

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### **Two Israelis killed in West Bank**

Palestinian gunmen killed two Israeli settlers in separate attacks Monday in the West Bank. [Page 1]

### **Arafat: End Israeli 'aggression'**

Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat said Israel must halt its "aggression" against the Palestinian people if a fragile cease-fire is to have any chance of success.

Arafat also told a meeting of Arab foreign ministers Monday in Jordan that the "war-crazed" government of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is not serious about resuming peace talks.

### **High court refuses school cases**

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday let stand a lower court's ruling that public school students can offer group prayers at football games or other school-related activities.

The high court refused to hear arguments that a 1993 Alabama law violates the constitutional separation of church and state. Refusing to hear another case Monday, the Supreme Court accepted a lower court's ruling preventing first-graders in public schools from reading the Bible in front of fellow classmates.

### **Israel reopens West Bank roads**

Israel reopened two main roads in the West Bank on Monday as part of a U.S.-brokered cease-fire reached last week. A Palestinian official called Israel's move a propaganda ploy.

### **Belgian court hears Sharon case**

Survivors of a 1982 massacre of Palestinians in Lebanon appeared in a Belgian court Monday to argue that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was guilty of crimes against humanity for his role in the killings. Belgian laws permit the country's courts to try individuals for war crimes committed abroad.

If the Belgian judge decides to press charges, Sharon could be arrested if he enters Belgium.

The BBC aired a show Sunday in which a legal expert said Sharon could be indicted on war crimes charges in connection with the massacre of Palestinians by Christian militiamen during the 1982 Lebanon War.

According to Ha'aretz, Israeli officials warned the BBC that they may take legal action if they conclude that the program contains libelous material.

## **Continued Palestinian attacks prompt Israelis to question truce**

*By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Faced with continued casualties, the Israeli public is growing increasingly frustrated with a U.S.-brokered cease-fire that went into effect last week.

On Monday, Palestinian gunmen killed two Israeli settlers in separate attacks on West Bank roads.

Danny Yehuda was killed and a teen-age settler was lightly wounded in a drive-by shooting near the West Bank city of Nablus. Yehuda, 37, was married and the father of three young children.

A second, unidentified settler was killed later in the day as he was driving in a convoy of cars.

At least four other shooting incidents against Israelis were reported Monday in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Also on Monday, a terrorist bombing was averted in Haifa when two police volunteers discovered three bombs hidden in a motorcycle parked outside an all-night drugstore.

A fourth bomb was later found nearby.

The Palestinian public likewise saw its death toll increase after the cease-fire, which began June 13.

Palestinian officials said Israeli soldiers were responsible for the shooting death Sunday night of a 12-year-old Palestinian boy at the Khan Yunis refugee camp in the Gaza Strip.

Israel said the soldiers shot at Palestinians trying to scale a fence into a Jewish settlement.

In other violence, Palestinians fired two mortar shells at Israeli army positions near the Gaza settlement of Neveh Dekalim on Monday.

The attack caused no injuries.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Monday that the cease-fire remains in effect, despite the drive-by slayings. He added that the two sides have yet to achieve a total cessation of violence.

A group representing Israeli settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip issued a statement Monday saying Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's government is responsible for the shooting because it had "decided to fall into the illusory cease-fire trap."

In the statement, the Yesha Council also called on Sharon to "immediately call a halt to this bloody cease-fire."

Later Monday, Sharon rejected the settlers' calls.

"To take the people now to war, in my view, is a mistake of the first order from every perspective," Sharon said after meeting members of his Likud Party.

Because of the continued violence, a split emerged within the Cabinet over a proposed summit meeting with Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat.

Israeli media reported that a heated argument erupted among Israel's ministers Sunday over Sharon's refusal to let Peres meet with Arafat.

At the meeting, Sharon reiterated his stance that Israel will not negotiate while violence continues.

According to Peres, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, on a diplomatic shuttle mission to the region, proposed the meeting to shore up a fragile cease-fire between the two sides.

Israel Radio quoted Peres as saying at the Cabinet session that he would not accept

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Sharon to visit White House

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is slated to meet with President Bush at the White House on June 26.

Sharon also is slated to hold discussions with U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell during what will be his second visit to the United States since his election as prime minister in February.

### Settlers block West Bank road

Israeli settlers blocked a West Bank road Monday, preventing Palestinian vehicles from passing, according to the Jerusalem Post.

The settlers were protesting a series of Palestinian drive-by shootings and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's policy of restraint in the face of such attacks.

### Syrian troops leave Beirut

Syria completed the withdrawal of its troops from Beirut on Monday. The withdrawal follows a long Maronite Christian campaign against the continued presence of 35,000 Syrian troops on Lebanese soil.

### Pilots take to the air

Dozens of Israeli, U.S. and Turkish pilots engaged in mock aerial battles as part of a training exercise over central Turkey on Monday.

The exercise, code-named Anatolian Eagle, was the first set of air maneuvers involving the three nations after they held a series of naval exercises in recent years in the Mediterranean. Israeli jets have been training in Turkish air space since 1996.

### Soldiers may get sperm bank

An Israeli grass-roots group proposed setting up a sperm bank for Israeli soldiers to protect their ability to have children in the event of injuries suffered during military service.

The New Family organization said the sperm bank also would enable army widows and wives of MIAs to have children from their spouses.

"dictates" from Sharon. But the foreign minister sounded a more moderate tone at a news conference about the reported disagreement later in the day.

The government issued a statement saying Monday that Sharon and Peres are working in harmony and that the nation's media — which were reporting the end of the unity government's honeymoon period — are making too much of a minor disagreement. Sharon is not the only international leader who believes the time is not ripe for a meeting with Arafat.

In a recent meeting with U.S. Jewish leaders at the White House, President Bush reportedly said he would not meet with the Palestinian leader until there is a complete end to Palestinian violence.

A group of American Jewish leaders described Bush's promise during a news conference Sunday in Jerusalem.

"The president himself and others in the administration indicated to us that that is the policy," said Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Also speaking at the news conference was media and real estate mogul Mortimer Zuckerman, elected last month as chairman of the Presidents Conference.

Zuckerman said Bush appears committed to his campaign pledge to move the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, despite his recent decision to postpone the move by at least six months.

Zuckerman also reaffirmed the Jewish community's commitment to solidarity with Israel.

His remarks came in the wake of the U.S. Reform movement's recent decision to cancel its youth movement summer trips to Israel, and by expected poor attendance at next month's Maccabiah Games.

Last Friday, Maccabiah organizers announced that next month's Games will go ahead as scheduled, despite mounting concerns over security.

The organizers had been expected to postpone the games for the first time since World War II but reconsidered after the U.S. delegation, the second largest, decided to attend.

In an effort to show solidarity with the Jewish state, Israel and American Jewry are cooperating on a new initiative to send one or two members of every synagogue in the United States to Israel in the coming months.

Dubbed "Operation Joshua," the campaign is the latest effort to show solidarity with Israel. It is being organized by the Israel Government Tourist Office, with the assistance of the Presidents Conference.

In a related development, more than 250 American Jewish organizations signed a full-page ad in last Friday's New York Times, saying they are "going to Israel this summer."

The ad aims to show solidarity with Israel, which has suffered a huge drop in tourism as a result of the ongoing violence.

Referring to the groups' promise, Zuckerman said, "We are absolutely committed to this expression of solidarity."

Monday's drive-by slayings followed a decline in violence over the weekend.

On Sunday, an Israeli soldier was lightly wounded when Palestinians set off a roadside bomb and opened fire on an army jeep in the West Bank.

In the Gaza Strip, Israeli troops apprehended a Palestinian who set off an explosives-laden donkey cart near the soldiers. The blast caused no Israeli injuries, but killed the donkey.

Later Sunday, Palestinian gunmen opened fire on an Israeli army outpost near Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, but did not cause any injuries.

Within Israel proper, Palestinians opened fire on a group of workers working on a highway construction project. Private security guards assigned to protect the workers returned fire. No injuries were reported.

In the West Bank, Palestinians shot up an Israeli car driving near Nablus, but failed to injure the occupants.

Sunday night, an Israeli car carrying Romanian workers was hit by bullets as it passed through an Arab area of the Galilee that has seen several terrorist attacks in recent months.

No one was injured, and police said the bullet may have been fired by Arab revelers firing randomly into the air at a wedding. □



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JTA DAILY NEWS BULLETIN is published five days a week, except holidays, by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Inc., 330 Seventh Ave., New York, N.Y. 10001-5010. For information about how to subscribe by e-mail, fax or regular mail, call (212) 643-1890, or visit our Web site at [www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org).

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## JEWISH WORLD

### Jewish leader may serve Bulgaria

With the victory of former King Simeon's party in Bulgarian elections Sunday, a Jew may become that nation's foreign minister. Solomon Passy, 44, is chief foreign policy adviser to Simeon.

For the past decade, Passy has been a key activist pushing for Bulgaria's membership in NATO. Passy, who maintains close relations with the American Jewish Committee and other Jewish organizations, also is a strong lobbyist for Bulgarian membership in the European Union and for close relations between Bulgaria and Israel.

### No suspect in rabbi's murder

Swiss police released a man held in connection with the recent murder in Zurich of an Israeli rabbi. Police said last Friday that the man is no longer a suspect. Rabbi Abraham Greenbaum, 71, was shot dead on June 7 while visiting Zurich on a fund-raising mission.

### Hungary remembers deportations

Commemorations are being held in several Hungarian cities this week to mark the 57th anniversary of the Nazi deportations of the nation's Jews. Israel's ambassador to Hungary, Judit Varnai Shorer, attended a memorial service Sunday in the northern Hungarian town of Salgotarjan, from where some 2,000 Jews were deported to Auschwitz. Only a handful returned.

### Basque group linked to Hamas

A European separatist group sold dynamite to Hamas last year, according to a Spanish newspaper. But some of the dynamite Hamas purchased from the Basque group ETA could not be used because of its poor quality, according to El Mundo.

### Defaced shul gets grant

A Nevada synagogue that was the target of two hate crimes in 13 months is receiving a \$500 grant to help repair damages.

Temple Emanu El in Reno, which had its front entrance damaged by arson in January — a year after white supremacists tried to burn down the entire synagogue — received the grant from the Boston Piano Religious Trust.

### Film to eye school Shoah project

The story of how a Tennessee public school collected 6 million paper clips to honor Jews who died in the Holocaust is being made into a documentary film. The film chronicles how a deputy principal's idea to collect the clips to teach tolerance in a rural school with no Jewish students became a project that attracted international attention.

## In California, Yiddish guide helps politicians spice up their debates

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — The speaker of the California State Assembly has published a 36-page booklet for the benefit of the 90 percent of Assembly members who are not Jewish — as well as other Yiddishly-challenged politicians.

Robert Hertzberg's "Yiddish for Assemblymembers" contains a selection of words drawn from the *mama loshen* — with examples of their possible uses in the legislative process — along with a brief guide to Jewish holidays.

In a press release, Hertzberg, who likes to enliven the chamber's debates with Yiddish expressions, explained the purpose of his literary effort.

"I want to make sure members don't get farblondjet when us alte kakhkers of the Assembly make a megillah about our bills," Hertzberg wrote. A sanitized translation would read, "I want to make sure members don't get mixed up when us fussy old guys make a long story about our bills."

In a phone interview, Hertzberg said he owed his own Yiddish vocabulary to his grandparents, who came to America from Latvia and Odessa, Ukraine.

Hertzberg said he had received numerous thank-you notes from fellow legislators, who can finally figure out what the speaker is talking about and can begin to use selections from the book in their own speeches.

Here are a couple of excerpts from the booklet:

**Klutz:** Clumsy person.

**Example:** I'm such a klutz; I smashed my finger when I banged the gavel for order.

**Mitzvah:** Commandment; a meritorious act.

**Example:** You did a mitzvah when you passed the family health insurance bill.

While Hertzberg's booklet signals the advance of Yiddish in the legislative branch, its increasing use in the judiciary was noted some years back in the *Yale Law Review*. In an article titled "Lawsuit, Shmawsuit," Judge Alex Kozinski of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and UCLA law professor Eugene Volokh noted the growing use of the word "chutzpah" in legal pleadings and opinions.

"There are two possible explanations for this," the authors wrote. "One is that during recent years there has been a dramatic increase in the actual amount of chutzpah in the United States — or at least in the U.S. legal system."

But, they wrote, "The more likely explanation is that Yiddish is quickly supplanting Latin as the spice in American legal argot."

With the legislative and judicial branches increasingly attuned to Yiddish, it remains for the executive arm to weigh in.

In a hopeful sign, Hertzberg said that shortly after he gave a copy of his booklet to Gray Davis, the California governor declared publicly that he needed the state's energy crisis like a "Loch in kop," a hole in the head. □

## Leading British Zionist dies at 86

LONDON (JTA) — Sir Sidney Hamburger, a leading British Zionist who was known as "Mr. Manchester Jewry," died June 7 at the age of 86.

Britain's Orthodox Chief Rabbi, Jonathan Sacks, described Hamburger as "one of the best loved and most admired figures within the Anglo-Jewish community."

He was also widely respected in the non-Jewish world.

A political leader with a particular interest in health care and the aged, Hamburger was a key figure in efforts to rebuild the city of Manchester after World War II.

The Manchester Evening News said Hamburger was instrumental in "the city's struggle to free itself from the stranglehold of 19th-century ugliness."

Hamburger was active in organizations such as the Manchester Jewish Homes for the Aged and Manchester's branch of the Joint Israel Appeal. He was also a governor of Israel's Ben-Gurion University of the Negev for more than 20 years.

The child of immigrants from czarist Russia, Hamburger was active in the Manchester Council for Soviet Jewry in the 1980s and 1990s, and the Manchester Friends of Lithuanian Jewry from 1997 until his death. □

## NEWS ANALYSIS

**Power struggle in Jewish Agency as chairman proposes reshuffling**

By Jessica Steinberg

JERUSALEM (JTA) — There's a political storm raging at the corner of Keren Hayesod and Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael streets in Jerusalem, headquarters of the Jewish Agency for Israel and the hub of Israel-Diaspora relations.

But it's anyone's guess whether this power struggle will actually change the nature of their sometimes tumultuous relationship.

This "tempest in a teapot," as Jewish Agency secretary-general Ilan Rubin calls it, began when the chairman of the executive of the Jewish Agency, Sallai Meridor, proposed restructuring the agency's makeup.

Meridor, a lifetime civil servant and Likud Party operative, suggests replacing two-thirds of the agency's Board of Governors and one-third of its executive committee.

He wants to drop people representing Jewish political movements and communities worldwide, putting in their place well-known public figures from Israel and the Diaspora.

Given the shifting nature of Israel-Diaspora relations, the Board of Governors and executive committee members must be the "best we can be," Rubin told JTA.

Rubin added that it would be sensible to have members "who are able to help us" and "who have strong recognition value in the Jewish world."

The proposed list reads like a Who's Who of current Israeli government players.

The list, among others, includes Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, former Tel Aviv Mayor Roni Milo and Justice Minister Meir Sheerit.

However, when the mayors of Tel Aviv and Haifa, various intellectuals and business people were appointed to the Board of Governors in the past, none came to the meetings, countered Dudu Sommer, a veteran member of the agency's executive committee representing The New Faction.

The faction is a combination of the secular Shinui Party and the Movement for Reform Judaism.

Sommer, a retired social science professor, is leading the opposition to Meridor's plan.

"They only came if they had something to do in Jerusalem," Sommer said.

The reshuffling is a bad idea, agreed Michael Landsberg, secretary-general of the World Labor Zionist organization, who said he is seeking people willing to be involved with the agency throughout the year, not a small group of elites "to tell us what to do and how to do it."

When the Jewish Agency was established, the aim was to bring the world's Jewish communities closer to Israel and Zionist activity. Following the outpouring of Diaspora support after the Six-Day War, the agency formed its assembly as a grassroots governing institution that would act as a checks-and-balances system to the Board of Governors and executive committee.

The assembly was supposed to be an independent power center, Rubin said, a place where Jewish community representatives would meet to brainstorm and "reinvigorate the troops."

The assembly also was a stage for the world's Jewish fundraisers, giving them an opportunity to express their feelings about

the State of Israel. In the euphoric aftermath of the Six-Day War, money was rolling in to fill the agency's empty coffers.

"They were just Jews looking for a way to express their gratitude and share in the activities of Israel," Sommer said.

Between the 1970s and the late 1980s, that relationship remained more or less static.

Yet the assembly hasn't been a decision-making body for some time, Rubin said.

Nor has the assembly acted as an active checks-and-balance agency.

"During the days when the Jewish Agency got a pot of money and had to decide how to divide it in the Board of Governors, that was one kind of a situation," he said.

"Now we have a situation where we have to persuade donors that we need money. We need people with clout, influence and who will fight for the Jewish people with Israel at its center. That requires a new kind of person."

Since 1971, 50 percent of the Board of Governors and executive committee — 144 members — have come from the World Zionist Organization, the umbrella group for global Zionist activity.

Another 30 percent is comprised of a faction representing United Jewish Communities, the American representatives, and 20 percent is from Keren Hayesod, representing Jewish communities in the rest of the Diaspora.

Meridor's plan would preserve this ratio, but change the identity of the representatives. Eight members of the executive committee and 80 members of the Board of Governors would be public figures rather than representatives of organizations and communities.

To ensure that the various Zionist movements propose desirable candidates, Meridor is recommending an appointment committee of six members.

Three of the committee members would come from the WZO and three from Jewish communities worldwide.

"It's only an instrument for rich people to tell others what to do," Sommer complained. "It's a struggle between plutocracy and democracy in Israel."

Meridor's changes will "leave the framework of the WZO, but empty it of its powers," he added.

To Landsberg, the only detail being changed is who will determine the choice of members.

"How can anyone tell me that nominees of all organizations aren't good and the new process will use the right people?" he asked.

"Who has the right to determine that those serving in the organizations aren't good? Who has the chutzpah to say that?"

"We're saying this is a partnership of two sides, a democratic Zionist organization," Landsberg said. "Otherwise it will be another philanthropic foundation with Israel as beggars, not equals." □

**Israeli novelist donates papers**

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israeli novelist Aharon Appelfeld is donating some of his works to an Israeli university.

The donation to Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, which includes copies of his 25 books and handwritten material, comes as Appelfeld retires from his job teaching at the school.

A Holocaust survivor, Appelfeld deals almost exclusively with Holocaust themes in his work. □