

**NEWS AT A GLANCE**

■ **The death toll from last week's terrorist bombing rose to 21 over the weekend as two more victims of the attack died of their wounds.** As Israelis continued to mourn the victims of one of the worst massacres in Israeli history, the Cabinet voted to extend the closure of the territories. The government also continued to explore a plan to erect a fence that would separate the Israeli and Palestinian people for good. [Page 3]

■ **Jordanian and Palestinian officials signed an agreement establishing a framework for cooperation in economics, transportation, communications, culture and security.** Meeting in Amman, the two sides agreed that the Jordanian dinar would serve as the official legal tender in the Gaza Strip and West Bank Jericho enclave, both of which became Palestinian autonomous zones last May. [Page 4]

■ **Rep. Tom Lantos (D-Calif.) threatened to cut off all American aid to Egypt unless President Hosni Mubarak warms up to Israel and ends his contact with Libya.** In an exchange with Secretary of State Warren Christopher at a congressional hearing and in later remarks to an American Jewish Committee gathering, Lantos stated that he would lead a campaign to cut Egypt's \$2 billion in foreign assistance unless Egypt changed its ways. [Page 2]

■ **Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin issued an ultimatum to the fervently Orthodox Shas Party:** Rejoin the coalition or the two ministerial portfolios previously held aside for Shas will be assigned to members of the Labor Party. Rabin took the step after Shas, which has been sitting on the fence since it left the coalition over a year ago, sided with the opposition on a key no-confidence vote against the government. According to some speculation, Police Minister Moshe Shahal would get the Interior Ministry portfolio and Tourism Minister Uzi Baram would head the Religious Affairs Ministry. [Page 4]

■ **Hungarian authorities arrested two skinheads suspected of setting fire to some 16 Torah scrolls.** The scrolls were originally believed to have been stolen. [Page 2]

**As Reform movement evolves, temples embrace more ritual**

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, Jan. 29 (JTA) — Were he alive today, Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise would hardly recognize the Reform movement he led a century ago.

Practices once considered anathema in his movement — wearing a tallit and kippah, celebrating the second day of Rosh Hashanah and chanting the Reader's Kaddish and Avot prayers during worship — are now regularly used in a majority of Reform congregations, according to a recent survey of the movement.

Not long ago, a typical Reform service included a paid choir singing the few Hebrew parts of the service and congregants reading the mostly English-language liturgy.

Today, there are fewer professional choirs, more Hebrew in the services and more congregational singing and chanting.

Other elements of the services that were once standard in Reform temples, such as the use of accompanying organs, have become less common.

At the same time, Reform congregations are including elements that are considered more traditionally Jewish, according to the study, conducted by the Reform movement's congregational arm, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

The recently released survey, "Emerging Worship and Music Trends in UAHC Congregations," was conducted in late 1993 and early 1994. Of the movement's 850 congregations, 677 responded. Among its findings:

- Most Reform congregations use Hebrew for between 20 percent and 50 percent of the liturgy during Friday night and Saturday morning services.

- The Reader's Kaddish is chanted regularly in 80 percent of Reform temples, up from 66 percent in 1987. Prior to 1975, no congregations chanted the prayer because it was not included in the standard Reform prayer book at the time.

- Thirty-eight percent of temples currently observe two days of Rosh Hashanah.

- About 80 percent of all Reform temples currently make kippot available to congregants, and half supply tallitot.

- The majority of Reform temples consider the wearing of kippot and tallitot optional (496 of the 677 respondents consider kippot optional; 507 consider tallitot optional). Some congregations encourage the practice, while very few discourage or require it.

- In 60 percent of Reform temples, congregants always sing along during Friday evening services.

**'Old labels have lost their meaning'**

Eschewing practices that seemed too close to traditional Judaism was once the philosophical bedrock of Reform Judaism.

The principles of the Reform movement were first officially outlined in the Pittsburgh Platform, adopted by the movement's leaders in 1885. Among the beliefs stated in that manifesto: "We hold that all such Mosaic and rabbinical laws as regulate diet, priestly purity and dress originated in ages and under the influence of ideas altogether foreign to our present mental and spiritual state.

"Their observance in our days is apt rather to obstruct rather than to further modern spiritual elevation."

Today's Reform Jews obviously disagree. "Once one has moved beyond Orthodoxy on the right and Classical Reform on the left, the old labels have lost much of their original meaning and will require new and bold re-evaluations in the years ahead," wrote the report's authors.

The authors are Rabbi Daniel Freeland, the UAHC's national director of programs and director of its Commission on Synagogue Music; Robin Hirsch, assistant director of the commission on music; and Rabbi Sanford Seltzer, director of the UAHC's Commission on Religious Living.

At the heart of the Reform movement is the belief that no expression or form of Jewish spirituality is inviolable and closed from change, Freeland said.

The changes in religious practice, which some might see as a return

to traditional Judaism, does not reflect a failure of Reform philosophy or theology, he said.

"Our forms have to continue to evolve and change to reflect the needs of our constituency," the rabbi said. "Expressions of personal spirituality are far more acceptable in America today than they were 30 years ago. If we perpetuated a 19th century model, we'd be failing.

He added, "If we wanted to canonize the practices, we'd be failing. Reform continues to evolve."

Some of the evolution began in the late 1960s, with an increase in ethnic identity, he said.

Since then, Reform Judaism has continued to evolve as the nature of its constituency evolves, Frelander said.

He noted that 50 percent of all new members in Reform temples were not raised in the Reform movement. Half of them were not born Jewish. The other half were raised as Conservative or Orthodox Jews, he said.

"Everyone brings with them their memories and practices," said Frelander.

"Reform will continue to change as the membership does," he said. "Reform does not reject the possibility of anything any longer." □

### Lantos lashes out at Egypt, threatening a cut in U.S. aid

By Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29 (JTA) — A senior member of Congress has threatened to cut off all foreign aid to Egypt unless President Hosni Mubarak warms up to Israel and ends contact with Libya.

"I will lead the fight to terminate aid to Egypt if Mubarak continues the process of flirtation with [Libyan strongman Muammar] Gadhafi and if his increasingly hostile statements to Israel don't come to an end," said Rep. Tom Lantos (D-Calif.) at a gathering here of the American Jewish Committee's national leadership last week.

Lantos, a longtime Israel supporter and a staunch advocate of aid to Israel and Egypt in the past, spoke at the AJCommittee gathering only hours after he expressed similar sentiments to Secretary of State Warren Christopher at a hearing of the House International Relations Committee.

"I'm asking you, Mr. Secretary, to convey in the strongest possible terms to the Egyptian government that the good will and financial support of the American Congress is directly related to the attitude Egypt takes both with respect to the peace process and with respect to terrorism," Lantos said at the hearing.

Egypt has received an annual \$2.1 billion in U.S. foreign aid since signing the Camp David accords in 1978. Those accords led to a peace treaty with Israel the following year. Only Israel receives more U.S. aid — \$3 billion annually.

Israeli officials have expressed increasing alarm at hostile statements emanating from Cairo. Egypt has reportedly encouraged Arab countries to slow down their efforts to initiate ties with Israel until a deal with Syria is signed.

Egypt has also been pushing Israel to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which comes up for renewal this year.

Christopher responded to Lantos' remarks, saying that Mubarak "deserves great credit for leadership in the Middle East peace process."

But Christopher added: "But we simply don't understand the [the Egyptians'] relationships with Gadhafi, and we have simply indicated that we think those are ill-advised."

Also, during his address to the AJCommittee, Lantos threatened to cut aid to Russia and to end trading privileges extended to China if both countries continue to assist Iran in developing nuclear reactors.

U.S. officials have expressed concern that such aid could be used to make enriched fuel for nuclear weapons.

Lantos also said he plans to introduce legislation linking aid to an end to support for Iran. □

### Tel Aviv Stock Exchange rallies amid new debate on capital gains

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM, Jan. 29 (JTA) — Share prices rose by more than 5 percent on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange on Sunday amid speculation that the controversial capital gains tax would never be implemented.

The sharp gains occurred after Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Finance Minister Avraham Shohat had an angry exchange at Sunday's weekly Cabinet meeting.

Rabin reportedly attacked Shohat for saying last week that the capital gains tax, which officially went into effect Jan. 1, would not be implemented immediately due to the state of the stock market.

Shouting "I can't take this anymore," Rabin reportedly banged the table with a copy of the Hebrew daily Ma'ariv, which quoted Shohat as calling the tax "impossible to implement."

Passage of the tax late last year was a personal battle for Shohat, who, in the final weeks preceding its scheduled implementation, encountered resistance from Labor colleagues concerned that a stock tax would further erode party popularity.

Rabin backed the tax, but only after a tense period during which he was rumored to be waffling on the issue.

Meanwhile, opposition parties criticized the government for not canceling the tax.

Likud Knesset member Dan Tichon called recent efforts to amend the tax "a gimmick" and said the government should repeal the tax instead of looking for ways to improve it. □

### Hungarian Jews remember

By Agnes Bohm

BUDAPEST, Jan. 29 (JTA) — Hungarian Jews commemorated the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz at a recent ceremony at the headquarters of the Budapest Jewish community.

Zoltan Gal, the speaker of the Hungarian Parliament, represented the government at the ceremonies.

Hungarian President Arpad Goncz was scheduled to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Hungarian Jewish Martyrs in a separate ceremony.

Ninety percent of Hungary's Jews, some 438,000 people, were exterminated at the Auschwitz death camp complex between April and August 1944. □

### Skinheads arrested for Torah burnings

By Agnes Bohm

BUDAPEST, Jan. 29 (JTA) — Two Hungarian skinheads suspected of setting fire to Torah scrolls were arrested last week.

Police said they planned to charge the two suspects — both from the eastern Hungarian city of Debrecen — in connection with the burning of a total of 16 Torah scrolls. Earlier, it was believed that some of the scrolls had been stolen. According to police, two Torahs were burned in the city's only synagogue on Jan. 6, the birthday of former Hungarian leader Ferenc Szalasi, a Nazi sympathizer. □

## Israeli death toll rises to 21 as country continues to mourn

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM, Jan. 29 (JTA) — The death toll from last week's terrorist bombing at Beit Lid Junction rose to 21 over the weekend as two more victims died of wounds sustained during the attack.

Lt. Ayal Moshe Levy, 20, was buried Sunday in the military section of the Ashdod Cemetery.

Cpl. Yaniv Weiser, 18, of Givatayim was laid to rest the same day in the Kiryat Shaul Military Cemetery in Tel Aviv.

All but one of the victims in one of the worst massacres of Israeli citizens were soldiers.

About 60 others were wounded in the Jan. 22 bombing, which was carried out near Netanya by two members of Islamic Jihad, a fundamentalist movement that militantly opposes the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian peace initiative.

On Saturday night, several thousand people gathered at the site of the attack for a memorial rally for the victims of the bombing.

Among the speakers was Chief Ashkenazi Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau, who criticized Islamic religious leaders for not condemning the attack.

Some of the demonstrators heckled speakers and shouted anti-government slogans. □

## Cabinet extends closure as it explores separation

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM, Jan. 29 (JTA) — The Israeli government has extended the closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the wake of last week's double suicide bombing near Netanya that claimed the lives of 21 Israelis.

The Cabinet decided Sunday to continue to close off the West Bank for another week.

As for the autonomous Gaza Strip, the government said the closure would remain in effect until the Palestinian leadership lived up to the security commitments spelled out in the self-rule accord it signed with Israel.

Much of Sunday's Cabinet meeting focused on the adoption of security measures to fight the ongoing battle against terror.

The government also continued to explore the possibility of erecting a fence that would separate Israel from the Palestinians. At least one Cabinet minister acknowledged that such a move would lead to a Palestinian state.

The Cabinet imposed the closure on the West Bank and Gaza within hours after the attack. The move, adopted repeatedly in the past following terror attacks against Israelis, prevents thousands of Palestinians from working at low-paying construction and agricultural jobs in Israel.

The Cabinet also approved bringing in 6,000 foreign workers to fill those jobs.

There was widespread support among the Cabinet ministers for maintaining the closure of the territories.

Among those voicing support for the move was Uzi Baram, the dovish tourism minister, who told Israel Television that he supported a permanent closure.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was quoted by Cabinet ministers as saying at the meeting that the peace process with the Palestinians was at a crossroads and that "terrorism has become a strategic danger."

Rabin said he would not want to be held responsible for a halt in the peace process, but added that the process cannot continue to be implemented without additional security measures.

The government stepped up pressure on the Palestinian Authority by saying that workers from the Gaza Strip will only be able to return to their jobs in Israel when the Palestinian Authority starts fulfilling its security commitments, including taking meaningful steps against terrorists from the fundamentalist anti-peace movements Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the Jan. 22 massacre at Beit Lid Junction near Netanya.

The Cabinet also extended its freeze on negotiations regarding the release of additional Palestinian prisoners and the opening of safe passage routes between the Palestinian self-rule areas of Gaza and the West Bank Jericho enclave.

During the Cabinet session, Rabin authorized Police Minister Moshe Shahal and Finance Minister Avraham Shohat to head teams that would examine the security details and economic ramifications of establishing a fence around the West Bank to separate Israelis and Palestinians, a proposal Rabin floated last week in the wake of the Beit Lid attack.

Agriculture Minister Yakov Tsur said a separation of the two peoples could lead to a Palestinian state.

"Today 'separation' has security implications, in barring [Palestinian] workers," he said. "But separation could be in the Palestinians' own interest as well. In the long term, it will mean setting borders, removing settlements, and, indeed, the formation of an independent Palestinian entity."

## Dogs to be deployed along border

In another effort to beef up security, Shahal proposed the deployment of dogs along the border with the West Bank to prevent Palestinian terrorists from infiltrating into Israel.

Shahal said the dogs would be used for patrols and for additional security at roadblocks.

Israel has in the past avoided using guard dogs because of their association with Nazi tactics.

There is also a taboo on using dogs for police work in the Arab world, where Muslims consider dogs to be "unclean."

But Shahal's spokesman, Rafi Levy, said such measures, which were once rejected as being too extreme, "are now necessary." He said authorities would begin using the dogs this week.

During the Cabinet meeting, Meretz Minister Shulamit Aloni lashed out at Rabin for his recent hard-line statements. She said they serve only to set back the peace process.

Rabin retorted that Aloni was busy serving Palestinian interests, while he was occupied with Israeli ones.

Rabin added that Israel is not ready to seek peace at "any price or condition."

In the wake of the most recent attack, Rabin has indicated that he would slow the pace of talks with the Palestinians.

He told the Likud Knesset faction last week that Palestinian elections or a redeployment of Israeli forces from Arab population centers in the West Bank would be unlikely in the near future.

Both moves were scheduled to take place months ago under the terms of the self-rule accord.

At a recent meeting, Rabin reportedly gave Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat the option of holding Palestinian elections now, with Israeli soldiers pulling back for election day only, or beginning negotiations for an interim agreement that would eventually lead to a full Israeli redeployment to agreed-upon lines.

Rabin told the Likud Knesset members that Arafat had chosen the second alternative. □

**IDF raids West Bank school in roundup of Islamic militants***By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM, Jan. 29 (JTA) — The Israel Defense Force arrested 21 suspected Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists during an early morning raid last Friday at the Abu Dis College of Technology in eastern Jerusalem.

The raid was part of a security crackdown on suspected Islamic fundamentalist activists in the wake of the Jan. 22 bombing at Beit Lid Junction that killed 21 Israelis. The Palestinian Authority issued a statement denouncing the raid, calling it "a violation of academic freedoms, the peace agreement and the agreement for early empowerment in the West Bank."

In last Friday's raid, dozens of soldiers entered the school dormitories in the early morning hours after climbing ladders and breaking through windows.

Four female students were slightly injured in the raid. The IDF said inflammatory material was found during searches of the dormitory rooms. The army acknowledged that there was some damage to school property and equipment during the course of the raid. IDF officials promised the administration that they would take responsibility for the damage.

Since the attack at Beit Lid, up to 100 Hamas supporters have been detained in raids on offices and homes in the Hebron, Nablus and Jenin areas of the West Bank.

According to security sources, almost 1,600 Islamic activists have been arrested since the Oct. 19 suicide bombing of a bus in the heart of Tel Aviv.

The raid at Abu Dis came after Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Gur warned the Palestinian Authority that if it fails to step up its efforts to fight terrorism, Israel will reconsider its commitment to the security provisions of the Palestinian self-rule accord.

Appearing in the Knesset, Gur said Israel was not satisfied with the Palestinian response to Israeli requests to hand over suspected Palestinian terrorists.

**Classified report on Palestinian violations**

Israel Radio quoted Gur as saying that if Israeli leaders continue to feel that the Palestinians are failing to live up to their end of security arrangements, the government might reconsider what he called "the overall content of this part of the agreement."

Gur's comments came in the wake of a press leak last week of the contents of a classified report on Palestinian violations of its accord with Israel.

The opposition has frequently mentioned the existence of an official document detailing infringements by the Palestinian Authority.

The report was prepared in December by the Judge Advocate-General's Office.

Among the violations cited are the Palestinian Authority's refusal to hand over terrorists suspected of having murdered Israelis; its refusal to pass on results of investigations; the detaining of Israeli security personnel at checkpoints; and the use of a weapon issued to the Palestinian police in the October terror attack at a pedestrian mall in Jerusalem.

Along with rounding up Islamic fundamentalists, Israeli officials closed down pro-Hamas and pro-Islamic Jihad institutions, including a mosque in Hebron and branches of the Palestinian League of Islamic Theologians.

Maj. Gen. Ilan Biran, the commander of the Israeli army's central command, which includes the West Bank, told reporters: "We are fighting a war of destruction against the Hamas and Islamic Jihad every day and every night."

Meanwhile, the head of the Shin Bet domestic intelligence service told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee last week that since the Oct. 19 suicide bombing, Israeli security services have prevented five terrorist attacks from being carried out.

The security official also said the number of Palestinians willing to carry out suicide bomb attacks was growing.

In Gaza, Palestinian police detained Islamic Jihad activists, including the group's spiritual leader, Sheik Abdallah al-Shami.

Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat said he would not tolerate terrorists planning attacks against Israel inside the autonomous areas. □

**Jordanian, Palestinian leaders sign cooperation pact in Amman***By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM, Jan. 29 (JTA) — Jordanian and Palestinian officials have signed an agreement establishing the framework for cooperation in economics, transportation, communications, culture and security.

The two sides, meeting in Amman last week, also agreed that the Jordanian dinar would serve as the official legal tender in the Gaza Strip and West Bank Jericho enclave, both of which became Palestinian autonomous zones last May.

Jordanian Prime Minister Zeid Bin Shaker and Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat signed the document on Jan. 26, in the presence of King Hussein and Crown Prince Hassan. The occasion marked Arafat's first meeting with King Hussein since the signing of the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty in October. □

**Ultimatum issued to Shas: Join now or forgo ministries***By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM, Jan. 29 (JTA) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has given the fervently Orthodox Shas Party an ultimatum: Rejoin the governing coalition this week or lose the ministerial portfolios being held for the party.

Rabin issued the ultimatum last week amid demands from Labor Party ministers and Knesset members that Shas finally decide whether it will rejoin the governing coalition.

Shas left the coalition more than a year ago when its political leader, former Interior Minister Aryeh Deri, was indicted on charges of fraud, bribery and breach of public trust. Deri is currently standing trial on the charges.

Since then, Shas has neither joined the opposition nor returned to the government fold. Shas has usually supported the government in crucial votes, particularly those relating to the peace process or when no-confidence motions have been brought before the Knesset.

But last week, Shas joined in an unsuccessful no-confidence vote introduced by the opposition after the Cabinet decided to freeze settlement construction in areas around Jerusalem.

Although the Labor-led coalition survived the no-confidence vote, Shas' actions raised hackles among Labor Party members. Angry Labor members called on Rabin to forget about Shas rejoining the coalition. They said the prime minister should hand over to Labor the Interior Ministry and Religious Affairs Ministry, portfolios that had been set aside for Shas.

According to some speculation, Police Minister Moshe Shahal would get the Interior Ministry portfolio and Tourism Minister Uzi Baram would add the Religious Affairs portfolio to his responsibilities. □