



Editor's Comments

The past couple of weeks have been extremely dramatic in Israeli Politics. This Edition will therefore reflect to shed some light on the different situations.

First I'd like to elaborate on the general scheme of things: Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu (AKA Bibi) has recently declared that the Elections to the Knesset (Israeli Parliament) will be Seven Months Early, on April 9th instead of November 5th.

The Israeli public is highly conflicted about Bibi: there have been 4 different corruption investigations into Bibi's business deal, but on the other hand, Bibi is considered to be a very good leader, especially when it comes to National Security. The Israeli public generally scorns the left wing, referring to them as weak-minded fools and irrational optimists. This toxic atmosphere is a result of more than a decade of sedition against liberal voices in Israel.

Most of my friends and family have had enough of Israeli Politics and Israeli politicians. In this atmosphere, the following stories have happened this week:

Ex-IDF chief Gantz unveils new political party

Former chief of staff enters politics, calls his faction 'Israel Resilience Party,' Marking his official, long-anticipated entry into Israeli politics, in a move that confirms his plans to run in the Knesset elections set for April 2019.

In the first media statement put out on behalf of Gantz, his campaign team said the party's official Hebrew name would be Hosen Leyisrael, which translates as "resilience for Israel." A spokesperson for the party said it would be known in English as the Israel Resilience Party.

Gantz's party have yet to publish their standing in Israeli politics.

FAMED ISRAELI AUTHOR AMOS OZ PASSES AWAY AT 79

Oz, who penned dozens of books during his illustrious, more-than-50-year career, was one of Israel's best known and most beloved literary figures.

The author's other well-known works include My Michael, Black Box, Panther in the Basement and Judas. His fiction and non-fiction works have been translated into dozens of languages, and in many ways he was considered the father of modern Israeli literature.



Dramatic Split in Israeli Left as Labor Party Breaks Away From Tzipi

Livni

Zionist Union breakup: Labor Party leader Avi Gabbay announced on Tuesday the break-up of Zionist Union, with Tzipi Livni's Hatnuah party. Zionist Union, which won 24 seats in the last election, has tanked in recent polls to as low as nine seats ahead of the April 9 election.

In a press conference, Gabbay said he "still believes in partnerships and connections," but said "successful connections require friendship, abiding by agreements and loyalty to the path ahead."

Gabbay wished Livni luck, but the Hatnua leader, who seemed surprised by the announcement, said she would rather not comment. Gabbay's dramatic announcement also took Zionist Union's lawmakers by surprise.

According to Gabbay, despite preserving the union when he was elected party leader, as well as granting Livni the post of opposition head, the public didn't rally behind Zionist Union.

Naftali Bennett and Ayelet Shaked form party for Orthodox and secular right-wing Israelis

Jewish Home party head Naftali Bennett and party leader Ayelet Shaked announced that they would leave the pro-settler party and form a new alliance ahead of national elections.

Bennett, who serves as education minister in Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing government, and Ayelet Shaked, the justice minister, at a news conference Saturday night in Tel Aviv announced the founding of Hayamin HaHadash, or The New Right, which they said would be a party based on a "full and equal partnership" between Orthodox and secular Israelis.

"The prime minister thinks religious Zionists are in his pocket and no matter how much he harms the religious Zionists they will continue to go along with him," Bennett told reporters in explaining the need for a new right-wing party.



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The Congregational Shlichim Program is a partnership between
the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and local synagogues.*