



# Daily News Bulletin

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84th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Israel withdrawing from Gaza

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon informed the United States that Israeli troops were withdrawing from portions of the Gaza Strip taken hours earlier, according to Israel Radio.

The Bush administration had blasted Israel's decision to take over portions of Gaza, issuing its strongest criticism of Israel since Israeli-Palestinian violence began last September. "The Israeli response was excessive and disproportionate," U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said. [Page 1]

### New D.C. federation exec named

The former chief operating officer at UJA-Federation of Greater New York was selected to head up Washington's largest local philanthropic organization.

Misha Galperin succeeds Ted Farber, who is going into private business, as the executive vice president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington. Galperin, who emigrated to the United States in 1976, is believed to be the first Russian emigre to head a large-city federation in North America.

### Hungary holds Shoah memorial

Hungary's Parliament has hosted a first-ever ceremony to commemorate Hungarian Jewish victims of the Holocaust. [Page 2]

### Sharon rejects Arab proposal

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres is urging Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to "carefully read" an Egyptian-Jordanian proposal for ending Israeli-Palestinian fighting.

Sources close to Sharon, however, insist that studying the proposal, which was presented to Israel on Monday by Jordan's visiting foreign minister, would contravene Sharon's policy of not conducting diplomatic negotiations while Palestinian violence continues.

### Syria, Russia may talk arms

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa is expected to discuss possible Russian arms sales to his country during talks with Russian leaders this week in Moscow.

The talks come after Israel fired on a Syrian radar site in Lebanon on Monday.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

### Seeking to restore deterrence, Israel accepts risk of escalation

By David Landau

JERUSALEM (JTA) — For those worried about the credibility of Israeli deterrence, the Israel Defense Force this week delivered two unmistakable messages — to Syria and the Palestinians — that it is willing to fight.

For those worried that military strength alone may not hold the answer to Israel's problems, however, the week of escalation did nothing to allay their fears.

Many people belong to both groups — because on the tactical level, at least, there is no contradiction between them. Escalation involves heightened risks, and the great majority of Israelis and Israel's supporters abroad were united this week in support of the government's deliberate decision to take these risks.

The second group, however, questions whether there is an overall strategy behind the tactics that can restore the hope of reaching a negotiated peace.

Israel's aerial attack on a Syrian radar installation deep inside Lebanon on Monday, in response to the killing of an Israeli soldier over the weekend, was a careful and deliberate upping of the ante — a new "price list" for Arab attacks on Israel, in the words of Sharon spokesman Ra'anan Gissin.

"There are new rules now," Defense Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer agreed, indicating that Israel would hold Syria directly responsible for Hezbollah attacks.

The action came after Hezbollah fired anti-tank missiles across Lebanon's border with Israel on Saturday, killing a soldier. The incident took place at Har Dov, a rugged section of the Israel-Lebanon border near Shabaa Farms, an area that Hezbollah claims is Lebanese land still occupied by Israel.

Israel — backed by the United Nations — says the area is part of the Golan Heights that Israel conquered in 1967 from Syria, and whose fate should be determined in Syrian-Israeli negotiations.

Indeed, after Israeli forces withdrew from southern Lebanon last May, the United Nations confirmed that Israel no longer had troops on Lebanese soil, forcing Israel to make even small redeployments of several feet in some places to conform rigorously to the international border.

This week, the U.N.'s Middle East envoy, Terje Roed-Larsen, reiterated that Hezbollah's claim flies in the face of earlier U.N. decisions.

The United States adopted a similar stance Monday, calling Hezbollah's cross-border attack "clear provocation designed to escalate an already-tense situation."

Just the same, Israel's decision to punish Syria for the incident represents a shift. Then-Prime Minister Ehud Barak warned after last May's withdrawal that Israel would hold the Syrian and Lebanese governments responsible for any further Hezbollah attacks.

In practice, however, a series of Hezbollah kidnappings, shootings and bombings of Israeli soldiers went unanswered until this week.

Israel's Security Cabinet decided, by a vote of 11-2, to hit Syrian military targets rather than Hezbollah, which locates its bases inside civilian areas in southern Lebanon.

Following the Israeli attack, Syria vowed revenge "at the appropriate time," and put its 35,000 troops in Lebanon on high alert.

Israel, in turn, made it clear that it did not seek further escalation but is prepared to face a challenge from Syria if its still-green president, Bashar Assad, so decides.

Less than 24 hours later, Israeli tanks and armored personnel carriers were moving into the Gaza Strip, cutting it into three separate sections and seizing a tactically

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Gaza border crossing closed

Israel closed the border crossing into Egypt from Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip. Israeli officials said the indefinite closure was part of a military offensive in the Gaza Strip early Tuesday morning in retaliation for mortar fire the day before on the Israeli town of Sderot. Hamas has claimed responsibility for the Sderot attack.

In another development, Palestinian security officials decided not to take part in talks with their Israeli counterparts. The U.S.-sponsored talks were slated to take place late Monday.

### Syria urges Arabs to shun Israel

Syria urged the Arab world to stop all contact with Israel following an Israeli air strike on a Syrian radar base in Lebanon. Arab leaders should stop engaging in "any type of cooperation or contacts with Israel until it submits to the conditions of peace and to implement them," Syria's vice president, Zuheir Masharka, said Tuesday.

### Israeli Arab lawmakers blasted

Some members of the Israeli Knesset are calling for a law that would enable the parliament to block the membership of any lawmaker who voices support for terror organizations or enemy countries, according to the Jerusalem Post.

The calls came Tuesday after one Israeli Arab legislator, Abdulmalik Dehamshe, sent a letter to Syrian President Bashar Assad describing Israel's air strikes a day earlier on Syrian targets in Lebanon as a "criminal attack."

### Israel to get 24-hour news

Israel soon will have its own 24-hour news station. The country's Satellite and Cable Broadcasting Authority awarded the contract for the channel to "News 24," which is expected to begin broadcasting by November.



## Daily News Bulletin

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important area of just under one square mile in the strip's northeast corner.

The land, sea and air operation early Tuesday came in retaliation for a Monday attack in which Palestinians fired mortars on the Israeli town of Sderot.

The Palestinians in recent weeks have begun using mortars against Israeli residential communities, and the Sderot attack marked their deepest penetration into Israel since violence erupted last September.

Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, returning from a trip to Egypt on Tuesday, accused Israel of seeking to reoccupy Palestinian-held territory.

The Israeli government stated firmly that this was not its intention, and troops began withdrawing Tuesday night. The IDF action plainly involved a calculated threat to previously signed agreements with the Palestinian Authority.

In politics, as in the military sphere, the week's events demonstrated a clear distinction between the tactical and the strategic.

Tactically, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon continues to enjoy very broad public support. Apart from the Israeli Arab Knesset members — one of whom called the Israeli government "terrorist" and sent a letter of condolence to Assad — the decision to attack Syria enjoyed near-universal acclaim.

Even dove's dove Yossi Beilin called the attack the logical and correct extension of last year's decision to withdraw from Lebanon, which was supposed to remove any perceived legitimacy for Hezbollah attacks. The peace camp, though uncomfortable, did not seem seriously disturbed by the escalation against the Palestinians either.

Israelis were shocked by the mortar shells that fell on the sleepy little town of Sderot, located three miles from the northern tip of the Gaza Strip — and close to Sharon's Negev farm. The attack appeared to be a provocation of ominous significance that could not go unpunished.

Regarding longer-term strategic thinking, however, the divisions are as deep as ever. A reminder came last weekend in an interview the prime minister gave to the Israeli daily Ha'aretz.

Sharon offered the Palestinians — after a total cease-fire — a state on 42 percent of the West Bank, in return for an open-ended nonbelligerency accord. A full peace treaty, Sharon said, did not seem a practical objective in the foreseeable future.

This was a far cry indeed from the vision of full peace, in return for an almost total Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza, that sustained the former Barak government and that still represents the eventual goal of Israel's "peace camp."

Sharon's words drew a welter of criticism, led by Ha'aretz.

The critics' case is largely hypothetical, however, given the unpalatable fact that Arafat rejected the peace package proposed by Barak and President Clinton at Camp David last July and thereafter — and instead launched the violence that this week took a dangerous turn for the worse. □

## Hungary remembers the Shoah

BUDAPEST (JTA) — For the first time in Hungary's history, the nation's Parliament has hosted a ceremony to commemorate Hungarian Jewish victims of the Holocaust.

Soon after an international conference on the Holocaust was held in Stockholm last year, the Hungarian government declared April 16 as the nation's annual Holocaust Memorial Day. The commemoration marks the date in 1944 when the Nazis established the first Jewish ghetto in Hungary, in the northeastern town of Munkacs, which is now a part of Ukraine.

Hungary had a prewar population of 800,000 Jews. About 600,000 died during the Holocaust. Today, the Hungarian Jewish community, the largest in Central Europe, numbers between 80,000 and 130,000.

Janos Ader, the Parliament speaker, stirred some controversy when he told the audience that the majority of Hungarians had not backed the Nazis.

"This is not true, and should have been left out of the speaker's remarks," Matyas Eorsi, a liberal Jewish legislator, told JTA.

The leadership of the nation's Jewish community used the commemoration to call on the nation "to make a clear distinction between the dark and light" portions of the country's history. □

## JEWISH WORLD

### Ellis Island records on Web

A database of immigrant arrivals at New York's Ellis Island is slated to become available this week at [www.ellislandrecords.org](http://www.ellislandrecords.org).

The database contains passenger lists and information about millions of immigrants, including more than 1 million Jews who arrived at the U.S. immigration processing center between 1892 and 1924.

### Bush to tour Shoah museum

President Bush plans to take a private tour Wednesday of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

On Thursday, when Holocaust Remembrance Day is marked this year, the president plans to speak at a commemoration ceremony on Capitol Hill.

### Germany investigates ex-Nazi

German authorities opened an investigation into a 92-year-old man wanted in Italy for war crimes committed during World War II.

In 1999, an Italian court found Friedrich Engel responsible for the deaths of at least 246 Italians in 1944 and 1945.

Italian media have referred to the former Nazi SS officer as the "Butcher of Genoa."

### Black paper's editorial blasted

The publisher emeritus of the New York-based Amsterdam News claimed that Jews, as a religious group, "run" the city. In an April 12 editorial, Wilbert Tatum wrote that Jews manage to "promote themselves above all others in order to first achieve power and then, most importantly, to keep it."

The Anti-Defamation League said the editorial represents "another episode in Tatum's long track record of engaging in crude anti-Semitism." Last year, Tatum claimed Jews "bought" Sen. Joseph Lieberman's vice presidential spot on the Democratic ticket.

### Goussinsky paper shut down

Dissident shareholders closed a newspaper that had been owned by Russian media magnate and Jewish leader Vladimir Goussinsky.

The closing of the Sevodnya paper came days after Goussinsky lost control of NTV, previously Russia's only independent television network.

### Czech officials deport extremist

A suspected neo-Nazi from Slovakia was deported from the Czech Republic after he tried to attend a rock concert organized by extremists.

Czech police had vowed to crack down on right-wing extremists following a neo-Nazi concert held earlier this month that angered Czech Jewish leaders and anti-racist groups.

## ARTS & CULTURE

### A novel on the Holocaust and comics earns a Jewish writer a Pulitzer Prize

By Peter Ephross

NEW YORK (JTA) — Michael Chabon's sprawling novel about a young Jew who escapes from Europe on the eve of World War II and makes it big in New York's comic book industry has made Chabon a literary superhero.

Chabon's "The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay" won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction this week, earning the 37-year-old Jewish author one of the world's top literary awards.

The 659-page book is full of magic.

Joe Kavalier, who apprenticed with a magician, escapes from Czechoslovakia in a coffin after a scene involving the legendary Golem of Prague.

After he arrives in New York, he and his cousin Sammy Clay thrive — for a while, at least — by creating a character, "The Escapist," a young hero rescued from an orphanage in Central Europe who derives his powers to fight evil from a golden key.

The creative forces behind the comic industry in that era — considered the Golden Age of comic books — were mainly Jewish men: Superman creators Joe Shuster and Jerry Siegel and Captain America and Hulk creator Jack Kirby, for instance.

Chabon himself was a big comics fan as a kid.

"I grew up steeped in comic books," he once told an interviewer.

Like his father before him, Chabon's father would bring him comic books every Friday after work.

As an adult, Chabon re-opened his old collection.

"When I opened it up and that smell came pouring out, that old smell, I was struck by a rush of memories, a sense of my childhood self that seemed to be continued in there," he has been quoted as saying.

The page-turning novel, replete with Jewish themes, came after Chabon moved closer to Judaism.

After a childhood he describes as a "standard suburban Jewish upbringing" spent partially in the planned community of Columbia, Md., Chabon earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Pittsburgh.

He made a literary splash in the late 1980s with his highly acclaimed debut, "The Mysteries of Pittsburgh."

His second novel, "Wonder Boys," about a college professor undergoing a midlife crisis, was made into a movie starring Michael Douglas.

While "The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay" is a much more ambitious and wide-ranging work than his first two novels, it shares the element of men struggling with relationships that also appeared in his earlier books.

After his first marriage, to a non-Jew, dissolved, Chabon married an Israeli, lawyer and writer Ayelet Waldman.

The two live in Berkeley, Calif., with their two children.

Chabon has joined a Jewish Renewal synagogue there, and sits on its board.

For someone who has been called an "American Vladimir Nabokov," Chabon appears to think of himself in a different light.

Chabon — who turned down an offer to appear in People magazine's "50 Most Beautiful People" list — describes himself as "nebbishy."

Perhaps that's why, despite the comic feel of the novel and some initial triumphs for its heroes, Joe Kavalier and Sammy Clay face multiple struggles.

First they lose control of their comic creation. Then, after Joe learns that his younger brother died before he could leave Europe, he joins the army — and disappears.

Sammy, meanwhile, faces his own personal demons.

Despite his great success, Chabon appears to be struggling with some demons as well.

He told The Associated Press after he won the award, "For some reason, the idea of failure is never very far from my mind, especially when I turn to thinking about writing and literature." □

## U.S. Jewish teens meet with Poles to study Shoah, mutual stereotypes

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME (JTA) — Do Poles have the right to commemorate the Nazi murders of Polish gentiles at the Auschwitz death camp?

To whom does this site of martyrdom belong?

How are these events relevant to Jewish-Catholic relations today?

These are some of the difficult and emotional questions a group of young American Jews and Polish Catholics are confronting this week in Warsaw.

The Americans are a group of 200 high school students from Florida and New Jersey who are in Poland for the annual March of the Living Holocaust commemoration.

Like other march participants, they visit death camps and other sites of Holocaust tragedy and pay homage to the 6 million Jews who were killed in the Holocaust.

But they also are taking part in a project aimed at fostering dialogue between Jewish and Polish teens.

Called "The Next Generation: Strengthening Ties between Polish Society and the American Jewish Community," the project was devised by the American Jewish Committee in cooperation with the Polish Embassy in Washington and the International March of the Living. Its goal is to open contacts, break down stereotypes and enable young Jews and Poles to commemorate the Shoah together — and move forward toward a future built on mutual understanding and respect.

"There is a Poland today that is open and willing to dialogue with Jews," said Deborah Sklar, director of international affairs for the AJCommittee's New York chapter.

"In order to break down stereotypes, we want to expose the American Jewish youth to modern-day Poland and to join with Poles also committed to understanding the past."

Founded in 1988, the March of the Living is an annual program that brings thousands of Jewish high school students from all over the world to Poland for commemorations culminating with a mass march and ceremony at Auschwitz on Holocaust Memorial Day, which this year falls on April 19.

In a sequence symbolizing the redemption that followed the Nazi destruction, the young people then go to Israel to celebrate the Jewish state's Independence Day, which takes place this year on April 26. While March of the Living participants consider it an important, enriching experience, the marchers rarely have contact with locals or learn about the changes that have taken place in Poland since the fall of communism more than a decade ago.

"The Next Generation project aims at expanding the perspective of March of the Living and to educate the American-Jewish participants about modern-day Poland, as well as to educate young Poles about Jews, Judaism and the Shoah," Sklar said.

The AJCommittee launched the project last year with a pilot program in which Polish high school students joined New York March of the Living participants in dialogue and a joint visit to death-camp sites.

This year, Sklar prepared a curriculum for young Poles and Jews to use as the basis for two dialogue forums in Warsaw about the Holocaust, anti-Semitism, contemporary Poland and the ways in which Jews and Catholic Poles think about each other.

The curriculum stresses that "a struggle over the symbols, over the history, over the events of the war exists between Poles and

Jews today." It highlights this struggle by raising controversial questions and throwing them out as discussion points for the teenagers.

Such questions include:

- Who suffered more, Poles or Jews? Is this the right question to ask? How do we even begin to address this question?
- How does anti-Semitism affect our lives today?
- What stereotypes do American Jews have of Poles? What stereotypes do Poles have of American Jews?

The American teens are meeting with Polish high school students, young Catholic Poles involved in Polish-Jewish dialogue and young members of today's tiny Polish Jewish community, which has undergone a mini-revival since the fall of communism.

"If we want to change anything in Polish-Jewish dialogue, we have to work with young people," said Andrzej Folwarczny, a Polish member of Parliament in his early 30s who is taking part in the sessions. "We have to educate them and get them to meet one another. It's the only way to overcome stereotypes."

Folwarczny, who is president of an organization called the Forum for Dialogue Among Nations, said it is important to bridge the gap between the way Catholics Poles and Jews look at history.

It was only with the fall of communism that Poles could begin to discuss their past openly and learn about the realities of the Shoah. Previously, for example, Poles had been taught that Polish Catholics, not Jews, were the main victims at Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Folwarczny recalled that when he was in high school during the Communist period, "We were taught about the Holocaust as part of the martyrology of the Polish nation. This version taught that we Poles were the victims, and perhaps the biggest victims, of the Nazis and also that all Poles helped Jews."

The perception of many Jews is just the opposite — that there was widespread Polish collaboration with the Nazis. Many Jews are unaware, however, of the extent to which Catholic Poles also suffered.

In fact, some 3 million Polish Jews died in the Nazi genocide, and a similar number of non-Jewish Poles were killed by the Nazis.

This year's March of the Living takes place against the background of a wrenching national debate in Poland about the Polish role in the Holocaust.

The debate was sparked by a book by New York University professor Jan Gross that detailed how Polish Catholics in the village of Jedwabne massacred their Jewish neighbors in 1941 by burning them to death in a barn.

"When I first read this, I absolutely could not believe it," said Joanna, a 51-year-old Warsaw architect. "It took me a week before I could even consider the possibility that it could be true. But now I recognize that this did take place. It really shook me." □

## Group cheers Polish condemnation

NEW YORK (JTA) — The Anti-Defamation League is applauding Polish religious and civic leaders for condemning the "outrageous and anti-Semitic" actions of a Catholic priest who recently displayed a model of a barn in which some 1,600 Jews were burned alive during the Holocaust.

Father Henryk Jankowski, who is renowned for his anti-Semitism, displayed the model along with the inscription: "The Jews killed Jesus and they are in the process of crucifying Poland."

The ADL's national director, Abraham Foxman, said, "Hatred and anti-Semitism of this magnitude must be met with zero tolerance in Poland." □