



# Daily News Bulletin

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## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Summit likely to continue

In a signal that he believes a deal can be reached at Camp David, President Clinton is pursuing detailed negotiations with Israel and the Palestinians.

The president "thinks staying here for the time being is reasonable," said White House spokesman Joe Lockhart.

### U.N. says border violations end

The United Nations announced that Israel and Lebanon have stopped violating each other's territory.

Monday's announcement paves the way for the deployment of U.N. peacekeepers and the Lebanese army along the border. [Page 3]

### Netanyahu calls Barak too soft

Former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Ehud Barak is conceding too much in talks at the Camp David summit. The current Israeli prime minister, said Netanyahu, has "broken all the red lines held by all Israeli governments."

### Divorce bill fails in Britain

A bill designed to help women whose husbands will not grant them a Jewish divorce was quashed in Britain's House of Commons.

The bill would have enabled British courts to help women obtain a religious divorce before granting the final stage of a civil divorce.

### Settlers: We won't move

Jewish settler leaders declared they do not intend to leave settlements in areas that would be transferred to Palestinian sovereignty under any future peace deal. The declaration was made at a gathering at the settlement of Pesagot, near Ramallah.

### Soviet-seized property sought

The Russian Jewish Congress is launching a campaign to obtain Jewish communal property confiscated during the Soviet era, according to the umbrella group's executive vice president, Alexander Osovtsov.

The confiscated property includes hundreds of synagogues, theaters and school buildings across Russia. Observers in Moscow say the decision is a countermeasure against the government's recent actions against the Congress' president, tycoon Vladimir Goussinsky.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

### Arafat looks to Arab world for its support on Jerusalem

By Gil Sedan

HERZLIYA, Israel (JTA) — When it comes to the future of Jerusalem, Yasser Arafat is not only negotiating on behalf of the Palestinians, but the broader Arab and Muslim worlds.

That is why Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has emerged as a key player outside Camp David.

Mubarak is apparently on a mission to secure Arab support for any concessions the Palestinian Authority president makes — or at least not oppose President Clinton's attempts to bridge the gaps on the issue of sovereignty over Jerusalem.

Mubarak, who has consulted frequently with Arafat throughout the course of the peace process, this week traveled to Saudi Arabia, presumably to help unify the Arab stance on Jerusalem.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak sees Mubarak as important in the effort to build Arab consensus for whatever Arafat negotiates for Jerusalem.

Last week, as the summit appeared on the verge of collapse, reports said Barak placed an urgent call to Mubarak, as well as to Jordan's King Abdullah, asking them to encourage Arafat to adopt a more flexible stance.

As Mubarak meets with other Arab leaders, his ambassador to Israel, Mohammed Basiouny, rejected speculation that Egypt was actually engaged in forming a unified Arab stand against any concessions on Jerusalem.

"Not at all," said Basiouny. "Egypt would do nothing to jeopardize the peace efforts."

Before the Camp David talks began on July 11, Arafat repeatedly stated that he would not abandon his demand that the eastern half of Jerusalem be the capital of a future Palestinian state.

U.S. officials have reportedly put forward a proposal that would grant Israel and the Palestinians some sort of shared sovereignty over Arab neighborhoods in Jerusalem, a plan that would grant the Palestinians a form of administrative rule in the city.

Barak is reportedly willing to accept the proposal, although with some modifications.

If these reports are true, then Barak has gone further than any other Israeli leader in making concessions regarding what Israeli politicians have long been regarded as Israel's "eternal, undivided capital."

There are reports that Arafat is willing to accept the U.S. proposal, although he has said in the past that he does not have a mandate from the Arab and Muslim world to make concessions regarding the Holy City.

Knesset member Abdel Malek Dahamshe of the Islamist United Arab List gave an indication of the opposition Arafat might confront if he does make concessions.

On Sunday, Dahamshe published the text of letters he sent to President Clinton, Barak and Arafat in which he warned against any moves that could harm the "sanctity of Jerusalem."

"More than 1 billion Muslims are willing to sacrifice themselves" to defend Jerusalem's holy places, he wrote.

If Arafat makes concessions, he added, "the Muslim and Arab world will oppose him, will remove him from power, and the earth will burn."

The spiritual leader of Hamas, who could quickly turn a sizable portion of the

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Police investigating threats

Israeli police are investigating right-wing extremists who publicly threatened to kill Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

The action came after the outlawed Kach group made the threats on Israel Television. A group member said Barak would be "responsible for his own life" if settlers were forced out from their West Bank homes as a result of a peace deal with the Palestinians.

### Opposition parties seek elections

Israeli opposition parties issued a statement supporting early elections. Representatives from the parties, except for the fervently Orthodox United Torah Judaism bloc, participated in a meeting initiated by Likud Party leader Ariel Sharon.

Next week, the Knesset is slated to hold a preliminary vote on two early election bills filed by the opposition.

### Child allowances may increase

Israel's Knesset was scheduled to vote on a bill that would greatly increase child allowances paid by the state to families with more than four children, a measure that will primarily benefit haredi, or fervently Orthodox, families.

The Israeli daily Ha'aretz reported that at Jerusalem's Sha'are Zedek Hospital, some 40 women giving birth each year already have at least 15 children.

### Panel offers safe-passage plan

An Israeli government panel recommended that a sunken roadway be built as a safe-passage route linking the Gaza Strip and West Bank instead of a proposed elevated highway.

The Israeli daily Ha'aretz reported that an elevated road would cost an estimated \$800 million to \$1.25 billion, compared to an estimated \$250 million to \$300 million for a sunken road.

Palestinian street against Arafat, also made it clear that he opposes any concessions to Israel.

As he has done in the past, Sheik Ahmed Yassin this week offered Israel a cease-fire in exchange for its withdrawal from all of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and eastern Jerusalem. By the standards of Hamas, whose rhetoric usually leaves no room for compromise with Israel in its rhetoric, the statement was considered moderate.

Yassin urged the Palestinian negotiators at Camp David to leave if Israel refuses these terms, saying no agreement could exclude any part of these lands.

Weighing in on another issue being debated at Camp David, Yassin also issued a religious edict prohibiting Palestinian refugees from ceding their right to return in exchange for compensation from Israel.

This week, Moroccan officials provided a clear idea of how closely they are watching Camp David.

The Knesset had to postpone a memorial ceremony for Morocco's late King Hassan that was scheduled for Monday after the Moroccan delegation — including the king's longtime Jewish adviser, Andre Azoulay — announced it would not show up.

The present Moroccan king, Mohammad VI, felt it was inappropriate to hold such a ceremony in the Knesset — in the heart of Jewish Jerusalem — just when the fate of the city was being discussed at Camp David.

Some Arab officials, however, were maintaining their contacts with Israel.

While Mubarak was engaged in his behind-the-scenes diplomatic efforts, Egyptian officials hosted an annual event in Israel.

On Sunday, the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv held a reception marking the 48th anniversary of the Free Officers Revolution in Egypt. On July 23, 1952, a group of young Egyptian officers toppled the monarchy of King Farouk and created the Arab Republic of Egypt.

One of those officers was Anwar Sadat, who 27 years later became the first Arab leader to make peace with Israel.

Some 3,000 Israelis from all walks of life were invited to the reception at the Herzliya Country Club, the 20th such reception since the two countries established diplomatic relations.

The guest list included Mohammad Bakri, one of Israel's leading actors. Like everyone there, he had an opinion about the Camp David talks.

"Peace? What peace? This is no peace," he said.

Bakri, an Arab who was born in a Galilee village in the early days of the Jewish state, is a sharp critic of Israel's policies toward the Palestinians. Like many Palestinian radicals in the West Bank and Gaza, he believes that Israel has offered the Palestinians nothing but surrender.

Significantly, very few Palestinian political activists were seen among the guests.

At this sensitive stage of the Camp David negotiations, they preferred not to be seen schmoozing with Israel's high society. Instead, just as the reception in Herzliya was taking place, they gathered for an emergency session in Ramallah, where they shared their opposition to any Palestinian concessions at Camp David.

Among the guests at the Herzliya reception was Abdel Wahab Darawshe, a former Knesset member from the Arab Democratic Party.

He, too, commented on the subject that was on everybody's mind.

"Arafat has already made a major concession," he said. "He gave up on the right of return of 4 million Palestinian refugees. Now it is Barak's turn." □

## Russia wants to charge environmentalist

MOSCOW (JTA) — Russian prosecutors called for reopening — for the ninth time — a case against a Russian environmental whistle blower, according to the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews.

The call came last week as Alexander Nikitin was in the United States to accept a prize for his environmental activism. He was acquitted in December on charges he violated state security in a 1996 report he wrote about Russian nuclear pollution. □



## Daily News Bulletin

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## JEWISH WORLD

### Fliers attack Calif. synagogue

A Reconstructionist synagogue in California seeking to turn a struggling ice rink into a synagogue facility is facing opposition that synagogue leaders say verges on anti-Semitism.

According to the Los Angeles Times, people who want the rink to stay open for skaters have picketed Shabbat services at the University Synagogue in Irvine, and printed fliers with a slash — the international symbol for “no” — through the synagogue’s name.

### Australia deports militants

Australia deported five people linked to terrorist organizations in advance of September’s Olympic Games in Sydney.

Two of the deportees were linked to an Algerian Islamic group with ties to terrorist financier Osama Bin Laden. Another was linked to an unnamed Middle Eastern terrorist group.

Word of the deportations came after members of Australia’s government refuted reports that agreements have been made with the United States or Israel to allow private security guards to carry guns to protect athletes at the Games.

### Texas project opposed

The American Jewish Congress and the Texas Civil Rights Project filed a lawsuit Monday charging a social service program in Texas with violating the separation between church and state. The groups say the Jobs Partnership of Washington County urges its participants to accept Jesus and uses tax dollars to purchase Bibles to assist in proselytizing.

### Rabbi to leave South Africa pulpit

An American-born Lubavitch rabbi known for his anti-apartheid activism is retiring from his South African pulpit this Rosh Hashanah after 35 years.

In addition to opposing apartheid, Norman Bernhard established the first religious Jewish primary school in sub-Saharan Africa on the premises of his synagogue.

### Cereal Bibles called a mistake

U.S. cereal maker General Mills issued an apology for CD-ROM versions of the Bible that were distributed in some 12 million of its cereal boxes.

The discs are part of a \$10 million software-and-cereal promotion that offers customers CD-ROMs with computer games and dictionaries.

But the company said it did not know the Bible was also part of the promotion, a claim denied by the software provider.

“While inclusion of the Bible may be seen as added value by some, it is the company’s policy not to advance any particular set of religious beliefs,” it said.

## U.N. envoy paves the way for Lebanon peacekeepers

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Two months after Israel completed its troop withdrawal from southern Lebanon, the U.N.’s Middle East envoy announced that Israel and Lebanon have stopped violating each other’s territory.

Monday’s announcement by Terje Roed Larsen paves the way for the deployment of U.N. peacekeepers and the Lebanese army along the border.

Israel’s Foreign Ministry welcomed the announcement, saying it was a prelude to Lebanon’s “assuming the responsibility” for securing “order and quiet along the border.”

After Larsen made the announcement Monday in Beirut, the office of Lebanese President Emile Lahoud said it was seeking a final verification that Israel was no longer violating the border. Once the United Nations issues its final confirmation that the Israeli withdrawal adheres to U.N. Security Council 425 — which calls for a full Israeli pullback from all Lebanese territories — it will clear the way for the stationing of an expanded contingency of U.N. forces, known as UNIFIL.

Since the Israeli withdrawal in late May, Lebanon has filed dozens of complaints that Israel’s army was violating the border.

During the same period, Israel lodged a similar number of complaints with the United Nations over Lebanese violations, primarily provocations that took place along the border near the town of Metulla. Since Israel’s pullback, crowds of Lebanese and Palestinians were drawn to the site, where it became something of a ritual to throw stones — and in some case, gasoline bombs — at the Israeli side of the border. □

## Anti-Barak Web sites get graphic in opposition to Camp David talks

By Brian Seidman

NEW YORK (JTA) — As Israeli and U.S. activists turned up their rhetoric in the days preceding the Camp David summit, they hurled some of their most incendiary language on the Internet.

Microsoft last week removed a Web site calling for the assassination of Prime Minister Ehud Barak from its MSN Web Communities.

After receiving a letter from the Anti-Defamation League, Microsoft removed the Web site, signed by the “Israel Liberation Army,” calling it a violation of MSN Terms of Use and the MSN Web Communities Code of Conduct.

The Web site called Barak “a traitor,” and said “someone MUST execute him” and any other Israeli prime minister that tried to trade Israeli land for peace. It wasn’t the first time the Internet has been used to promote violence against the prime minister.

In December 1999, Israel Wire reported that a Tel Aviv court indicted Omer Klingman, 20, for establishing a Web site urging Barak’s murder. The site also referred to Barak as a traitor, and said his actions were “Nazi-like.”

It was later learned, the report said, that Klingman was actually a left-wing Israeli and signed a right-wing party’s name to the Web site in an attempt to discredit them.

In January, Israeli security agencies discovered the “Justice in Action” site, with an image of Barak alternating with a picture of Adolf Hitler.

A nearly identical site stands now, at madmanbarak.freesevers.com, where Barak’s head slowly replaces Hitler’s, then makes a “Heil Hitler” salute. A game follows where players line up Barak’s head with a cross hairs and shoot.

A note at the site, however, reads, “Remember that this is only a game.”

The Web site kahane.org, associated with the Kach and Kahane Chai movements in Israel, considered to be radical right-wing groups, contains games that attack both Barak and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat.

“We mean to show opposition to Barak,” said organization representative Mike Guzofsky. “We’ve created a shtick to do that.” □

## ARTS &amp; CULTURE

**'The Rules' vs. 'Kosher Sex'**  
**latest in Jewish infotainment**

By Julie Wiener

NEW YORK (JTA) — In a “debate” last week between “Kosher Sex” Rabbi Shmuley Boteach and the authors of the dating guide, “The Rules,” the largely Jewish audience was as raucous as those on any daytime talk show.

Boteach, a 33-year-old Lubavitch showman whose provocative books and flair for marketing have drawn international attention to Jewish teachings on sexual ethics, is no newcomer to such staged debates.

He duked it out with Hustler Publisher Larry Flynt on pornography in April, and discussed the meaning of life last year with New Age guru Deepak Chopra.

But the Rules Girls, as they refer to themselves, are also savvy media handlers and, as the two-hour event moderated by talk show host Judith Regan progressed, they grew increasingly aggressive — some might say shrill — in challenging both the rabbi and the audience.

Ellen Fein and Sherrie Schneider's 1996 book created a media stir with such dating commandments as wear lipstick when you go jogging, get a nose job if you need it, never accept a date for the weekend later than the preceding Wednesday and never ever call a guy before he calls you.

Boteach, a short bearded man with the self-effacing style of a Jewish stand-up comedian, was clearly there to plug JDate.com — a Jewish singles Web site that gave him the title “matchmaker in chief” — and to promote his books.

He joked that a forthcoming book might be called “Sex in the Synagogue.”

At the same time, the heavily made-up, tanned and now-married Jewish ladies were eager to promote the various offshoots of their book, including online “Rules” support groups and \$250 per-half-hour phone consultations.

Since it was Wednesday night, Fein — the bottle-blond half of the duo — started the event by reminding women this night was the deadline for accepting any weekend dates. She packaged the philosophy of “The Rules” as one of self-esteem and setting boundaries.

Boteach championed modesty and challenged women to elevate and inspire men.

“If he calls Friday night and asks you out for Saturday night, tell him no, invite him to go to synagogue with you instead,” he urged, to applause.

The Rules Girls told the audience that were he not married, Boteach would be a “not-a-waste-of-time kind of guy” but denounced his tips as impractical at best.

“If you want to go to synagogue and hear a sermon, that's fine,” said Schneider. “But if you want to get a guy, you need to call us.”

Most women, explained Schneider are not “born Rules Girls,” and risk committing feminism-inspired no-no's like calling men and then sleeping with them too quickly.

But isn't following the Rules acting fake, asked some?

“Sometimes only diet metaphors work in this world!” exclaimed the svelte Schneider. “You're overweight? You've got to

eat salad!” she yelled passionately. “You say you want to eat cake? OK, then you'll be fat! Is it artificial to use an alarm clock in the morning instead of waking up when you feel like it?”

But in the standing-room-only pink social hall of Manhattan's modern Orthodox Lincoln Square Synagogue — where the crimson high-backed chairs filled up a good 10 minutes before the 8 p.m. starting time — Boteach appeared to come out the winner with the 800 audience members.

Three hundred apparently were turned away due to space constraints.

The majority appeared to be Jewish women in their 20s and 30s.

But there were a sizeable number of men, including an elderly Orthodox man seated in the center of the audience.

Two 24-year-old women, Lianne Pinchuk and Hayley Lattman, said they viewed the event as entertainment, not advice, and were taking a break from studying for the New York State bar exam.

As the Rules Girls commented that most “girls” are eager to “get married and have babies,” Pinchuk rolled her eyes and said quietly, “Maybe in a few years. Not right away.”

The Rules Girls fiercely stood their ground when pummeled with questions — and grandstanding speeches masquerading as questions — from indignant audience members who accused them of being manipulative.

“How long did it take you to get married?” demanded Fein, when a 30-something woman announced that she had broken all the rules and is now happily married.

Upon hearing that the woman's pre-wedding courtship lasted several years, Fein triumphantly announced, “Most girls don't want to wait that long.”

However, in the end, the general feeling was that the two sides in the debate were actually not so far apart: Both Boteach and the Rules Girls believe men and women are fundamentally different and that women need to retain some modesty and mystery in their relationships with men.

“The man is the days of the week, the woman is the Shabbat,” concluded Boteach. “Do not become corrupted by agenda-driven men and don't lose your femininity.”

Schneider, who broke into giggles frequently during the debate, ended with, “I think the rabbi's very nice, but if I were single I'd call” the Rules Girls “for advice. We get you from date one to two to three and married.”

Slowly exiting the synagogue, one woman was overheard observing that the event illustrated the “eternal conflict” between men and women but her male companion said “I thought they all came off as superficial.”

Outside, 36-year-old Wayne Borges, who is single, said he liked Boteach's philosophy. “He had very positive messages: focus on virtues, not manipulating men.”

“I thought he would be more wild and left-wing, but actually he had very positive things to say,” said kippah-wearing Chaim Davis, a single 37-year-old.

“A lot of what they said is the same thing,” said 30-year-old single Jana Gelman, who was milling outside the shul chatting with a friend.

“You have to be conservative and make someone value you step by step.”

The Rules approach “makes me feel uncomfortable, but generally what they're saying probably works.” □