



## NEWS AT A GLANCE

■ The Israeli government breathed a sigh of relief when would-be assassins failed at their attempt on Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's life. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin joined world leaders in condemning the attack and sending good wishes to the Egyptian leader. And politicians on all sides tried to use the incident to their advantage. [Page 3]

■ Palestinians demanding the release of prisoners intensified their protests. Former prisoners living in Jericho reportedly pointed weapons at an Israeli army check-point and clashed with Palestine Liberation Organization police. The Palestinian death toll from earlier clashes with Israeli police in the West Bank rose to three.

■ Israeli security forces captured a third infiltrator from Jordan. The infiltrator, captured in the Jordan Valley, had earlier escaped during a clash with Israeli soldiers. The infiltrators were believed to be on their way to commit terrorist acts. [Page 2]

■ The Romanian ambassador to the United States expressed his country's sorrow over the desecration of 86 Jewish gravestones in Bucharest. A Jewish federation spokesman in Romania said of the attack on Bucharest's largest cemetery: "Not even during the war did such a thing happen."

■ Germany agreed to pay Estonia \$1.4 million to compensate Estonians who suffered at the hands of the Nazis during World War II. The money will finance social programs proposed by the Estonian government.

■ An Israeli Knesset subcommittee recommended dismantling the Israeli army's legendary Nahal unit, which combines infantry service with educational and settlement programs. Laborite Hagai Meir proposed transforming Nahal into a regular ground force unit.

■ A man convicted for destroying a monument to the victims of Auschwitz in Amsterdam was sentenced to 100 hours of public labor. The structure was destroyed the night before an Auschwitz commemoration was to take place.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

### One year after rebbe's death, Lubavitcher soul burns bright

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, June 26 (JTA) — In the year since the Lubavitcher rebbe died, memorial candles have burned continuously in the homes of his followers.

"I lost two parents and nothing, nothing was like losing the rebbe," said Miriam Swerdlow, a prominent member of the Crown Heights Lubavitch community, her voice growing jagged with pain as she spoke about the year since Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson died.

"Don't use the word 'yahrzeit,'" she said, referring to the first anniversary of his death, which falls, according to the Hebrew calendar, on July 1. "I just can't take it."

The yahrzeit is being marked this week by commemorations all over the world in which Lubavitchers and non-Lubavitchers will testify about the impact the rebbe has had on their lives.

In Crown Heights, the Brooklyn, N.Y., neighborhood where the movement is based, a series of memorials is taking place, including sessions in people's homes devoted to the study of the "moshiach," or messiah, whom many Lubavitchers had believed the rebbe to be.

A large observance in the main synagogue at 770 Eastern Parkway, the Lubavitch headquarters, is being run by the rabbis of the movement's rabbinical court.

And in Washington on Wednesday, the rebbe is slated to be posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, the nation's highest civilian honor.

But for Chasidim in the Lubavitch movement, also known as Chabad, the past year has involved much more than organizing commemorations and visiting the cemetery in Queens, N.Y., where he is buried.

The rebbe's Chasidim have used their grief to fuel an expansion of his network of far-flung emissaries and institutions that serve Jews worldwide from cradle to grave.

They are working to preserve the legacy of the man who led them for 43 years, the rebbe who they believed would lead them into the messianic age.

### Rebbe's room serves as a living vessel

Starting at home in Crown Heights, blueprints for a major expansion of Lubavitch headquarters are being drawn up, according to Rabbi Yehuda Krinsky, who served the rebbe for decades as his aide, his spokesman and his driver.

Krinsky, who is executor of the rebbe's estate and has long been deeply involved in the running of day-to-day affairs of much of the Lubavitch network of organizations, said that in addition to the plans to expand, there are plans to "create a museum and Jewish community center."

The current headquarters, known simply as "770," contains the main Lubavitch synagogue, a vast underground library/archive with hundreds of thousands of volumes of Judaica and a small museum-gallery.

It also is home to a warren of offices and the apartment in which the rebbe's in-laws lived after arriving in America in 1940, as well as the room the rebbe himself used as his office.

The porch in the main Lubavitch synagogue, onto which the ailing rebbe was wheeled by his aides during the last two years of his life, has been turned into an extension of the women's balcony.

The small room that served as the rebbe's office during his entire tenure, and as his home from the time his wife died in 1988, has been preserved not as a sacrosanct relic but has been altered to serve as a living vessel for the rebbe's legacy.

Some of the furniture, including the bed, has been removed. The rest has been pushed into a corner.

An ark for Torahs has been installed and today the room is filled day and night with the prayers of the rebbe's disciples.

Rabbi Sholom Gansburg, who served as the rebbe's personal aide for many years, rearranged the shelves of books lining two walls of the room and

covered them with sheets of glass to protect the worn volumes.

The changes extend far beyond Crown Heights.

All over the world, in as many towns and cities as there are Lubavitcher Chasidim, the work of the rebbe, who died at age 94, continues.

A total of 3,200 Lubavitch emissaries, men and women, labor to bring Jews around the world closer to Torah Judaism.

One hundred new couples have been sent to locations as disparate as Vilna, Lithuania; Marumbi, Brazil; and New London, Conn.

To bond together and commemorate the rebbe, each of the approximately 1,600 male emissaries recites part of the Talmud each day in addition to studying the rebbe's own discourses, according to Rabbi Moshe Feller, regional director of the St. Paul, Minn.-based Upper Midwest Lubavitch.

"Every day the whole Talmud is completed by the rebbe's shluchim," he said, using the Yiddish for emissaries.

"That's tremendous bonding among the Chasidim."

Since the rebbe's death, roughly \$200 million worth of new capital projects have been initiated by Chabad emissaries all over the world, according to Zalman Shmotkin, an aide to Krinsky.

As recently as Sunday, ground was broken for what will be a \$40 million Lubavitch synagogue and Jewish program campus in Detroit.

In Paris, a \$10 million complex centered around a girls school is half built and in Bal Harbour, Fla., a \$10 million synagogue complex has been completed.

Rabbi Chaim Schmukler of Chabad of New Mexico says of the increased contributions to his organization: "I can't attribute it to the rebbe's passing. Just because, thank God, we're growing."

#### **Lubavitchers enter cyberspace**

The work continues not just in real places, but also in cyberspace, where Lubavitchers have created a significant presence, setting up chat rooms as well as study sessions.

"Things are growing, expanding, not just staying at the status quo," Krinsky said.

The fractiousness among the rebbe's aides and their supporters during the last two years of Schneerson's life, which some observers said had interfered with his medical care and had threatened the Lubavitch enterprise, seems to have ebbed — with Krinsky emerging as the apparent victor.

Named as executor of the rebbe's estate in his will, Krinsky is spearheading the work of expanding Chabad's reach.

But that does not mean that Krinsky's detractors have disappeared.

In-fighting in Crown Heights earlier this year over the elections to the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council included threats between some of the contenders. Although Krinsky was not directly involved in the elections, the battle was viewed as a contest between those who support his views and those who support others.

And in his effort to collect every book that belonged to the rebbe but was lent out over the years, Krinsky is considering bringing suit against those who will not return the property to Agudas Chasedei Chabad, the umbrella organization that was bequeathed the rebbe's property.

Despite the divisions, though, everyone goes on doing what they believe the rebbe wants them to do.

"It's part of a normal evolution. We're all trying

to articulate the rebbe's leadership the way we understand it," said Rabbi Dovid Eliezrie, director of Chabad in Yorba Linda, Calif.

The messianic fervor, which at its peak during the rebbe's illness had its adherents frenzied in anticipation that he would reveal himself as the redeemer, has abated somewhat.

Nonetheless, those whose belief that the rebbe is the messiah has not been dimmed by his death continue to publicize their message.

Billboard, radio and cable television marketing campaigns in New York, Los Angeles, Montreal, Toronto, Paris and Israel, have cost about \$1 million in the past year, according to Rabbi Shmuel Butman.

Butman, who continues to spearhead the "moshiach" campaign from Crown Heights, says he has not been daunted by the death of the rebbe or the passing of time.

The rebbe "is absolutely not dead like other people are," Butman said.

"Yes, there was a funeral, but the rebbe is alive. He will reveal himself as moshiach any day," he said, adding, "The time we will have to endure without his physical presence will be a very short one."

Even among those who believe that the rebbe did indeed pass away, acceptance of his death has come slowly.

Some Lubavitchers talk about the rebbe only in present tense.

Many switch back and forth between past and present tenses and some just do not want to talk about it at all.

No one refers to the rebbe's death as death.

Most refer to it by its Hebrew date, calling it "Gimel Tammuz," the third day of the month of Tammuz.

Some call it "the event," and everyone knows which event they mean.

The closest anyone comes is when they refer to it as "the passing."

And just about all Lubavitchers say they are acutely aware of the rebbe's constant presence in their lives, pushing them to carry on his work.

And since his death, many Lubavitch parents have named their newborn sons Menachem Mendel.

On the first yahrzeit of the rebbe's death, the memorial candles in Lubavitchers' homes around the world will be extinguished.

But the fire sparked by the rebbe in their hearts will continue to burn brightly. □

#### **Israeli forces thwart infiltrator from Jordan**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 26 (JTA) — Israeli soldiers successfully thwarted three suspected terrorist infiltrators this week from Jordan.

A group of infiltrators, believed to number three men, crossed Saturday near the settlement of Argaman.

One was quickly captured by an Israel Defense Force patrol.

A second was tracked down and shot dead two hours later in a brief firefight.

A third infiltrator, who escaped during Saturday's armed clash with soldiers, was captured Monday afternoon in the village of Marj-Najia in the Jordan Valley.

Military sources said the infiltrators were former residents of the West Bank who had crossed into Jordan, obtained weapons there and crossed back, intent on carrying out an armed attack on a Jewish target as an expression of their opposition to the peace process. □

**Failed assassination attempt evokes sigh of relief in Israel***By David Landau*

JERUSALEM, June 26 (JTA) — The Israeli government reacted with undisguised relief at the news that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak survived unscathed the attack on his life in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa.

President Ezer Weizman and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin — along with dozens of other world statesmen — voiced their good wishes directly to the Egyptian leader on Monday.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, in a statement to the media, praised Mubarak's role in "leading the region towards peace" and expressed his joy that this role had not been destroyed by the terrorist attackers.

Mubarak, 67, whose predecessor Anwar Sadat was gunned down in 1981, flew back to Cairo after the attack.

The attack occurred when gunmen opened fire on Mubarak's armored limousine taking him from the airport to an African summit in the Ethiopian capital.

According to news reports, the attackers were of Arab origin. In the shootout that followed, two of the assailants were killed, as were two Ethiopian security agents.

Other gunmen and the driver of a van that intercepted Mubarak's three-car motorcade reportedly fled the scene.

No one claimed immediate responsibility for the attack, though the Vanguard of the Conquest, a group linked with the organization that killed Sadat, welcomed the assassination attempt.

Mubarak's government has been waging a three-year battle with Muslim militants seeking the establishment of an Islamic state in Egypt.

After arriving back in Cairo, Mubarak said he suspected the attackers had gone from neighboring Sudan to Ethiopia to launch the attack. But Sudan denied any involvement and expressed regret over the attack.

**Clinton condemns attack**

President Clinton, speaking in San Francisco, where he was attending ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, condemned the attack and vowed that the enemies of peace in the Middle East would not succeed.

Political observers in Jerusalem, meanwhile, wondered aloud whether the regional peace process would have indeed been dealt a terminal blow had the would-be assassins in Ethiopia succeeded.

Rabin immediately wove the failed assassination episode into his political rhetoric.

In a speech to his Labor Party faction Monday afternoon in the Knesset, Rabin said "some people" fail to recognize who the true enemies of Israel and of peace were these days.

The enemies were Islamic fundamentalist terrorists, supported by Iran, Rabin asserted.

The assailants in Addis Ababa, he hinted, were drawn from that same reservoir of hatred and violence that threatened to drown the dream of peace in the region.

In references both to the rightist opposition parties and to hard-liners within his own Labor Party, Rabin spoke of an inability to address "the realities of today and tomorrow — rather than those of yesterday."

The opposition, too, sought to harness the shock wave triggered by the assassination attempt to its cause.

Right-wing politicians pointed to the inherent instability within the Arab world. And they raised the question of Egypt's own commitment to peace with Israel in the event of a fundamentalist revolution there. □

**Suicide bomber misses target, but blows up himself and mule***By David Landau*

JERUSALEM, June 26 (JTA) — A terror disaster was narrowly avoided in the Gaza Strip on Sunday when a suicide bomber blew himself up just after an army vehicle had passed him.

The three soldiers on the vehicle were slightly injured.

The incident occurred near the entrance to Neve Dekalim, one of the Jewish settlements that comprise the Gush Katif region in the southern part of the strip.

The bomber was driving a mule-cart. Both he and the mule were blown to pieces.

Security sources immediately linked the bombing to a warning issued by Islamic Jihad in the wake of the fatal shooting of one of its ranking commanders last week.

Mahmoud al-Khawaja, 35, was gunned down by masked men using revolvers with silencers as he left his home in the Shati refugee camp on June 22.

Islamic Jihad and Hamas, the two Islamic fundamentalist opposition groups active in the Gaza Strip, issued leaflets accusing Israel's secret service, the Mossad, of perpetrating the killing.

Islamic Jihad threatened to avenge the killing with "the coffins of Israeli soldiers."

Israeli sources, flatly denying the charge, said the dead man was not on Israel's list of wanted criminals. Although he was a known activist and had been incarcerated briefly in the past, al-Khawaja was not known to have participated personally in fatal attacks on Israeli soldiers or civilians, these sources said.

They speculated that inter-Palestinian feuding lay behind his murder.

Security forces were on high alert after the Islamic Jihad threat.

Israeli officials have expressed concern that after more than four months of relative quiet on the terror front, a mass attack against Israelis could seriously compromise the government's hopes to reach its second-phase agreement with the Palestinian Authority over the holding of Palestinian elections in the fall and the Israel Defense Force redeployment in the West Bank.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, addressing his Labor Party Knesset faction recently, warned that despite recent progress on the Israel-Palestinian track, one major terror disaster could derail the entire process. □

**Police ban neo-Nazi meeting***By Gil Sedan*

BONN, June 26 (JTA) — A planned gathering of the outlawed neo-Nazi Viking Youth movement never got under way.

German police banned the meeting, which was to take place last weekend in the ruins of an ancient citadel near the town of Nordhausen.

Police seized weapons and Nazi propaganda in addition to detaining 84 youths. However, even though it is called "a youth organization," most of the group's members are at least 20 years old.

The Viking Youth was outlawed last November, after it was declared "anti-constitutional." The extremist group, comprised of 400 members in Germany, believes that Jews in Germany today should wear a yellow Star of David. The group also believes that "inferior people" should be sterilized.

The Viking Youth has called for the restoration of a Nazi regime in Germany. It was founded in 1952, when Nazis came out of hiding after World War II. □

## Israeli woman turns to court in effort to take pilot course

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM, June 26 (JTA) — An Israeli woman has taken her case to Israel's High Court of Justice in an effort to gain entry into the Israeli Air Force's combat pilot training course.

All previous efforts by Alice Miller, 23, to get into the course have been unsuccessful.

Miller, a native of South Africa, is a licensed civil pilot. She recently completed a degree, with honors, in aeronautical engineering at Haifa's Technion.

But like all female Israeli soldiers, Miller, who is currently in officers training school, is barred by military regulations from combat duty.

There are no female pilots, even in non-combat squadrons, in Israel's air force. All pilots must first earn their combat wings, effectively keeping women out of the course.

When the court heard the petition brought by Miller last week, the arguments did not address any questions surrounding women in combat or the problems surrounding the possibility of their being taken as a prisoner of war.

Instead, the arguments focused on military regulations, which acknowledge the intrinsic difference between the sexes — that women have children and men do not.

A state official supporting the air force's view argued that it was too expensive to put women through flight training, particularly when their careers could be cut short by pregnancy.

Military regulations require men to do reserve duty until the age of 54. Women are only required to do so until age 38, attorney Uzi Fogelman told the court.

They are exempted from service altogether for pregnancy.

Miller's attorneys argued that air force policy should be flexible in order to offer the same opportunities to men and women.

Furthermore, said attorney Neta Ziv Goldman, sex discrimination would limit Miller's future, both during her army career and in civilian life.

The head of the air force's manpower division, Brig. Gen. Yitzhak Amitai, told the justices that there was a failed effort in the 1970s to include women in the flight-training courses.

Miller's attorney noted that women flew in the Israeli Air Force in its early years, citing transport pilot Lt. Yael Rom, who served in Israel's 1956 and 1967 wars.

"This is no provision [in the regulations] which prohibits women in combat duty," said Naomi Hazan, a Meretz Knesset member who accompanied Miller at the hearing.

"What we're testing is exactly that."

The five-justice panel will give its ruling at a later date. □

## Funding controversy erupts over Jewish museum in Berlin

By Miriam Widman

BERLIN, June 26 (JTA) — Controversy over the funding for a new Jewish museum has erupted here, with city officials disagreeing sharply with the museum's director over the museum's operating budget and overall organization.

Amnon Barzel, the Israeli director of the museum, set to open in 1997, has criticized Berlin city officials for using the Jewish Museum as a pretext to get funding for other museums.

He said the city's original idea was for a separate, independent Jewish museum with sufficient funding for a variety of programs.

But now, he said, the Jewish Museum is to be a part of the city's wider museum system, resulting in sharply reduced funding.

"I didn't think it would be so difficult to establish a Jewish museum 50 years after the end of the war," Barzel told foreign journalists who attended a recent news conference.

He also said the city has given him no staff and has cut his promised budget so dramatically that he does not have the means with which to work.

Barzel maintained that even though the city's top official for culture, Ulrich Roloff-Momin, has been generally supportive of the new museum, other high-level civil servants have been blocking his plans.

He said he needs about \$5 million each year to fund lectures, courses, films, videos and interactive exhibits.

But, he said, city officials have told him he can have only \$107,140 each year.

Barzel admitted that his plans for interactive exhibits that employ computer technology are ambitious, but he added that the equipment is needed to attract the modern visitor.

Reiner Gunzer, the city official in charge of the museum project, rejected Barzel's criticisms.

Gunzer, who has been pushing for a Jewish museum since the late 1960s, said the project had always been envisioned as part of Berlin's larger municipal museum system.

Gunzer, replying to Barzel's charges, said Barzel was given two co-workers, but that he found them unqualified.

Gunzer said Barzel could have handled the problem differently — by trying to work and improve his co-workers, rather than complaining to journalists.

"I'm rather disappointed that Mr. Barzel has so little confidence in us that he first tells the press before speaking to us directly," the city official said.

### Every aspect of public life hit by cuts

Gunzer also spoke of the financial difficulties facing the city of Berlin.

He noted that every aspect of public life has been hit by budget cuts and that more of those cuts are on the way.

Gunzer said Barzel won a competition for the director's job in part because he said he could bring sponsors to help fund the project.

To date, by Barzel's own admission, there are only five sponsors.

The city is disappointed with the lack of private supporters for the museum, Gunzer said.

The Jewish Museum, designed by the Polish-born Jewish architect Daniel Libeskind, is currently under construction next to the Berlin Museum, which itself is undergoing a massive renovation.

The official name of the project is the Extension of the Berlin Museum with the Jewish Museum Department.

Construction costs for the Jewish Museum are estimated at \$85 million and are being underwritten by German taxpayers.

Barzel has already mounted one exhibit in an improvised exhibition hall in the basement of the Berlin Museum's headquarters.

The exhibit features photography by Edward Serotta, a photographer from Savannah, Ga., whose pictures of Jewish life in the wartorn Bosnian capital of Sarajevo are on display. □