year-old man from Bnei Brak the next day on suspicion of employing and harboring the Palestinian and his brother, who were in Israel illegally. They also found that he deleted conversations he had with the terrorist and his brother from his cell phone from the day after the attack.

• Jerusalem Post Staff

Gov't okays salary raise for NCOs

The government approved a salary raise for non-commissioned officers in the Israel Defense Forces, according to a from the Finance Ministry on Sunday. The change was proposed by Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, who said, "This is a significant and innovative step that will allow the IDF [to meet] changing needs and [adapt to] rapid changes both on the battlefield and in the Israeli labor market."

• Jerusalem Post Staff

Public health doctors warn police of dangers posed by water cannons

• By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

The Israel Association of Public Health Physicians and Ear, Nose and Throat Physicians Society of the Israel Medical Association have called on Police Commissioner Kobi Shabtai and the Israel Police to strictly limit the use of water cannons to control demonstrators.

The water cannon used as a "stun gun," they explained, has the air pressure of between five and 10 bar or more (the air pressure exerted by a water column 10 meters high). At such pressures, possible injury to people includes direct injury to the body and secondary injury from the person slamming against a wall or falling to the ground.

Water cannons can cause hypothermia, direct trauma from the pressurized water, secondary injury from a victim being knocked down or colliding with objects, or injuries from chemicals and dyes dissolved in the water. These medical problems – along with practical and civil rights concerns about intimidation, indiscriminate and disproportionate use, and collective punishment – highlight water cannons' potential for misuse, they continued.

Therefore, the Israel Association of Public Health Physicians (IAPHP) calls on the



DEMONSTRATORS GATHERING along the side of a highway are sprayed by water cannon to disperse, during a protest against the Israeli government's judicial overhaul plan in Tel Aviv Saturday night. (Jack Guez/AFP via Getty Images)

police to announce a halt on the use of the water cannon until the investigation is completed and lessons are applied to prevent the recurrence of serious injuries as a result of the use of the overpowering "water Taser" as a stun gun.

Water cannons were first used for crowd control in the 1930s in Germany, and by the 1960s were frequently used during the civil rights protests in the

US. Today they are now used worldwide by authorities to drive back protesters with large truck-mounted tankers whose pumps drive high-pressure hoses with little to no regulation. They may propel streams of high-pressure water aimed at pushing back crowds or low-pressure streams intended to douse.

Women who may be pregnant, the elderly and children should not be hit with

the high-pressure spray. "These injuries are often severe and endanger the victim with irreversible damage and permanent disability. It is important to note that these risks are known and are documented in Israel and around the world," the physicians group said.

Last week, former Israel Air Force pilot Col. (res.) Udi Ori was interviewed on Channel 12 and Channel 13 TV from his bed at Tel Aviv Sourasky

Medical Center. The colonel in the reserves had to undergo surgery to repair his right eye that was damaged by a water cannon while he stood on the sidelines at a Tel Aviv protest. He said he will probably have to undergo more operations and that his recovery will take a long time.

From the investigation of the injured treated by the medical teams and from the videos of the injury, "it appears that the injuries occurred as a result of actions that violated police rules."

The medical groups said they would like to participate in an urgent discussion in the Police Measures Committee to present their professional position. Copies of the letter were sent to Attorney-General Gali Baharav-Miara, Health Ministry Director-General Moshe Bar Siman Tov and the chief medical officer of the Israel Police.

The chairmen of all the IMA's 67 medical societies, as well as Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) and International Network of Civil Liberties Organizations (INCLCO) also issued an official statement expressing "great concern over the process of intensification of the process of erosion of the characteristics of democracy and public order in Israel."

JCT plans college campus for religious women

• By NOA ABLIN

The Jerusalem College of Technology (JCT) received its excavation permit to build a new Tal Campus, which will be dedicated to empowering religious women to get jobs by expanding their education and career opportunities.

"JCT is the leading Israeli institution of higher education providing academic training... for religious women," Jerusalem Mayor Moshe Lion said after his municipality granted the college its permit last week.

Spanning an impressive 3.5 acres, the Tal Campus is projected to cost \$120 million, with \$70 million already raised by JCT. The campus will house several key facilities, including the Beren Center for Engineering, the Helmsley Center of Life and Health Sciences, the Friedman Center for Business and Management Studies, and the Tessler-Glina Cafeteria.

On-campus housing and outdoor spaces, including a

landscaped garden, are also planned. The college expects construction to commence within the next six months.

The new campus will serve as a permanent home for approximately 3,000 students, offering expanded opportunities for religious women to pursue sophisticated studies and secure quality employment.

By providing access to cutting-edge resources and state-of-the-art facilities, the Tal Campus aims to give women the tools to excel in traditionally male-dominated fields.

National statistics show that 34% of women are in tech-related fields. In contrast, at JCT 53% of computer science students are women.

Lion explained that women from the haredi (ultra-Orthodox) community have already found "JCT's Tal Campus the perfect address for acquiring academic training."

A JCT degree will help religious women integrate into the city's labor market in

high-income professions, Lion said, adding that he hoped the new campus would bring young women from all over the country to Jerusalem thereby strengthening the city as the capital of Israel, "both socially and economically."

JCT President Prof. Chaim Sukenik said, "the construction of this new campus is an important milestone in our efforts to integrate women in the fields of science and health."

He emphasized the importance of the Tal Campus in promoting women's participation in the fields of science, health, management, and engineering.

JCT explained that over 90% of its alumni find employment in their respective fields within a year of graduation. Graduates have secured positions in renowned companies such as Intel, Google, Microsoft, Amdocs, Rafael, Elbit, Check Point, Texas Instruments, and IBM.

High Court rejects petition to draft haredim

• By MICHAEL STARR

The High Court of Justice rejected a petition to draft Israel's ultra-Orthodox (haredi) eligible population on Sunday after the haredi draft law expired at the end of June.

The court said that while it understood the frustrations of petition filer Movement for Quality Government in Israel (MQG), it said that the expiration was fresh and the issue could not be addressed within a reasonable amount of time by the government.

The cabinet on June 25 approved a plan to pass a new haredi draft bill by March 31, 2024, which included a directive for the IDF not to draft the young men until the bill's passing.

The now-expired draft law was passed in 2014 creating allotments for yeshivas for haredi conscripts, but in 2017

the High Court deemed the bill unconstitutional and struck it down. Since then, consecutive governments have requested court deferments on addressing the issue.

The court added though that all other options in addressing the new situation had not yet been exhausted. The MQG had only on June 26 and 29 sent letters to the Attorney-General's Office and the government, calling on them to draft ultra-Orthodox Israelis.

The movement argued last Sunday to the court that with the law expired, there was no legal reason for an exemption, so they should be conscripted. There was no reason for military-age men not to enlist as with the rest of the Israeli population, MQG argued, adding that the situation was discriminatory.

Eliav Breuer contributed to this report.

Jewish man stabbed in Crown Heights attack

• By ZVIKA KLEIN

A Jewish Chabad man was assaulted and stabbed while walking the streets of Crown Heights in the early hours of Saturday, according to Crown Heights Info. He was treated by Hatzalah at the scene.

According to a report from the local police department, the incident took place around 2 a.m. when the man, visibly dressed in traditional Jewish attire, was walking along Union Street towards Troy Avenue.

Two unidentified individuals approached him and inquired about his Jewish identity. They then attacked the man, using a screwdriver to inflict a single stab wound on his left arm, resulting in a minor puncture.

Following the incident, the victim returned home and immediately contacted Hatzalah, a Jewish rescue and first aid group. He was trans-

ported to Methodist Hospital, where his condition was determined to be stable. Eventually, he was able to return home.

According to the report, authorities are investigating the incident as a possible hate crime, focusing on any potential biases that may have motivated the attackers. At press time, there were no known credible threats to the Crown Heights community.

Last year saw a significant increase in antisemitic hate crimes throughout New York in particular and the US in general. In the Big Apple, attacks on Jews went up 41% in 2022, based on an analysis of crime data conducted by The Algemeiner.

There were 293 antisemitic incidents in 2022, according to the report, rising from 207 overall in 2021.

Hailey Cohen contributed to this report.

Guiding special education students into adulthood at Alumot Or

• By ALAN ROSENBAUM

"Everything we do," says Robert Singer, chairman of Alumot Or, "is directed at looking at the individual – not their limitations. We are not trying to 'fix' them. The individual is at the center."

This philosophy guides Alumot Or ("Rays of Light"), an Israeli philanthropic social organization founded in 2015 that promotes and implements innovative projects and programs in special education schools in Israel. Alumot Or helps develop the dignity and self-worth of those with disabilities and works to expand the rights of special education students to quality, equitable, and inclusive education.

Since its inception, the organization has supported hundreds of students in special education in 15 educational centers throughout Israel, seven of which carry the name of the late Benjamin Rothman. A new agreement was recently signed with the Kiryat Shmona Municipality to establish an eighth Benjamin Rothman Educational Center.

Dr. Mina Raz, Ph.D., who is Alumot Or's "Transition to Adulthood Specialist," explains that the transition to adulthood for students with disabilities can be particularly difficult. "The passage from childhood to adulthood is a two-stage process," she explains. "Adolescence goes from age 12 until 18, and what is known as 'emerging adulthood' begins at age 18 and continues until approximately age 29."

For young adults who do not have special educational needs, emerging adulthood is an opportunity to experience life, learn more about themselves, establish their identity and decide what they want to do in life. Based on their experiences of work, travel, and study from age 18 until 29, they will make the choices that will impact the rest of their lives. Young people without disabilities have eleven years to spend in "self-exploration" by experiencing a variety of life situations that help them gradually shape their adult lives.

By contrast, young adults with disabilities, in order to receive the assistance and sup-



MINA RAZ
(Yifat Yogev)



ZIV MAGOR
(Alumot Or)

port they deserve regarding work, IDF military service, housing, and leisure, have to make decisions about their future at a much earlier age, after they have finished high school, between the ages of 18 and 21, when they haven't experienced almost anything of life to that point. "Those with disabilities do not have this luxury," says Raz. "They must decide what they want to do – if they will work, or where they will work, for example – at a much younger age. The tragedy is that they really don't understand themselves yet. They have been studying in

a separate program, and all that they really know is the school program where they have spent so much time. They will have to make decisions at an earlier age, with less knowledge about themselves." These individuals, says Raz, are victims of what she terms "the abbreviated transition paradox."

In many cases, she says, the parents of children will make the decisions, and while they have the best interest of their child in mind, they may not know what their child wants.

The most challenging circumstances in evaluating and planning for the future needs

of students with disabilities, says Raz, is with those students who cannot express themselves verbally, such as students with autism. "Self-determination is the most important thing for students with disabilities. How do we accomplish this with students who cannot express themselves?" she asks.

Raz adds that while special education schools and classes in Israel attempt to prepare students for their adult lives, they are frequently unaware of the available options. She points out that the subject of programs for those with disabilities has not been extensively researched in Israel in recent years. The issue of what students with disabilities can do when they have completed the educational system concerns parents and children alike, she adds.

Alumot Or, explains Raz, assists educational teams in building programs that help prepare students with disabilities for adulthood. "We set up transition programs that are based on evidence-based practice that has been gathered, and we create models and programs

based on research."

She adds that Alumot Or provides educators with up-to-date information that provides practical tools for guiding teens with disabilities into adulthood. For example, Raz says that integration into employment while studying in high school is very significant and is a good predictor for success once the student has completed their studies. Alumot Or is also building tools that can evaluate the success of these preparatory programs.

Raz is currently working with several schools, designing a multi-year study program on subjects that are important in enabling students with disabilities to help transition into the adult world. One of the most important skills, she says, is self-determination, which is the ability to choose and make decisions about one's life. "We are building a program to promote self-determination that begins in the primary grades for individual students, classes, and teachers."

In addition, Alumot Or has developed computerized folders that contain up-to-date information about students

and their progress, which provides a common language in multi-professional teams and is helpful in times of staff turnover.

Adv. Ziv Magor, director general of Alumot Or says, "We are building the foundations of how to look at students with disabilities, how to work with them, and what to emphasize. We are helping to bring the future into the present," he says. "We are focused on getting results, using all of the information that is present today."

Magor concludes that the benefits of Alumot Or's work in assisting special education students with their entry to adulthood extend beyond the schools served by the organization. "All students with disabilities, whether they are in separate schools for special education, or are in schools where they are mainstreamed into the regular student body, deal with this issue, and the development and work of Alumot Or will serve the entire population of special education students in Israel."

The story was written in cooperation with Alumot Or.