



Benny Gantz received mandate from President Rivlin **Wednesday night**

President Reuven Rivlin formally tasked Blue and White leader Benny Gantz with forming a new government on Wednesday evening at the President's Residence.

Gantz will have 28 days to build a coalition, beginning Wednesday night at midnight and ending just before midnight on November 20, after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu returned his mandate to Rivlin on Tuesday evening.



Sources close to Gantz said Blue and White would speak to representatives of each of the nine other factions in the Knesset during the four weeks. But they stressed that there was a difference between such talks and official coalition negotiations, which would only be held with possible coalition partners.

"We will invite the Likud first, as we promised, but listen to all the factions," a source close to Gantz said. "We will hear from those who know we will not sit [in a coalition] with them and continue with our potential partners."

When asked who could be a coalition partner, the source's response left open the possibility of every faction except the Joint List.

"We will not build a government with parties that do not believe in Israel remaining Jewish and democratic," the source said. "This has not changed since the election."



Israeli Gymnast Artem Dolgopyat wins silver at world championships

Israeli gymnast Artem Dolgopyat won a silver medal in the men's floor exercise at the Artistic Gymnastics World Championships in Stuttgart, Germany, becoming the latest Israeli to qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

It is Dolgopyat's second silver medal at the World Championship, after winning one in 2017.

Mazal Tov!



IDF Rabbis in reserve pen modesty laws handbook for religious soldiers

Several reservist rabbis from the IDF rabbinate have written a handbook of Jewish laws for how religious soldiers should handle serving in the military with women, including stipulations banning them from serving in mixed-gender combat units and from doing guard duty with women.

The publication of the handbook has once again brought to the fore the tensions that have arisen in recent years between the IDF and the religious-Zionist movement's conservative wing and rabbinic leaders.

These tensions have become a serious cause for concern, since religious-Zionist soldiers and officers are a very large and growing population group within the IDF, owing to the high motivation within the community to perform substantive military service.

Yisrael Beytenu leader and former defense minister Avigdor Liberman seized on the publication of the booklet as "further testimony to the growing extremism in the religious-Zionist [community] caused by its hardline branch."



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