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Gov't OKs modified bill on judicial appointments, vows swift passage

Noa Shpigel, Jonathan Lis and Bar Peleg

The governing coalition said it plans to complete legislation changing the operating and composition of the Judicial Appointments Committee before the Knesset recesses for the Passover holiday in two weeks.

The government said in a statement late Sunday that it is accepting a softened proposal for changing how Supreme Court justices are selected, submitted by MK Simcha Rothman, who chairs the Knesset Constitution, Law and Justice Committee.

The new version of the amendment to the Basic Law on the Judiciary gives the coalition the power to fill the first two openings on the Supreme Court that become available in a given Knesset term. Any additional appointments to the court during the term, however, will be subject to the approval of at least one opposition member and at least one justice on the committee.

Protest leaders rejected the proposal and attacked the coalition, saying that the government "decided to divide our nation and carry out a hostile takeover of the Supreme Court. This isn't a softer proposal, but rather a declaration of war by the Israeli government against its people and Israeli democracy.'

They slammed the proposed judicial overhaul as "the first stage in turning Israel into a dictatorship" and "a transparent attempt to numb the protest movement."



Levin, center, and Rothman, right, in the Knesset plenum on Monday.

The coalition plans to push through the judicial appointments legislation before the Knesset recesses for Passover, in early April. The rest of the judicial overhaul legislation, or at least most of it, will be paused until the summer. The coalition may move

forward with laws barring the attorney general from declaring a prime minister unfit to serve and permitting Shas party chair Arye Dery to return to the cabinet despite being disqualified by the Supreme Court due to his criminal convictions.

National Unity Party chair Benny Gantz said that if the proposed changes to the Judicial Appointments Committee are enacted, he will no longer discuss a compromise with the coalition. He called on jurists to withdraw their candidacy for the Supreme Court if

the proposal is passed. Opposition leader and Yesh

Atid party chair Yair Lapid said: "This is not a compromise, it is a hostile political takeover of the judiciary." Rothman presented his revised amendment to the

Knesset committee Sunday. See BILL, Page 2

Government seeks to extend Knesset term one year, to five

Chen Maanit

The government is advancing a proposal to extend the term of the present Knesset for an additional year, meaning the current coalition would hold power for five years, instead of four.

On Sunday, the Likud party told the chairman of the Central Elections Committee, Supreme Court Justice Noam Sohlberg, to set the date for the next Knesset election on November 2, 2027.

Knesset legal advisor Sagi Afek opposes the change, and Attorney General Gali Baharav-Miara is also expected to object. The Knesset's term is set in the Basic Law on the Knesset-Israel's semi-constitutional laws.

Following Haaretz's reporting, the Likud issued a denial, claiming it is not planning on extending the government's term.

If the Knesset dissolves before the official end of its term, as happened in the previous Knesset - the law states the next Knesset's term will last until the next Jewish month of Heshvan after the end of four years since the previous Election Day. The Likud says that the election for the current Knesset took place on 7 Heshvan and that the law covers the entire month of Heshvan. Therefore, Likud officials argue, since the next election follows a four-year period since Election Day, the next Knesset election should be Appointments Committee held in November 2027, which would be five years after the

> last one. The Central Elections Committee has begun studying the issue following a request by attorney Binyamin Shorr.

On Sunday, Likud submitted its position to the committee, in favor of the idea. It noted that by law, the term extension may take between one month if "the end of four years from Election Day" falls in the month of Tishrei for the Knesset, and 12 months if the date falls in the month of Heshvan.

Likud argued that despite the law setting the Knesset's term at four years, "the legislature considered it in the public interest to extend the term of the Knesset elected after a Knesset whose term had been shortened by at most 12 months." Likud also claimed the calculation according to the civil calendar also leads to "the conclusion according to which the date of the election for the 26th Knesset will fall in the month of Sivan 5788."

The United Torah Judaism party submitted the identical position to the Elections Committee.

Afek opposes the extension of the Knesset's term. She submitted a legal opinion Sunday saying, "a thorough analysis of the language and purpose of the Basic Law on the Knesset indicates that the election date for the 26th Knesset falls on the third Tuesday of the month of Heshvan 5787-Sivan 5787." This is a year before Likud's preferred date.

Justice Ministry officials told Haaretz that Attorney General Gali Baharav-Miara would present the same legal interpretation as Afek.

In response, Likud denied supporting legislation extending the Knesset's term: "The Knesset's terms will be determined by legal procedures, not by Knesset decisions as they were in the past."

Tactic in war on democracy Gidi Weitz Page 3 • One day, multiple hazards Yossi Verter Page 3 • Just Phase I Editorial Page 5

becomes the main battlefield of the regime coup



Herzl Halevi, left, with Yoav Gallant. Ariel Hermoni/Defense Ministry

Justice minister's ally

Levin attended party hosted by ex-convict close to crime family

Chaim Levinson

Justice Minister Yariv Levin visited this month the home of Rafi Chaim-Kedoshim, a criminal associated with a well-known crime family from the city of Herzliya and a prominent figure in the city's Likud branch.

Levin, who established a political alliance with Chaim-Kedoshim in the last elections, participated in a recent Purim party the latter had hosted together with Energy Minister Yisrael Katz. Levin and Chaim-Kedoshim were even seen hugging as the justice minister arrived at the party. In the past, Chaim-Kedoshim participated in several Likud events, at least one in the presence of the party's leader, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Chaim-Kedoshim is a second generation to the Kedoshim crime family and was previously sentenced to four years in prison. He was convicted, among other things, of acts of violence, kidnapping and extortion. In the trial of the crime boss Rico Shirazi it became clear that the two

are friends and work together.

In recent years, Chaim-Kedoshim has been trying to gain a foothold in and has recruited the support of about 700 Likud members. Many of them are members of his family the Neveh Israel neighborhood. This is how he took over the Likud branch in Herzliya in preparation for the elections in local municipalities that are scheduled for October.

A Likud activist from Herzliva told Haaretz that Chaim-Kedoshim "wants to take over the municipality by winning two seats and becoming deputy mayor.' The activist further said that "this will enable him an easy pathway to deal with real estate and business licensing. This is how a crime family will penetrate both a local government and The Federation of Local Authorities in Israel. Everyone here is afraid of him.

In the vote for the Likud slate for the Knesset last August, Chaim-Kedoshim and Levin compiled a list of recommended candi-

Levin tried, and succeeded, in ending up second on the slate, behind only Nethe Herzliya municipality tanyahu. Chaim-Kedoshim sought to promote two and their neighbors from

candidates of his own. The first is the Likud Comptroller and a resident of Herzliya, Shay Galili, who is known as a frequent critic of Netanyahu. The other is Mati Yogev, who was an MK on behalf of Likud for a few months and hoped to

reenter the Knesset on the spot reserved for a woman on the slate. Yogev is also the spouse of the chairman of the Herzliya municipality's workers' committee, Moti Yogev.

While Levin achieved his goals, Galili and Yogev did not. However, in Herzliya the deal between Levin and Chaim-Kedoshim did bring returns: the Likud faction's chairman at the time came in first place in the local elections, Galili came in fourth place and Yogev in sixth place.

dates for the party's cen-

tral committee members

The number of votes Yogev won in Herzliya alone was about a third of those she received in the national See LEVIN, Page 2

haaretz.com

nalysis **Amos Hare**

TV channels reported on Monday that Defense Minister Yoav Gallant recently warned Prime Minister Benjamin Netanvahu that he would find it difficult to continue in his post if the coalition continued to forge ahead with its regime overhaul without obtaining

wide public consent. Gallant said this against the backdrop of the harsh responses of Israel's reserve force members to the coup, and concern that this could seriously impact the battle readiness of the IDF, especially in the air force.

Netanyahu talked about

Online now

'Semites at

every station'

What a 19th-century

survey of Western

Russia revealed

falling apart'

Group of Israelis

launch hunger strike

outside PM's office

'Israel is

party leaders. He apparently disclosed this in an attempt to project a dual message, which will advance his plan to pass a more limited version of the proposed legislation. He wanted to signal to the right wing that he has no other choice but to give up some of his plan, while signaling to the left that he agreed to give in only under the pressure of the defense

this at a meeting of coalition

minister, indicating that his proposal is genuine and reflects a true change.

The panel was preparing the

legislation on the Judicial

ahead of the second and third

of the three mandatory votes

a bill must pass in the legisla-

ture to become law.

Emil Salma

What began as a legislative carpet bombing, using "shock and awe" tactics, is now being curbed as the self-imposed deadline set by the coalition approaches, with the Knesset session winding down in early April. Netanyahu, posing as the national mitigator, is trying to convince the opposition

and the protest movement that a compromise can be reached on the legislation, while still giving the government some critical advantages in determining the composition of the Supreme Court. Few people will fall into this trap, first of all because controlling the appointment of judges was the core of the plan from the very beginning. Second, there is suspicion that this is merely an attempt to lull the public with the aim of passing the other laws, salami-style, after the protest movement wanes.

In the meantime, the IDF is reluctantly turning out to be the main battlefield between supporters and opponents of the regime coup. This is expressed not just by Gallant speaking to Netanyahu.

See IDF, Page 2

The ICC is going after Putin. HAARETZ What does that mean for Israel?

Sam Sokol

On Friday, the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for Vladimir Putin, accusing the Russian president of war crimes due to his alleged involvement in abducting children from Ukraine to Russia.

The decision appeared to be a sign of the Hague-based international tribunal's newfound willingness to take action against leaders of powerful states. Israeli experts warn that this also raises the risk of action against Israeli leaders in the future.

Putin's warrant "heightens the risk for Israel's leadership," said Prof. Eliav Lieblich, an expert in international law at Tel Aviv University's Buchmann Faculty of Law. "They demonstrated the political will to go against the head of one of the most powerful states in the world which can respond in unlimited ways, including violence," he said - around the same time that Dmitry Medvedev, a former Russian president and current deputy head of the country's Security Council, threatened to strike the court with a hypersonic missile.

"If they can target Putin, they won't shy away from issuing a warrant against Cour Pénale Internationale International Criminal

The International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands.

someone like Netanyahu," Lieblich continued, adding that "on a legal level, the court made it clear that it doesn't think that heads of nonmember states have personal immunity in front of the ICC."

Israel is not a member of the court, which, Jerusalem argues, means that the ICC has no authority to investigate crimes committed in the country. However, the ICC ruled in 2019 that it does

have jurisdiction in the Palestinian territories and in 2021 it approved a request to open legal proceedings against Israel and Hamas on suspicion of committing war crimes.

Despite this, Lieblich believes that the court currently has its hands full dealing with Russia, whose president was accused of being "responsible for the war crime of unlawful deportation of population and that of Peter Dejong / AP

unlawful transfer of population from occupied areas of Ukraine to the Russian Federation.'

Moscow has repeatedly denied accusations that its forces have committed atrocities in Ukraine. International law experts believe there is only a small likelihood that Putin will be tried because the ICC cannot hold trials in the defendant's

See ICC, Page 2



years due to pandemic re-

yahu's government took

office, the Education Min-

istry has sought to curb

the activities of Parents

Circle-Families Forum in

new condition for exter-

nal programs in schools to

avoid "degrading and hu-

miliating" fallen soldiers

and terror victims, Educa-

tion Minister Yoav Kisch

told a cabinet meeting in

January that he would make sure to remove "bi-

zarre things like a com-

memoration day for Pales-

tinian casualties" from the

Ayala Shalev, the or-

ganizer of the event, told

Haaretz that "our message

is both important and legit-

imate: We do not live here

alone. We have partners

in this homeland, and the

time has come to see them

and take them into account

When we remember our

loved ones that we have

lost in the conflict togeth-

er, we are doing just that."

Memorial Day begins

pool of programs.

Before introducing the

Since Benjamin Netan-

strictions.

schools.

U.S. State Department report calls out Israel for its human rights abuses

Ben Samuels

2

WASHINGTON - The U.S. State Department's annual report on human rights records across the globe took aim at Israel's respect for civil liberties, restrictions on Palestinians and investigations of security forces for abuses – noting "several reports that the government or its agents committed arbitrary or unlawful killings.'

"The Israeli military and civilian justice systems have rarely found members of the security forces to have committed abuses," the report states, noting the Israeli government "took some steps to identify, investigate, prosecute and punish officials who committed human rights abuses, engaged in corruption, or both within Israel." This language is updated from last year's report, which used "on occasion" instead of "rarely."

"There were several reports that the government or its agents committed arbitrary or unlawful killings," the report says, adding that "a study published by a group of academic researchers in September 2021 concluded citizens with mental disabilities were at greater risk of being subjected to violence when interacting with police.'

Regarding arbitrary arrest and detention, the U.S. notes Israel generally observed the right for anyone to challenge the lawfulness of their arrest, though that "NGOs identified cases where the requirements were not followed, and Israeli authorities also did not always apply the same laws to all residents of Jerusalem, regardless of their Israeli

citizenship status.' "NGOs, including Military Court Watch, HaMoked, and B'Tselem, accused authorities of using isolation to punish or silence politically prominent Palestinian detainees," the report says. It goes on to flag "allegations authorities arbitrarily arrested Israeli citizens and Palestinians who participated in protests" and the fact that "administrative detention continued to result in lengthy detention for security detainees, some of whom were not brought to formal trial."

The report also draws attention to restrictions on Palestinians residing in Jerusalem, including arbitrary or unlawful interference with privacy, family and home. It mentions Israel's new Citizenship and Entry Law, passed in March, which "prohibits Palestinians from the West Bank or Gaza, Iranians, Iraqis, Syrians, and Lebanese, including those who are Palestinian spouses of Israeli residents or citizens, from obtaining resident status unless the minister of interior made a special determination, usually on humanitarian grounds." The U.S. notes that the

law allowed the "Shin Bet to collect data of all users of telecom services in Israel without a court order" and for police to use "automatic license plate recognition technology and footage of car occupants to collect data pertaining to in-country travel of persons."

The report further warns of substantial interference

Army shutters Palestinian stores



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken speaking about the human rights report in Washington on Monday.

with the freedom of peaceful members of media," and that assembly and association, the government "generally stating Israel "generally rerespected this right."

spected these rights except However, it goes on to for Palestinian residents of say that NGOs and Pales-Jerusalem, for whom the govtinian journalists "reported ernment limited and restrict-Israeli authorities restricted ed freedoms of peaceful press coverage and placed assembly and association," limits on certain forms of particularlv citing reports of excessive expression, for Palestinians," which inpolice force at various protests, funerals and demonclude "restricting Palestinian journalists' movement As for the media, the reas well as using violence, port says "An independent arrests, closure of media media, an effective judiciaoutlets, and intimidation, ry, and a functioning demoaccording to media reports cratic political system comand the Palestinian Center bined to promote freedom for Development and Media of expression, including for Freedoms.

The report flags Israel's posture toward human rights NGOs, who claim that "Israeli authorities cited laws against terrorism or protecting national security

of the government or deter criticism of government policies or officials."

rael did not enforce the law prohibiting compulsory and forced labor with regard to migrant workers and that "migrant and Palestinian workers in agriculture and construction and women migrant domestic workers were among the most

vulnerable to conditions of forced labor, including bonded labor, domestic servitude, and slavery."

Regarding the Palestinian Authority and Hamas, the report points to various issues - namely unlawful or arbitrary killings, torture and arrest, unlawful interference with privacy, restrictions on freedom of expression, threats against journalists, corruption, restrictions on internet freedom, child labor, genderbased violence, violence motivated by antisemitism and crimes targeting LG-BTQ persons.

As right-wing pressure rises

Tel Aviv to host **Israel-Palestine** Memorial Day event

Bar Peleg

In the shadow of growing right-wing pressure, the joint Israel-Palestinian alternative to official Memorial Dav events will take place in Tel Aviv's Hayarkon Park this year.

Now in its 18th year, the annual ceremony aims to bring together Israelis and Palestinians over their shared grief in a bid to push reconciliation. It is hosted by the bereavement group Parents Circle-Families Forum and the Combatants for Peace nonprofit. Past events have faced

counter-demonstrations and even threats of violence from right-wing activists.

It is unclear whether Defense Minister Yoav Gallant will bar Palestinians living in the West Bank from entering Israel for the ceremony. In 2019, the last time the event was held inperson, then-Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman, head of the right-wing opposition party Yisrael Beiteinu, tried to do just that. The High Court of Justice overruled the decision.

this year at sundown April The event was held on-24 and ends at sundown April 25. line for the past three



The joint Memorial Day ceremony in Tel Aviv, 2018. Ofer Vakni

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Continued from page 1

absence — and the chances that Russia will hand over any senior officials are nonexistent.

local actors accountable, explained Dan Meridor, a former justice minister who now serves as president of the Israel Council on Foreign Relations.

"If the country has a serious judicial system and investigates alleged crimes seriously and issues indictments, it's a very good defense against ICC action. But if we lose that, then we're much more exposed," he said. "If the court becomes heavily politically influenced, we could lose this shield." "The ICC decision shows that those who thought the ICC is dead and just an ornament and nothing serious, they should rethink their stance," added Meridor, a former member of Likud who is now critical of the Netanyahu government's judicial overhaul. Asked if it was concerned about the possibility of future indictments against senior Israeli officials, Israel's Foreign Ministry declined to comment. Reuters and the Associated Press contributed to this report.

in Hawara after shooting attack that they wished to sell ens were injured and vast amounts of property were damaged in the six-hour-

strations over the year.

Israeli settlers punctured the tires of 25 cars in the This came after a Pales-West Bank Palestinian town tinian shot dead two Israeli of Salfit, according to Yesh Din: Volunteers for Human brothers from point-blank Rights. The slogan "price tag" was painted on a wall. A Palestinian woman whose car was vandalized

the vehicles, it is lucky they didn't cause an explosion," she said. "The situation is terrifying and unbearable. What is most concerning is that everyone knows what is happening but no one will do anything about it."

The attack followed Sunday's shooting in the Palestinian town of Hawara, in

incident but she was treated for shock.

The Israeli military is treating the incident as a terrorist attack and apprehended the assailant shortly afterward. Accord-

ing to sources in the Israel Defense Forces, the gunman arrived on foot with a homemade gun and fled after the

Lieblich said that some actions of the Israeli government could draw the court's attention, including bills to deport family members of convicted terrorists, as well as a proposal to shield members of the security forces from criminal charges. Top Israeli security officials have warned the government against both pieces of legislation, which are promoted by far-right National Security In his view, another large

range on the main road in

Many Israelis pass through Hawara's thor-

to this article.

wrote is partial. A half-truth

that is worse than a lie. What

are you saying [in this story]?"

years ago. I have repented, re-

married, and since then I have

been involved in contributing

pented and become religious.

like a security arrangement

around his house, Chaim-Ke-

doshim said in response: "The

cameras are normal security

cameras against burglars...

Regarding the guard dog, it is

actually a family member and

my kids are raising it. It is not

an attack dog, and I certainly

"In the last Likud prima-

ries, I did find it appropriate

to express full support for

two candidates who are from

my branch, and I did so with

the recommendation of oth-

er branch members. I have

known both candidates for

Knesset.

don't have attack dogs."

Regarding what seems

"I left the world of crime 20

long riot.

Both of them survived the

ahead of the holy month of Ramadan, when Muslims fast from dawn to dusk, which begins on Wednesday.

On Sunday night, a Palestinian gunman opened fire on two Israeli men driving through the main road.

Hawara.

Hagar Shezaf

Revenge attacks by settlers follow shooting in Hawara

to arrest or punish critics

The U.S. also alleges Is-

Jim Watson / AFP

from Hawara said that their income has plummeted precipitously in light of

The army decided on

Monday to shut down the

stores on the main road of

the West Bank town of Ha-

wara, following the Pales-

tinian shooting attack that

Some 300 shop owners

left two Israelis wounded.

Yaniv Kubovich

the recent violence there. plained that they had to

turnout. She finished in 51st

place on the Likud's national

list and did not make it to the

Knesset. Galili lost to MK Eli

Dellal by 84 votes, just a few

votes short of becoming a law-

In response to Haaretz's

question about his coopera-

tion with a convicted felon,

Galili said that "Chaim-Ke-

doshim is different. Talk to

him and see [for yourself]."

Galili added that the stories

about Chaim-Kedoshim "are

from 10 years ago.... He's a

tiny person, a nerd. He repented for his sins and became re-

It's important to show

Chaim-Kedoshim pres-

ents himself in recent years

as someone who abandoned

crime and maintains a reli-

gious lifestyle. He organizes

festivities in memory of righ-

teous biblical figures, and

contacts ministers to obtain

funding for "Torah culture"

events. A political source told

Haaretz that "it's important

for him [Chaim-Kedoshim]

to show in Herzliya that he's

LEVIN

Continued from page 1

maker.

ligious."

him."

he's strong

Many of them comthrow away perishables

At the end of February, the town witnessed one of the most violent settler rampages in years. One Palestinian was killed, doz-

attack

regular basis.

oughfare, which has betold Haaretz the perpetracome a central artery tors came from the Nof Avi outpost, outside the connecting settlements and illegal outposts in the northern entrance to Salfit. "There was a truck loaded northern West Bank, on a with gas canisters among

which an Israeli American man in his 30s was seriously wounded while in his car. A passenger, who was identified as a family member, was not wounded in the

single Knesset term. How-

ever, under Rothman's new

proposal, the six votes must

include one representative

from the opposition and one

from Likud lawmakers MK

Tally Gotliv tweeted Sunday

night, there is "nothing new

under the sun. You voted for

the right, you won right and

received left." MK Boaz Bis-

muth wrote that the "left's

threats do not worry me. What

worries me is to hear about all

sorts of compromises that

neuter the reform and disap-

point our voters. We must not

Supreme Court justice. The proposal drew fire

shooting.

In a separate incident made public Monday, soldiers were filmed vandalizing a truck belonging to a Palestinian in Bil'in.

back down." MK Hanoch Milwidsky tweeted: "The framework presented by Simcha Rothman is not right in my view. We did not start this process in order to appoint two

Supreme Court justices." Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir. The Israel Democracy Institute said Monday the new risk factor for Israel is the government's push to unproposal "is a new look for the previous program that has been discussed. This is still a mortal attack on the independence of the judges, because of the coalition's control of the first appointments and the appointment of the president of the Supreme Court, who will

But now it turns out that the Biden administration's growing criticism of Israel over the constitutional crisis will affect its patience with Netanyahu when it comes to Iran and the Palestinians.

Eran Yashiv, a professor of economics at Tel Aviv University, says the expected weakening of the Israeli economy as a result of the crisis should also worry Euopean countries, which have recently hosted Netanyahu on his weekend journeys. 'Leaders of economically weak countries tend to look or scapegoats and mark their enemies. In the case of Israel, these could well be the Arab citizens as the internal enemy and Iran as the external enny," said Yashiv.

The regime in Iran will iew Israel as an aggressive rival, lacking internal checks and balances, and also even weaker because of the political disagreements that will adversely affect the IDF. Such developments could also encourage Iran to declare it will cross the red line of nuclear capability, which it is nearing in any

dermine the independence of the Israeli judiciary, a move which Lieblich says "enhances the chances of the ICC intervening." The ICC is much less likely to intervene when a country has an independent judibecome politically affiliated. cial system which can hold

size of its nuclear infrastruc-

ture and its production ca-

pabilities. And over the past

few days, Hezbollah, Hamas

and Palestinian Islamic Jihad

leaders have been holding

coordination meetings — in

which they are discussing es-

calating the military struggle

ments, a major part of the tele-

phone conversation on Sunday

night between U.S. President

Joe Biden and Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu turned

into a one-sided lecture from

Washington on democratic

values. It seems Netanyahu

has already begun to inter-

nalize that as long as he con-

tinues with his legislation to

undermine the judicial sys-

tem, he will not be a welcome

guest in the White House. And

unlike his partner in the gov-

ernment. Finance Minister

Bezalel Smotrich, Netanyahu

cannot conduct a round of off-

Broadway performances and

make do with appearances in

marginal venues. The Prime

Minister's Office chose, natu-

rally, to emphasize the agree-

ment between the two coun-

tries concerning the dangers

expected from a nuclear Iran.

In spite of these develop-

against Israel.

his house, and there are two shows [the angles] from a lot of security cameras."

Chaim-Kedoshim Moti Kimche

man. Chaim-Kedoshim's eldest son, Israel, was also present at the Purim event in which ministers Levin and Katz participated. He also served time in prison on several occasions, among other things for stabbing his cousin and setting fire to local businesses. In 2015 he was also involved in the attempted murder of businessman Eli Tabib, then owner of the Beitar Jerusalem soccer team.

strong and connected. That he knows how to bring in money. He uploads all the photos [from the events] to Facebook. It's extremely important to him that ministers come to In the last three years, Chaim-Kedoshim managed to take charge of the "Write a business he owned.

down this poem and teach it" The events in memory of former Sephardi Chief Rabbi of Israel, Ovadia Yosef. The host of the event once introduced him as "the one and only who



does so much for the prosperity of the Torah in Herzliya, Rabbi Rafi Kedoshim, God bless him." A Likud member from Herzliva said to Haaretz that "[Chaim-Kedoshim] does ostentatious events. He wants to clear his name, to show that he's a legitimate business-

Israel Kedoshim was also suspected of murdering a criminal with whom he had a lasting conflict but was released from custody due to lack of evidence. Once he was even arrested on suspicion of ordering someone to threaten a city inspector who had fined

Kedoshim family vears now, and believe that home, which hosted the party, is surrounded by cameras and high walls. On the front door hangs a sign warning of the attack dogs inside. "You go into

BILL Belgian shepherds there," says a person who was present at the home. "He likes to Continued from page 1 talk about them, like in scenes from a crime movie. He ex-

plains that the big one is locked The new proposal increasup when guests arrive so that es the number of committee it won't attack them... People members to 11, from nine: get the message. There's a three Supreme Court jushuge screen on the wall that tices, three cabinet members from three different coalition parties, three coalition Ministers Levin and Katz lawmakers and two opposidid not comment in response tion lawmakers. A simple majority, which the coalition A response was issued on would have, will be needed behalf of Chaim-Kedoshim. to approve the first two new which said: "Everything you iustices to be appointed in a

IDF ontinued from page 1

to the community by working On Sunday, 180 pilots and in the rehabilitation of youths navigators announced that and adults... I have been dothey would not show up for reing this consistently for years serve duty this week, in pronow. All my family members test against the coup. Further who live with me have also repetitions vowing not to serve are expected.

> Given these developments, air force commander Maj. Gen. Tomer Bar has summoned for an update seven former air force commanders. Bar got their support and full understanding, as well as a recommendation: Contain the confrontation without clashing with the protesters. Any punitive measure, they cautioned, will immediately set off a chain reaction in which hundreds of other reserve soldiers will suspend their volunteering for service. The air force will simply be unable to find replacements, and its operational abilities will be impaired within weeks.

These words clash with Nethey are worthy of appreciation and have a lot to contribtanyahu's somewhat clumsy ute to the party. It is a shame attempt to blame the IDF's that they did not make it to the general staff for the crisis. In the weekly cabinet meeting he

the protests will intensify.

capabilities and a negative impact on flight safety are not idle words. In 2014, after the abduction and murder of three youths in the Etzion Bloc, the air force had difficulty transporting infantry battalions by helicopter across the West Bank, since flight crews were "rusty." This happened after budgets had been slashed and training reduced in the previous months.

Trouble on all fronts

The hot topic in the discussions among the upper echelons of the security forces in recent weeks is the convergence of all fronts. While mired in an unprecedented internal crisis, Israel is also worried about adverse developments on three different fronts: Iran is improving its strategic situation in the re-

gion and at the same time is nearing the threshold of uranium enrichment to a level of 90 percent for military use; Hezbollah is daring to initiate and aid in terrorist attacks in the West Bank and deep inside Israel; and in the territories there is a growing danger of a violent explosion ahead of the

month of Ramadan. There is no all-powerful body coordinating all these steps together, and there is also no immediate warning of war. But the growing linkage between all these arenas, along with the understanding on the part of the enemy that a weak, extreme and at times illogical government is in power in Jerusalem, only serves to underscore the sense of danger in the Middle East.

Tehran continues to entrench its new strategic stabilitv in the region. This week, in the wake of the reconciliation with Saudi Arabia, it was reported that Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi was invited for an official visit in Riyadh. At the same time, Mohammad Eslami, the head of Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, said that last year, his country succeeded in doubling the

called on Chief of Staff Herzl Halevi to fight the "insubordination." Senior pilots told Bar the opposite, suggesting that he and Halevi go to Netanyahu and paint the true picture for him. The more reserve soldiers are attacked, the more

Warnings about reduced