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ISRAEL'S LEADING DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Analysis **Amos Harel**

Gag order on Tzachi Braverman probe lifted:

## Cops suspect PM aide tried to alter Oct. 7 minutes

**Josh Breiner and Bar Peleg**

Israel Police suspect that Tzachi Braverman, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's chief of staff, attempted to alter the timelines of conversations between Netanyahu and his military secretary, Maj. Gen. Avi Gil, at the onset of Hamas' attack on October 7, 2023. A gag order was lifted on Thursday to reveal the details of the case.

One source said police are also investigating Haaretz's report that Braverman walked off with classified minutes of the previous government's security cabinet meetings.

According to one of the main threads of the investigation, Braverman sought to change the transcripts of the calls in a manner that would benefit Netanyahu. Police suspect that Braverman sought to make them show that Netanyahu gave orders to Gil on dealing with Hamas' attack during their first phone call, at 6:29 A.M. on October 7, rather than only during the second, at 6:40 A.M.

Information obtained by Haaretz indicates that Netanyahu was first informed of the Hamas attack at 6:29 A.M., shortly after air raid sirens sounded across the country, while he was in Caesarea. Gil quickly called Netanyahu on a standard line to report the rocket barrage from Gaza. Gil reportedly told Netanyahu that he believed it was a surprise attack by Hamas, based on information he had received 10 minutes earlier. This information indicated that senior defense officials planned to hold a situation assessment later that morning due to unusual activity detected in Gaza.

During that call, Gil and Netanyahu agreed to speak again in 10 minutes. At around 6:40 A.M., they had a second conversation, this time using the secure "red phone" in their residences, which is protected against wiretapping. Gil then briefed Netanyahu on the information he had received to date, See CHIEF, Page 6

Another soldier, Ivri Dickshtein, was killed in fighting on Thursday. (See story, Page 3.)

See CHIEF, Page 6



The funeral on Thursday of Capt. Itay Marcovich, 22, who was killed in fighting in southern Lebanon on Wednesday. Another soldier, Ivri Dickshtein, was killed in fighting on Thursday. (See story, Page 3.)

## Netanyahu's no-exit strategy

What's still being whispered in the corridors of the defense establishment will soon be understood by the majority of the public. Most of the military threat posed to the communities of the western Negev by Hamas personnel in the Gaza Strip has been nullified at this stage. And the threat from the Strip to the center of the country has been reduced to a minimum.

Hezbollah's military capabilities have also been much diminished, even if the organization is able to continue launching several hundred rockets a day at the north of the country and targeted volleys at the center.

More than the improvement in military achievements by the Israel Defense Forces and the intelligence agencies will depend on further military pressure, it will depend on political diplomacy.

But the government has no intention of providing that diplomatic horizon. As far as the government is concerned, there will be no deal in Gaza. The prospects are better in Lebanon, in part because the deal in question is simpler there. However, the continuation of the war, especially in Gaza, serves the political survival of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Accordingly, as long as he's calling the shots, it's hard to believe the war will be terminated.

Maj. Gen. Yaakov Amidror, one of Netanyahu's closest advisers, stated openly in a radio interview to Kan, the state broadcaster, at the beginning of this week: A hostage deal will allow Hamas to continue ruling in Gaza, See HEAT, Page 6

## Gazans lining up for hours just to fill up a bucket of water

**Jack Khoury**

Winter is getting closer, and it is about to pose another difficult challenge for the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip.

The approaching rainy season is an increasing concern for those who live in dilapidated buildings with ruined infrastructure or in tents, but on one particular issue it may provide relief: rainwater will provide inhabitants with fresh, less contaminated water, and allow them to fill up containers. A lucky few may locate a good, usable well and

might secure their own independent source of water.

The water crisis is noticeable everywhere in Gaza. In one of the depressing photographs taken in recent weeks, children are seen using small cups to try to collect rainwater running in the streets.

Locals and displaced persons testify that they must wait hours to fill a bucket with water. One local, 18-year-old Hallil Al-Balawi, acquired only two liters of drinking water after waiting in a long line in front of the water-filling station at the Sheikh Radwan

### Officer killed in Lebanon

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neighborhood, north of Gaza City. It takes Al-Balawi two or three hours of waiting in line to get his fill of water.

He then pours them into a small container for his mother to boil and sterilize. Sterilization, often undertaken by mothers, is a particularly important step in light of the

medicine shortage and collapse of health services in Gaza. Two of Al-Balawi's siblings, ages 9 and 7, suffered from colitis as a result of using contaminated water.

Al-Balawi's mother, whose husband was killed in the war, says that it's not the availability of water but rather its pervasive contamination from sewage and waste, following the destruction of infrastructure, that is the most pressing problem. She says that sterilization is not easy, as she has

See WATER, Page 3

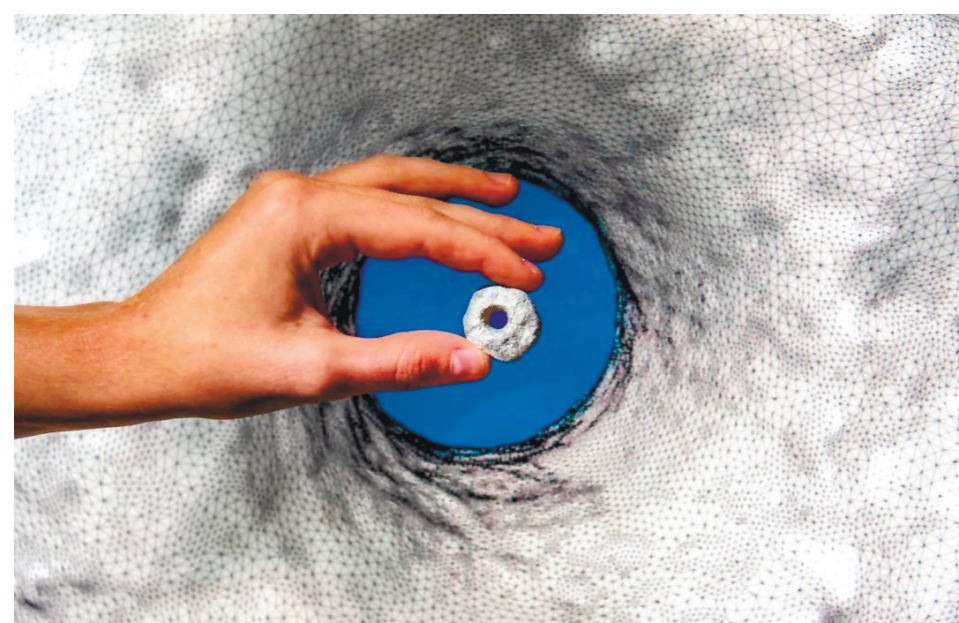
## Police raze mosque, last structure in Umm al-Hiran

**Eden Solomon and Jack Khoury**

The Israel Police and the Israel Land Authority demolished the local mosque in Umm al-Hiran in southern Israel, the last structure left standing in the unrecognized Bedouin village, completing its eviction on Thursday. This comes ahead of the planned establishment of a new Jewish community there. In recent days, villagers tore their own homes down, as well as most structures in the village, leaving only the mosque.

According to the community, hours before the eviction, extensive police forces arrived in Hura, where most villagers have relocated, and arrested three former Umm al-Hiran inhabitants. Police says they were arrested on intelligence received indicating they could disturb the peace. "They knocked on doors at three in the morning and arrested them," Mariam al-Kiyan, the wife of one of the detainees, told Haaretz. "Somebody said something about disturbing the peace."

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A perforated stone from Nahal Ein Gev.

Daniel Rolider/Smithsonian Magazine

## Earliest spindle wheels may have been discovered in ancient village

**Ruth Schuster**

Who invented the wheel? We don't know, and most likely the concept of rotational technology emerged multiple times. But we may owe everything from pottery wheels to Porsches to the Natufians, an innovative culture that lived in the southern Levant from about 15,000 to 11,500 years ago.

Natufians were among the earliest people to abandon the cave and build homes.

They had other innovations too, among which may have been the world's first spindle whorls. That is what the motley assemblage of perforated stones found in the early village at Nahal Ein-Gev from 12,000 years ago were, Dr. Talia Yashuv and Prof. Leore Grosman propose Wednesday in PLOS ONE.

Spinning fiber to make cord had been around for tens of thousands of years; apparently Neanderthals did it too, but it was a tedious manual

technique. The invention of the spindle and whorl would have made it fun and fast. "This was a complete innovation insofar as we know," Yashuv tells Haaretz by phone.

What were they spinning? Not wool. Sheep had not yet been domesticated. Possibly the people in this pre-Neolithic village by the lake were having terrific fun making and/or using this invention and began drilling pebbles

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Ono Academic College is hosting the 4<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the Interdisciplinary Society of Victimology

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