



### **Asked to form next Israeli government, Netanyahu calls for political, societal unity**

Tasked with forming the next government, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> for political and societal unity after a divisive election season.

His comments came after President Reuven Rivlin announced that he had decided to nominate Netanyahu, following a breakdown in negotiations on forming a unity government between the prime minister's Likud party and the Blue and White Party headed by Benny Gantz.

"I have decided to give you, sir, the opportunity to assemble a government," Rivlin said to Netanyahu at the nomination ceremony in Jerusalem.

"I accept the mission you have given me," Netanyahu said. "I do not do so in the knowledge that I have a high chance of forming a government, but rather in the knowledge know that my inability to do so is a little smaller than the inability of MK Gantz, given that we are both incapable of forming a government together."

The prime minister also called for a unity government and a speedy conclusion to negotiations to form one.

"The order of the hour is a unity government," he said. "A broad national unity government and fast, I would say".

He said that a unity government was necessary to bring about national reconciliation.

Rivlin said his decision was not a solution and that both candidates were responsible for resolving the political impasse.

"The Israeli people need to know that a government can be established," he said. "It is true that everyone will have to compromise. But if a government is not formed, it is the citizens of Israel who will pay the greatest price."

The president's announcement came after Likud and the Blue and White party confirmed that talks on forming a unity government had broken down. Both parties pinned the blame on the other side.



### **Netanyahu weighing Likud leadership election**

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is considering a snap leadership vote in his Likud party, a spokesman said on Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, adding a new twist to Israeli politics after two deadlocked general elections this year.

A leadership vote would give Netanyahu an opportunity to win a new mandate from his party after his failure to secure a parliamentary majority in national elections in April and last month left him politically weakened.

In a statement, the party spokesman said Netanyahu was weighing the idea "to shatter the illusion of a Likud rebellion" against him and persuade any political rivals who might be anticipating one that they should join a unity government with him now.

Political commentators said victory in a Likud leadership election could also pre-empt a scenario in which Israel's president, who tasked Netanyahu last week with forming a government, might choose another member of the party to do so if the prime minister does not succeed.

One potential Netanyahu challenger in Likud, former cabinet minister Gideon Sa'ar, tweeted "I am ready", after the party vote was mooted. But other prominent Likud members swiftly voiced their loyalty to Israel's longest-serving leader.

Gantz has said his party would not forge an alliance with Likud with Netanyahu at its helm, citing looming corruption indictments against the prime minister, who has denied any wrongdoing.

## Amazon Launches Israel Operations Just in Time for High Holy Day Season

Amazon launched its long-anticipated shipping operations in Israel Sunday, just as the High Holy Day gift-buying season gets under way. Although not fully implemented because the Hebrew-language site is not yet up, Amazon's Local Delivery service enables Israeli retailers and makers to sell to local shoppers. The full service will be rolled out within weeks.

The U.S. online retail giant first scheduled the launch for September 18, but postponed it due to the election.

In recent days, customers have been able to enter the Amazon site with an Israeli address where they see a banner addressed to Israeli customers saying "Amazon ships more than 45 million products from the United States to Israel."



## For the first time - Israeli baseball team qualifies for Olympics

Israel qualified for the Olympic baseball tournament for the first time, with former major leaguer Danny Valencia hitting a three-run homer in an 11-1, eight-inning rout of South Africa at Parma, Italy.

Israel earned the Europe/Africa berth and joined host Japan in the six-nation Olympic event, to be played from July 29 to Aug. 8 at Fukushima and Yokohama, Japan, as part of the Tokyo Games.

Just two of the 24 players on the Olympic-bound team grew up playing ball in Israel. Along with a handful of baseball-playing American Jews born to Israeli parents, seven players have long-standing personal ties to Israel. The rest of the players on Team Israel are American Jews who have played in the United States in college or in the minor or major leagues. They were recruited to play for a country that many of them had never visited.



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## Apple Cake

**You will need –**

- 3/4 cup of oil
- 1 ½ cups of self-rising flour
- 1 ¼ cups of sugar
- 3 tablespoons of water
- 2 eggs

**For the filling -**

- 5 green apples – peeled and cut
- 5 tablespoons of sugar
- 1 tablespoon of cinnamon

1. In a large bowl, mix oil, flour, ¼ cup sugar, water and eggs
2. In a separate bowl, mix apple slices, sugar and cinnamon.
3. Grease an oven pan, pour 2/3 of the dough, tuck the apples into the dough
4. Add the remaining dough on top
5. Bake in 350 degrees till the top is brown.

### Did you know?

Bamba, Israel's favorite snack, was first produced in 1964 as cheese-flavored snack