



# Daily News Bulletin

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82<sup>nd</sup> Year

## Knesset breakdown

PARTY	New	Old
Labor's One Israel	27	34
Likud	19	32
Shas	17	10
Meretz	9	9
Yisrael Ba'Aliyah	7	7
Shinui	6	0
Center	6	0
Natl. Religious Party	5	9
United Torah Judaism	5	4
United Arab List	5	4
Israel, Our Home	4	0
National Unity	3	0
Hadash	3	5
Natl. Dem. Alliance	2	0
One Nation	2	0

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Shas leader resigns from Knesset

The leader of Israel's fervently Orthodox Shas Party announced Tuesday that he is resigning from the Knesset and withdrawing from political life. Aryeh Deri's announcement could clear the way for coalition negotiations between Prime Minister-elect Ehud Barak and Shas. Deri was recently sentenced to four years in jail on charges that included taking bribes. [Page 1]

### Clinton delays embassy decision

President Clinton delayed by two weeks a decision that would prevent moving the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Tuesday's delay in issuing a waiver came as Senate and administration negotiators neared an agreement to elevate American representation in Jerusalem by having the U.S. ambassador to Israel publicly establish a formal residence in the city.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

### A new Israeli political landscape emerges from the election rubble

By David Landau

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Pundits everywhere are calling Israel's election results a "political earthquake."

In fact, though, two distinct tremors have overturned the rules and realities that have governed the Jewish state and its policy-making these past three years.

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak's 56 percent to 44 percent victory over outgoing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, signifying the collapse of the "Greater Israel" ideology, is the seismic shift that has brought undisguised joy from leaders around the world.

But the massive success of the fervently Orthodox, or haredi, Shas Party, which draws predominant support from Israel's Sephardi population, is also an earthquake.

Shas scored the most dramatic victory in Monday's voting for the Knesset, boosting its representation from 10 seats in the outgoing Knesset to 17 seats in the new legislature. The gain makes it one of the "Big Three" in the Knesset alongside the — much-reduced — Likud and Labor factions.

According to projections, One Israel, the Labor Party coalition, will have 27 seats, compared with Labor's 34 in the outgoing Knesset; Likud will have 19 seats, a loss of 13 from the outgoing Knesset.

Given that Shas' strident election campaign focused almost exclusively on the four-year sentence for bribery and corruption recently imposed on its leader, Aryeh Deri, the party's victory, on the face of it, is a victory for the anti-court and anti-establishment dogma that its leaders espoused.

Deri announced Tuesday he was resigning as a Knesset member and withdrawing from political life in a move that could clear the way for coalition negotiations between Barak and Shas.

But on a deeper level, Shas' triumph dramatically illustrates the daunting task facing Barak in his quest, as he proclaimed on election night, for "unity," "brotherhood" and a "healing of the rifts" that have threatened to tear apart Israeli society.

Ironically, it was Netanyahu's close alliance with Shas that, probably more than any other single factor, brought on his crushing defeat.

As the election campaign neared its climax — and especially after Deri's sentencing in April and Shas' vociferous rejection of the ruling — it became increasingly clear that Netanyahu's "coalition of the non-elites," as opposed to the "elitism" he ascribed to Labor's traditional Ashkenazi following, was splitting at the seams.

The vast immigrant community from the former Soviet Union bridled at finding themselves lumped together in Netanyahu's governing coalition with a convicted felon whose followers were threatening the judges who had found him guilty.

Yisrael Ba'Aliyah, the immigrants rights party led by Natan Sharansky, brilliantly turned this sentiment to its electoral advantage by running a catchy campaign directed against Shas' control of the Interior Ministry.

Shas officials, Yisrael Ba'Aliyah claimed, used their power in that ministry to harass and discriminate against immigrants whose Jewish status, under religious law, was deemed uncertain or unsatisfactory.

In the month before polling day, tens, probably hundreds, of thousands of immigrants shifted their support from Netanyahu — seen in the thrall of Shas — to

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Candidates emerge to lead Likud

A day after outgoing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu resigned as head of Likud, several contenders are emerging for the party leadership.

Finance Minister Meir Sheerit announced Tuesday that he is in the running.

Other likely candidates include Communications Minister Limor Livnat and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert. Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon was also expected to run, though his office would not confirm the possibility.

### Ambassador to leave Washington

Israel's ambassador to the United States resigned Tuesday in response to the overwhelming defeat of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Zalman Shoval, who came to Washington amid turmoil in the embassy and is a close confidant of Netanyahu, has not set a date for his departure.

### Abdullah visits White House

Jordan's King Abdullah said he has high hopes for the peace process in the wake of Labor leader Ehud Barak's victory in Israel's elections.

"We see eye to eye on many issues and we're very optimistic of taking the peace process forward," Abdullah told reporters in the Oval Office before meeting Tuesday with President Clinton.

Clinton expressed support for Abdullah's request that Japan and several European countries forgive millions of dollars in Jordanian debt. The U.S. Congress is poised to pass a measure that includes an additional \$100 million in U.S. aid to Jordan.

### Settler leader resigns

Jewish settler leader Pinchas Wallerstein resigned as chairman of the Settlers Council.

He said Jewish residents of the West Bank bore responsibility for the fall of the Netanyahu government.



## Daily News Bulletin

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Barak, whose election promise was, "I will not bow to extremists."

On the morning after, however, all election promises must be re-examined under the harsh light of the new Knesset arithmetic.

Shas' 17 "extremists" are not, arguably, as easily dismissed as 10 "extremists."

In practical terms, Barak will find it hard to set up a stable government without either Shas or Likud.

On paper, he can possibly do it. But the patchwork of agreements with tiny factions that this would entail is a recipe for grief.

Granted, his theoretical ability to do without Likud and Shas will lend him strength in his negotiations with one or both of these factions as he moves forward in forming a coalition government.

Projected Knesset results give Barak several possible allies to choose from in the 45 days he now has to form that government:

- The Meretz Party will have nine seats, the same as in the outgoing Knesset;
- Yisrael Ba'Aliyah is estimated to have won seven seats — also the same as it had in the outgoing Knesset;
- Shinui, a new party that says all fervently Orthodox parties should be kept out of the next government, will have six seats in the new Knesset;
- The Center Party, the new grouping headed by Yitzhak Mordechai, who dropped out of the race for prime minister a day before elections, will have six seats; and
- The National Religious Party will have five seats, compared to nine in the outgoing Knesset.

If the NRP agrees to enter an otherwise secularist and left-of-center coalition, this would give Barak something of the unifying "rainbow effect" that he has pledged to strive for.

Nevertheless, his larger goal of reconciliation would seem to dictate a pact with Shas or Likud — and most pundits believe he will try to include one of them in his coalition.

Each, however, holds out major problems for Barak.

Meretz, a natural Barak ally, has issued a firm declaration that it would refuse to join any government with Shas. In this, Meretz is following the lead of another election success story, the avowedly anti-Orthodox Shinui.

Barak needs one or both of these factions inside his tent. But how can he get them there and have Shas inside, too?

Indeed, within Barak's own party there is a strong body of opinion opposing a deal with Shas.

During his victory address at Rabin Square on Monday night, Barak was confronted with placards demanding "Not the Haredim" — and the huge throng picked up that slogan and shouted it at Barak and his leadership team. But Labor Knesset member Yossi Beilin has left the door open for negotiations with Shas, saying that Labor had ruled out negotiating with Shas only if Deri remained at its head.

Barak himself had pledged not to negotiate with Deri since the Shas leader's conviction. But this obstacle has been removed because Deri, a historic victory under his belt, has stepped down to prepare his appeal and allow others to run the party in the meantime.

The Likud, smarting from its defeat and reeling under Netanyahu's swift resignation, will now undergo a grueling leadership battle.

The political persuasion of the new leader may prove a determining factor in whether Likud is prepared to make the doctrinal compromises necessary for a partnership with Labor.

For their part, Barak and his team are not prepared for a unity government that is in effect a government of paralysis, which was the case for the governments that ruled from 1984 to 1990.

His resounding victory in the vote for prime minister gives him the perfect right to insist that any coalition must follow One Israel's lead.

Two likely Likud leadership contenders, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert and outgoing Finance Minister Meir Sheerit, are seen as relative pragmatists.

But hard-liner Ariel Sharon seems to be preparing a leadership bid as well — and this could spell the end of any possible alliance with Barak. □

## JEWISH WORLD

### PROFILE

## Barak's 'lightning' victory follows path of his mentor, Yitzhak Rabin

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Ehud Barak swept to a lightning victory in Israel's elections this week, as befits a man whose Hebrew name means just that.

Barak's stunning victory over Likud's Benjamin Netanyahu — he received 56 percent of the vote to Netanyahu's 44 percent, with more than 97 percent of the vote counted — is just the final step in the former army chief of staff's near-meteoric rise from career military man to the top of Israel's political ladder.

It is also another way in which Barak's trajectory has followed that of his mentor, the slain Yitzhak Rabin.

Like Rabin, Barak, 57, came to politics following an illustrious military career. And like his mentor, he appears to have similarly meshed an image of soldier-peacemaker.

Barak was born in 1942 near Netanya, at Kibbutz Mishmar Hasharon — which his mother, Esther Brog, an immigrant from Poland, helped found.

An accomplished pianist, he earned a bachelor's degree in physics and mathematics from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and a master's degree from Stanford University. He is married and has three children.

Israel's most-decorated soldier, Barak's military career spanned more than 30 years. He held key command positions in the Israel Defense Force during the 1967 Six-Day War and the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

As head of the IDF's most elite unit, he commanded Netanyahu in one of its most well-known missions, leading an assault on a hijacked Belgian airliner at Ben-Gurion Airport in 1972, killing the hijackers and rescuing scores of passengers. A year later, he posed as a woman in a raid in Beirut in which three Palestinian fighters were killed.

Barak, who left the army as chief of staff in 1995, served briefly as interior minister in Rabin's Labor-led government. Following Rabin's assassination in 1995, Barak served as foreign minister in the government led by Shimon Peres. He succeeded Peres as party leader in 1997.

As IDF chief of staff in the 1990s, he was involved in Israel's emerging peace negotiations with its Arab neighbors. He helped finalize Israel's 1994 peace treaty with Jordan and met with his Syrian counterpart in negotiations with Damascus. He also oversaw Israel's redeployment in the West Bank and Gaza Strip under the Oslo accords.

Throughout his campaign, Barak pledged to reinvigorate the Middle East peace process spearheaded by Rabin and brought to a near standstill under the three-year government of Benjamin Netanyahu. In his victory speech early Tuesday, Barak reiterated his commitment to achieving peace — calling for a separation of Israelis and Palestinians, and reiterating that Jerusalem will remain Israel's undivided capital.

On Syria, Barak has said he is open to territorial compromise on the Golan Heights, but would not return to the pre-1967 borders.

Barak pledged during the campaign to pull Israeli troops out of Lebanon within a year of being elected. He has already seen a taste of what lies ahead on this track, when Katyusha rockets landed in northern Israel overnight Tuesday.

Addressing jubilant supporters before dawn at the Tel Aviv square where Rabin was shot by the ultranationalist Yigal Amir, Barak promised to continue in Rabin's path. Later Tuesday he visited Rabin's grave at Jerusalem's Mount Herzl after stopping at the Western Wall in Jerusalem.

One of his first tasks will be to bridge the deep social and ethnic divides in Israeli society, which were so starkly evident in the bitter five-month campaign that preceded his election on Monday.

"I intend to be the prime minister of all. Whatever differences there are between us, we are brothers, and brothers stay together," he declared in his victory speech after the election.

But his first challenge to bring Israelis together will come in the next few weeks, when he attempts to cobble together a governing coalition from the roughly 15 parties that will have seats in Israel's next Knesset. □

### World leaders congratulate Barak

Leaders from across the globe congratulated Ehud Barak on his electoral victory and expressed the hope that Israel's Labor Party leader would renew the stalled peace process.

"I am convinced that with your support, decisive progress will be made in the coming months that will lead in the direction of the much-desired peace," said French President Jacques Chirac.

Meanwhile, acting European Commission President Jacques Santer reaffirmed the European Union's support for the peace process, adding that he is confident "that we can look forward to building on the strong ties" between Israel and the European body.

Relations between the European Union and the government of Benjamin Netanyahu had cooled over the deadlocked peace talks.

### Britain, Iran upgrade relations

Britain and Iran agreed Tuesday to upgrade diplomatic relations, exchanging ambassadors for the first time in 20 years. The move marks the "end of many years of dispute," said British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook.

Britain's ambassador to Iran left after the 1979 Islamic Revolution that brought Ayatollah Khomeini to power.

Relations between the two countries thawed after Iran last September ended its endorsement of a 1989 fatwa, or Islamic death sentence, imposed on author Salman Rushdie.

### Lithuanian leader urged to action

The head of the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Jerusalem office called on Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus to seek prosecutions of war crimes suspects living in the Baltic nation.

"Without your active intervention on this issue, I fear that no action will be taken," Efraim Zuroff wrote in an open letter. His appeal came after Kazys Ciurinskas returned to Lithuania last week after being ordered deported from the United States for lying about his wartime past. Ciurinskas is the seventh former U.S. citizen to arrive in Lithuania under similar circumstances. Two of them have died, and cases against two are still pending.

### Australian court bars autopsy

An Orthodox Jewish man in Australia recently prevented an autopsy of his mother on religious grounds in what is believed to be the first such move by an Australian court.

The court accepted Ian Krantz's argument that an autopsy would amount to desecration according to Orthodox Judaism. The decision upheld recently passed legislation.

**ISRAELIS DECIDE THE FUTURE****In Jerusalem, post-election mood ranges from jubilation to mourning**

By Avi Machlis

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Speeding in his taxi through the empty streets here at 3 a.m., Yaakov Amsalem shouts victoriously while describing the rush he felt after the dramatic victory of Ehud Barak, Israel's prime minister-elect, just a few hours earlier.

By his own admission, Amsalem is the only left-leaning cab driver in his fleet. He feels vindicated after enduring three years of abuse from his colleagues during the tenure of Benjamin Netanyahu.

"This victory has uplifted me. I feel like an Israeli again," says Amsalem, who voted for Barak and the secular Shinui Party, which won six seats. "But we have to be careful not to break the religious — just to reduce them to their real size."

In contrast to the massive, spontaneous celebrations the night before at Rabin Square in Tel Aviv, the mood in Jerusalem, a traditional Likud stronghold, is subdued the day after Israel's political upheaval. Still, many people are talking politics, trying to figure out what kind of coalition Barak will put together with the new constellation of Knesset parties, and what it will mean for the peace process and domestic unity.

Smiles on the faces of One Israel supporters contrast with dejected Likudniks, some of whom refuse to talk to reporters. At the same time, those who voted for fervently Orthodox parties are confused.

The devout are mourning the defeat of Netanyahu — whom they backed overwhelmingly — yet they also rejoice in the big boost in power to haredi, or fervently Orthodox, parties. Shas jumped from 10 to 17 seats, and together with United Torah Judaism, the fervently Orthodox now command 22 seats in the incoming Parliament, compared to 14 in the outgoing Knesset.

There is one consensus among winners and losers: Bridging the gulfs between Jews and Arabs, religious and secular Jews, Sephardim and Ashkenazim, will be an enormous challenge to the new government, even though Barak came to power on promises of unity for an increasingly divided Israeli society.

"I don't think there will be unity," says Shahar, 27, a student at Hebrew University who declined to give his last name. He describes how he almost broke down and cried when he saw how badly Netanyahu had been hammered. "The left wants to make peace with the Arabs, but not with the Jews."

Binyamin Klugger, a 27-year-old Lubavitch activist who voted for Netanyahu and United Torah Judaism, is not optimistic.

"Barak's rise to power is a disaster," he says, as he sets up his tefillin stand on the Jerusalem pedestrian mall. "We will return to the days of 'peace' when buses blew up on the streets, and all of his talk about unity is electioneering propaganda."

Nevertheless, Klugger is still hopeful that the haredim will not be completely marginalized from power. "Barak will not be able to ignore our power," he says.

Across the road, Elisheva Halbersberg and Nurit Nardi, both 56-year-old secular teachers, hope Klugger's scenario will not play out. They are all smiles as they celebrate Barak's victory with some morning shopping.

"It's a fantastic feeling," says Halbersberg, who voted for

Barak and Shinui. "Since the assassination of Rabin, all I have hoped for is that there will be no more extremes among our people.

"What Israel decided yesterday was to put a stop to extremism. I only hope Barak will not bring Shas into the coalition — I would even prefer the Likud."

Halbersberg rejects criticism that Shinui supporters are anti-religious. "I am secular but I want religion to be brought back to me. The extremists took all of the good things, all of the fun, out of Judaism."

Nardi, who voted for Barak's One Israel alliance, completely agrees. "I do not hate religion," Nardi says. "I am just extremely angry at the those who turned religion into horse-trading.

"I hope Barak will have enough intelligence and strength not to bow to the ultra-Orthodox — but we are still worried. I guess it's like Judaism, you can never be completely happy."

People like Halbersberg and Nardi are exactly the reason that Herzl, a 44-year-old kiosk owner and traditional Likud voter who declined to give his last name, cast his ballot for Shas this time.

"I had to stop the left," says Herzl, who stayed up until 3 a.m. on Tuesday watching the results come in on television. "The big question now is who will Barak choose — Shas or the secular Shinui and Meretz parties.

"I am only afraid that the rift is about to get wider. The only solution is for all of us to calm down."

However, amid the pessimism prevailing in Israel's right-wing and religious camp, Yehuda Ledgeley, 29, a West Bank settler from Tekoa, offered a sober analysis of the new political reality.

Ledgeley, an immigrant from Canada, voted for Netanyahu and the far-right, settler-backed National Union Party led by Ze'ev "Benny" Begin. He is worried that Barak will take steps to evacuate the settlements as he presses ahead with the peace process, but he says the religious community is responsible for the new power of secular parties.

"The religious community is partly to blame for the backlash," he says. "They have not conveyed a positive message on Judaism, and there is a lack of understanding of the needs of the other side. We are part of the problem."

"I'm trying to be optimistic," he says. "Ehud Barak may not be pro-religious, but maybe he is more suitable for this country right now." □

**Katyushas rain on northern Israel**

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Within hours after the polls closed, Israel's newly elected premier got a taste of one of the challenges that will be confronting him.

Prime Minister-elect Ehud Barak was celebrating his election victory late Monday night when Hezbollah gunmen in Lebanon fired Katyusha rockets at northern Israel.

Barak told his backers that he wanted to send a "strong hand" of support to those Israeli citizens in northern communities who were spending the night in shelters. He also repeated a campaign promise to withdraw Israeli troops from Lebanon within a year.

By Tuesday afternoon, Israeli officials allowed residents of the northern town of Kiryat Shmona to leave the bomb shelters.

Hezbollah gunmen, who fired dozens of the rockets, said they were retaliating for the deaths of two Lebanese civilians in earlier Israeli shelling. Four Israelis were lightly injured by the Katyusha assault, and one house sustained a direct hit. □