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TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

Two settlers wounded in Hebron

Gunmen shot and wounded two Israeli women in the West Bank town of Hebron on Tuesday, according to witnesses.

The women, Israeli settlers who live in the often volatile West Bank town, were traveling in a car when it came under fire near the Tomb of the Patriarchs, a site holy to Jews and Muslims.

Israeli soldiers imposed a curfew and set up roadblocks in the area to catch the gunmen, the witnesses added.

House approves aid bill

The U.S. House of Representatives approved Tuesday a \$12.6 billion foreign aid bill that includes \$2.88 billion for Israel, \$2 billion for Egypt and \$325 million for Jordan.

House and Senate negotiators will meet in the coming weeks to hammer out differences between the House bill and a similar measure that passed the Senate in June. [Page 3]

Syrian minister slams Arafat

Palestinian officials demanded on Tuesday that Syrian President Hafez Assad dismiss his defense minister for accusing Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat of selling out his people.

The demand came after Mustafa Tlas said a day earlier that Arafat, the chairman of the Palestinian Authority, had made one concession after another to Israel "like a stripper."

During a speech marking Army Day in Syria, Tlas added, "But a stripper becomes more beautiful with every layer she removes, while Arafat becomes uglier."

The speech prompted several Arab Israeli legislators to say they would reconsider a planned trip to Damascus. Ever since he launched the Oslo process with Israel, Arafat has been persona non grata in Damascus.

Clinton invites Jewish leaders

President Clinton invited about 12 presidents of U.S. Jewish groups to the White House for a meeting tentatively slated for Aug. 12 to discuss the Middle East peace process and his recent meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak.

The Jewish officials are also expected to discuss U.S. policy toward Iran and Russia.

Atlanta mourns shul president, slain in office shooting rampage

Atlanta Jewish Times Staff

ATLANTA (JTA) — It was a blisteringly hot Thursday afternoon. Allen Charles Tenenbaum's weekend was shaping up the way it usually did, as a time for family, synagogue and rest.

After blessing his three children, he'd enjoy a relaxed Shabbat dinner. The family would attend Saturday morning services at Congregation Or VeShalom here, where Tenenbaum was president. On Sunday, they'd head to Myrtle Beach, S.C., hoping to escape Atlanta's heat.

Tenenbaum, a gentle man, could not have imagined the demons that had driven Mark Barton to slaughter his own family — and would drive him to embark on a murderous rampage that would leave nine others dead that afternoon before he would take his own life.

The 48-year-old Tenenbaum never came home to his wife, Debra, and children. He was slain that afternoon by Barton at All-Tech Investment Group in Atlanta's fashionable Buckhead district. Atlanta reeled in horror at its third mass shooting in three months.

Closer to home, Tenenbaum's family and Atlanta's Jewish community were jolted from summer languor to a disbelief that yielded to grief.

Sweat mingled with the tears of more than 500 people — from teens in sandals to bearded Orthodox men — who attended Tenenbaum's graveside funeral last Friday. An unusually large crowd of worshipers sought comfort at Shabbat morning services at Or VeShalom, where, for the first time in nearly two years, Tenenbaum did not rise from his pulpit seat with a smile to wish the Sephardi congregation "Shabbat shalom" and announce births and deaths.

Sunday morning, about 600 people returned to the synagogue to mourn the loss of a man who adored his family as much as he was adored by many friends.

Tenenbaum had found his life's work in unlikely places. He was a Jewish grocery store owner in a down-at-the-heels black neighborhood, an Ashkenazi Jew who led a Sephardi synagogue.

Stunned customers stopped at the Great Savings Grocery in the aftermath of the shooting to post condolences on white paper taped outside the store. Tenenbaum was a man, friends and employees have said, who would extend credit to customers or fix a sandwich for someone who was hungry.

Tenenbaum had worked for Neil Galanti's family grocery more than two decades ago. He did accounting for a year and grew close to Or VeShalom families like Galanti's, whose Sephardi family had come to Atlanta from Turkey and the island of Rhodes.

Though Tenenbaum's family belonged to Congregation Shearith Israel, a Conservative Ashkenazi synagogue in the city's Morningside neighborhood, he and his wife, Debra Fox Tenenbaum, joined Or VeShalom 16 years ago.

"It seemed somewhat odd that he'd join a synagogue he didn't grow up in," but the couple felt so much at home there, Galanti said.

Tenenbaum was born in Atlanta and graduated in 1964 from the Greenfield Hebrew Academy, the day school where two of his daughters are students. After graduating high school in 1969, he attended the University of Georgia, where he earned a bachelor's degree in accounting in 1973.

He had served on Or VeShalom's board for about 10 years and been a vice

MIDEAST FOCUS

Barak to present new ministers

Prime Minister Ehud Barak is due to seek Knesset approval Thursday for his expanded Cabinet.

Legislators will vote on the following nominations: Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, of the Center Party, as tourism minister; Chaim Oron, of Meretz, as agriculture minister; Matan Vilnai, of One Israel, as minister of culture, science and sport; and Rabbi Michael Melchior, also of One Israel, as minister without portfolio.

Workers shut off water

Hundreds of thousands of already drought-stricken Israelis were without water for several hours Tuesday when disgruntled workers at the state-owned water company cut off the supply.

Among the cities affected were Tel Aviv, Herzliya and Beersheba, with strikers saying they would next turn off the taps in Jerusalem. The job action came after workers walked off the job last month in a protest over wages and plans by the government to privatize the company.

U.S. urges patience in talks

The United States urged patience after Palestinian officials accused Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak of creating a "crisis" in the peace process.

"It's not surprising that the differences that developed over three years" during the tenure of former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "will not be worked out overnight," State Department spokesman James Rubin said Monday.

Abdullah goes incognito — again

Jordan's King Abdullah disguised himself Monday and posed as a taxi driver so he could get his subjects' views on a range of social issues.

The king carried out the ruse without being recognized, according to palace officials. Last week Abdullah donned a beard and posed as a reporter.

VeShalom members knew that Tenenbaum had been killed before official reports confirmed it.

During the confusion and frantic evening hours of July 26 when it was unclear who lived or had died, friends and congregants were already offering support.

Many had recognized Debra Tenenbaum on television after a station aired harrowing footage of her anxiously seeking her husband, who had not answered repeated calls to his cell phone.

That night, authorities confirmed that Tenenbaum was among those day traders killed at All-Tech.

Tenenbaum had opened an All-Tech day-trading account in June 1998, said Franklin Ogele, All-Tech's associate general counsel.

"He had lots of business interests," said Dr. Jeff Baumrind, a dentist who golfed with Tenenbaum and considered him his best friend.

"It was just a little thing to try to make some money." Tenenbaum had stopped at All-Tech that morning to make some trades, and Baumrind said he was surprised that Tenenbaum had returned later in the day.

Steve Berman, a long-time friend and running buddy, said he and Tenenbaum occasionally discussed the stock market while watching their daughters play sports.

"My guess is, knowing Allen, he wasn't playing with large sums of money," Berman said, adding that the riskiest thing Tenenbaum did was jog with the flow of traffic instead of against it.

Tenenbaum was health conscious. He ran three or four miles a day, ate lots of fruit and vegetables and shunned junk food.

"I learned a neat trick from him," Berman recalled. "The kids would go trick-or-treating at Halloween and come back with months of junk, three months of candy. "One day Brittany [Tenenbaum] gets in the carpool. I learned [from her] that he'd bought the candy from them for \$10. I thought, 'What a great idea.' I've been doing it ever since."

Tenenbaum's sister, Carol Tenenbaum, recalled that her brother drank wheat grass juice long before health food was popular. Baumrind, 48, described Tenenbaum as "a maven on nutrition" who noshed on cold, baked sweet potatoes on the golf course.

Last Friday afternoon, Baumrind was one of the men helping ease the casket of his golfing buddy into the red earth. Debra Tenenbaum stopped the pallbearers to press a kiss on the simple wood box.

Rabbi S. Robert Ichay of Or VeShalom told the mourners that it was his job to comfort the grieving. But, he said, his voice catching, he wished someone could comfort him.

Despite the 99-degree temperature, so many mourners attended the funeral that the condolence book was filled up.

Lines formed for people to toss a shovelful of dirt into the grave, a custom performed using the shovel's back.

Many of the same people returned Sunday for a memorial service and wept as daughters Brittany, 13, and Megan, 11, read Psalm 30 in Hebrew and English: "Though weeping endures for a night, joy comes in the morning."

His 3-year-old son, Scott, who used to scoot onto his father's lap during services, did not attend.

The speakers, including Tenenbaum's siblings, father-in-law and synagogue friends, recalled a man devoted to his children and wife, a leader who built consensus, a friend who had the gift of listening without passing judgment. When speakers faltered, Debra Tenenbaum nodded at them reassuringly through tears.

Her brother-in-law, Terry Tenenbaum, recounted a heart-rending moment at Shabbat dinner last week, just hours after the funeral. Sobbing and hugging her children, Debra Tenenbaum asked her brother-in-law to recite the blessing a father traditionally makes over his children.

"That same faith that has sustained our people through millennia of tragedy and sorrow, that same faith is embedded rock-strong in Debra," Terry Tenenbaum said. He paused and then added with conviction: "Yah ribon olam, ruler of the universe, God of Israel, bless the eternal and everlasting soul of my brother, Avraham Chaim ben Yeshiah haLevi. Zecher l'brachah — may his memory be a blessing." □



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JEWISH WORLD

Bank agrees to settle claims

Britain's Barclays Bank agreed to make a \$3.6 million settlement of Holocaust-era claims.

Funds will first go to survivors or their heirs who can prove that their Barclays bank accounts in France were seized after the Nazi occupation, according to a lawyer for the bank.

The claims of families lacking such evidence will be reviewed next, and any remaining moneys from the settlement will go to non-profit groups.

The World Jewish Restitution Organization, which helped negotiate the settlement, is expected to have a consulting role as the fund is distributed.

Gypsies gather at Auschwitz

Hundreds of Gypsy leaders gathered at the site of the former Auschwitz death camp to commemorate the killings of the more than 20,000 members of their community at the camp.

At the ceremony, Roman Kwiatowski, a Gypsy leader in Poland, appealed for an end to violence against his people in the war-torn province of Kosovo. Historians estimate that 500,000 Gypsies died during World War II.

Lithuania plans war crimes probe

Lithuania is investigating a 77-year-old man living in the United States for alleged war crimes.

Petras Bernotavichius is suspected of having participated in the arrest and execution of Lithuanians and Jews during World War II.

Since it gained its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, Lithuania has yet to prosecute any individuals for war crimes.

Neo-Nazis want to honor Hess

Danish police are considering the request of neo-Nazis to hold their annual mid-August march honoring Hitler deputy Rudolf Hess.

Last year, police arrested several people after a march honoring the anniversary of Hess' death was held on the outskirts of Copenhagen.

NRP legislator dies at 85

Yitzhak Rafael, who helped bring hundreds of thousands of immigrants to Israel, died Tuesday in Jerusalem after a long illness. He was 85.

Rafael, who headed the immigration department of the Jewish Agency for Israel in the nation's early years, oversaw waves of immigration to the Jewish state from 1948 to 1953.

Rafael was Israel's religious affairs minister from 1974 to 1977.

Rafael also served seven terms as a lawmaker from the National Religious Party. He is survived by his wife and grandchildren.

Congress moves to reduce Israel aid in plan worked out with Jewish state

By Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Congress is on its way to reducing foreign aid to Israel for the second year in a row. The cut is part of a plan worked out with the Jewish state to end economic aid by the year 2009.

The U.S. House of Representatives voted 385-35 on Tuesday for a \$12.6 billion foreign aid bill, which includes \$2.88 billion for Israel, \$2 billion for Egypt and \$325 million for Jordan.

As has been the case in the past, aid to the Palestinians was not specified in the bill but is expected to continue at about \$100 million a year.

The Senate passed a similar bill June 30 by a 97-2 vote. Members of the House and Senate will meet in the coming weeks to hammer out differences between their measures, which will fund U.S. foreign operations for the fiscal year 2000 that begins Oct. 1.

The measure could draw a presidential veto because it restricts funding for groups that work in other countries to liberalize abortion laws.

Clinton has also threatened a veto because the bill cuts this year's foreign spending by \$715 million and is almost \$2 billion less than his request for next year.

Even with a veto, however, the foreign aid package would be passed as part of other legislation.

The money in the bill for Israel follows through on a deal with the Jewish state to reduce its dependence on U.S. economic aid while increasing military assistance.

The agreement, which President Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak put into writing last month, phases out economic aid to Israel over a 10-year period by reducing the assistance by \$120 million a year.

At the same time, military aid will increase by \$60 million a year.

At the end of the process, military aid to Israel will total \$2.4 billion, up from \$1.8 billion before the plan went into effect last year. Economic aid to Israel, which amounted to \$1.2 billion annually, will no longer exist.

The previous economic package was designed to pay off loans provided to Israel after the 1979 Camp David accord. By the end of the 10-year period, those loans will be repaid.

In this year's foreign aid bill, Israel would receive \$960 million in economic aid and \$1.92 billion in military assistance. The bill also includes \$60 million to aid Israel in resettling Jews from the former Soviet Union.

As in previous years, the House included a measure known as early disbursal, under which aid to Israel is delivered at the beginning of the fiscal year. In addition to aid to Middle Eastern countries, the bill includes \$725 million for former Soviet states, down \$76 million.

Under U.S. law, Russia cannot receive some of its designated aid if it follows through on a promise to provide \$2 billion in arms sales to Syria, which remains on the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism.

The House foreign aid bill also contains policy recommendations on a host of issues that affect the Middle East, including:

- a requirement that the secretary of state report by Feb. 1, 2000, on State Department efforts to remove textbooks with anti-Semitic passages from schools run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees;
- a ban on funding to create a new office or agency to conduct official business with the Palestinian Authority in Jerusalem. All U.S. business with the Palestinian Authority should continue to take place in locations other than Jerusalem, except for social contacts and incidental discussions;
- a measure allowing the president to provide assistance to the Palestinian Authority if he certifies in writing to Congress that such aid is important to the national security interests of the United States. Currently all U.S. aid to the Palestinians is provided to non-governmental agencies; and
- a ban on all assistance to the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation, which has come under fire from Congress for anti-Semitic, anti-Israeli and anti-American programming. □

BEHIND THE HEADLINES**Jews will always be outsiders in Germany, Jewish leader says***By Toby Axelrod*

BERLIN (JTA) — The man whom many call the conscience of Germany has announced that he has failed.

In an interview with the newsweekly *Stern*, Ignatz Bubis gave a somber, often pessimistic assessment of his efforts to bring Jewish and non-Jewish Germans closer and to insure that the Holocaust is never forgotten.

Bubis, who is nearing the end of his seven-year term as president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, added that he was wrong ever to have thought he could call himself a "German of the Jewish faith," as Jews did for centuries before the Holocaust. Jews remain perpetual outsiders in German society, said Bubis, who was born in Breslau and survived several concentration camps.

Perhaps most poignantly, Bubis, who is 72 and ailing, said in last week's interview that would prefer to be buried in Israel than in Germany, where his grave might be desecrated — as happened to the man who preceded him as the leader of Germany's Jews.

Last December, Heinz Galinski's gravestone in Berlin was blown up. An anonymous letter claimed the bombing was prompted by plans to rename a Berlin street for Galinski. The case remains unsolved.

The frank words, together with photos of the Jewish leader in a contemplative mood, made front-page news across the country.

They drew strong reactions from those within the Jewish community and invited speculation — which Bubis tried to quash — that he was not planning to seek re-election in January.

In contrast to Bubis' pessimism, other Jewish leaders here painted a brighter picture of German-Jewish relations — despite reports of a growth in right-wing activity, increased attacks on foreigners and repeated incidents in which monuments and graves are desecrated.

Only last week, a sculpture depicting Holocaust victims was partly destroyed in Weimar. And, in another incident, three neo-Nazi youths were arrested outside Berlin, allegedly for beating up a police officer. But these are exceptions, say many observers.

Miguel Freund, a Jewish leader in Cologne, said the relationship between Jews and non-Jews has actually improved during the last decade.

Young Germans, he added, are searching their towns and cities for traces of the Jewish life that once was there.

The vice president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, Charlotte Knobloch, disagreed with Bubis' pessimistic assessment of his own efforts, saying he has brought recognition to Germany's Jewish community.

Council member Michel Friedman echoed that assessment, saying Bubis has presided over a period of unprecedented growth in the German Jewish community — from 40,000 at the start of his term to some 80,000 today, according to official figures.

Friedman, who is sometimes mentioned as a possible challenger for the presidency, said Bubis should be re-elected.

Council member Michael Fuerst said Bubis was unfair to suggest that today's politicians want to forget about Germany's past. He suggested that Bubis, who was recently confined to a

wheelchair, is depressed because of his current health problems.

In fact, "relations between German officials and Jews have changed for the better" under Bubis, said Richard Chaim Schneider, a Jewish journalist in Munich.

It is "not only a reaction to the Holocaust, but has to do with Jews and Germany today."

But Schneider agreed with Bubis that Jews here still cannot identify themselves primarily as Germans, then as Jews.

"He is an honest man and he is expressing now his deepest emotions that he has been trying to hide."

Andreas Nachama, head of the Jewish community in Berlin, said Bubis should not be so pessimistic.

Just the same, Nachama agreed to some extent with his fears.

"If a society allows gravestones to be destroyed, and not only Jewish gravestones, then it is really an alarm sign," he said.

Nachama's words are significant in light of the attack in Weimar last week on the work of British artist Stuart Wolfe. Vandals destroyed six of the 16 figures representing Holocaust victims, normally installed at concentration camp memorials, that were recently on display in Weimar — which is situated only a few miles from the former concentration camp at Buchenwald.

Attacks on Holocaust memorials have increased in recent years.

A stone commemorating the deportation of Berlin's Jews has been vandalized three times since December 1997.

More troubling are the attacks on people — such as last week's brutal beating of the police officer in Eberswalde, near Berlin.

The youths reportedly kicked the officer in the head with steel-toed boots when he tried to stop them from singing Nazi songs, which are illegal in Germany.

Such stories rarely make the front page, and most observers say they do not reflect the true state of affairs in Germany.

But Bubis has not been one to let things go. Last year, he took German writer Martin Walser to task for saying it was time to stop haranguing Germans about Auschwitz.

With newspapers covering their argument blow by blow, it became a topic of everyday conversation. Many Germans felt liberated by Walser's views and expressed resentment of being reminded about the Holocaust.

Around this time, someone released a pig on the broad plaza of Alexanderplatz in Berlin, with a Jewish star painted on one side and "Bubis" on the other.

But such incidents have not deterred Bubis from speaking out.

In the interview with *Stern*, he said he does not want to incite feelings of shame or guilt when he calls on Germans to remember their wartime past. Instead, he said, he wants to instill the responsibility to learn about and fight right-wing extremism.

"I tell young people, 'I don't expect you to take a pile of ashes and throw it on your head, but you have to know what people are capable of doing,'" he said.

Bubis said he has spoken to 600,000 people over the years, but that he should have spent more time addressing teachers instead of their students.

He also spoke of the nightmare image of his own grave one day being defaced.

"The danger is still great here," he said, "that the dignity of the dead can be violated. Especially when one is a public figure."

"I'm realistic," he said. "I want to be buried in Israel." □