



Daily News Bulletin

Vol. 80, No. 136

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

85th Year

TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

Report: Iran blocked AMIA probe

Iran paid Argentina's former president \$10 million to cover up Tehran's role in the 1994 bombing of a Buenos Aires Jewish community center, according to The New York Times.

Citing a witness' testimony in a leaked secret transcript, the Times reported that the payoff to Carlos Menem explains why the blast at the AMIA center, which killed 85, remains unsolved. [Page 3]

2 Palestinians killed in clash

Two armed Palestinians were killed and two Israeli troops were wounded in a clash Monday in the Gaza Strip. The Palestinians opened fire on an Israeli army outpost in southern Gaza early Monday, drawing return fire.

In the northern Gaza Strip, Palestinians fired mortars at Israeli army positions near the Erez Crossing into Israel, but no injuries or damage were reported. In the West Bank, four bombs went off near Israeli troops operating in Jenin and Nablus, but caused no injuries.

Palestinian university reopens

Israel permitted Al-Quds University to reopen in eastern Jerusalem.

Israeli Public Security Minister Uzi Landau lifted the closure after the university president, Sari Nusseibeh, signed a pledge not to use the offices for Palestinian Authority activities.

Landau closed down the offices two weeks ago, saying he had evidence that Nusseibeh, who is the top PLO official in eastern Jerusalem, was using them to conduct Palestinian Authority business, a violation of the Oslo peace accords.

Israel transfers money to P.A.

Israel has transferred tax revenues to the Palestinian Authority, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Monday.

Peres told Army Radio that in recent weeks, Israel had transferred to the P.A. tax revenues the Israeli government froze after the outbreak of the intifada in September 2000.

Peres said Israel was ready to hand over more than 10 percent of the total owed to the Palestinians if the money is used for its intended purposes, and not diverted to fund terrorism.

FOCUS ON ISSUES

Camp network branches out with program of basketball and prayers

By Joe Berkofsky

GLENSIDE, Pa. (JTA) — It is just another day at the Julian Krinsky Summer Camp at Arcadia University here.

Dozens of teens and pre-teens take a break from their basketball, tennis, golf and creative arts sessions, resting in a conference room, clad in backwards baseball caps, baggy T-shirts and shorts. Some absentmindedly twirl sleek titanium tennis rackets, others fiddle with their \$100 basketball shoes.

Then the camp's namesake asks for some Jewishly inspired messages for a mural they're about to design to show solidarity with Israeli teens, and many hands shoot up. One kid in a cap with a New Jersey Devils hockey logo says, "Ish Echad, Pa'am Echad, Lev Echad," or One Person, One Moment, One Heart.

Camp Granada — the subject of Allan Sherman's 1960s-era comedy song about the quintessential camp experience — this is not. And it's hardly a typical nonsectarian Krinsky camp — camps in the Krinsky network are known for top-notch sports, business and performing arts programs at college campuses in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Illinois.

Welcome to Yaish Shabbat, Krinsky Camps' new program designed to meld serious business, sports and performing arts instruction in a world of halachah, or Jewish law.

"We are trying to show kids an Orthodox Jewish lifestyle in a natural setting," says Rabbi Alan Berkowitz, Yaish Shabbat's rabbi.

Almost all of the 120 Jewish camps catering to some 75,000 campers nationwide feature sports activities, and some other camps for observant children — such as the Orthodox B'nei Akiva movement's Camp Moshava in Wisconsin — are bolstering their sports facilities and programs. But few camps focus as intensely on blending secular and Jewish activities as Yaish Shabbat.

Here kids sleep in dorm rooms, pray daily and spend most of their time on the basketball and tennis court or golf course in intense clinics with top-ranked sports pros. Others work for hours each day with acting coaches and arts instructors, or take trips to Wall Street.

So observant kids who also happen to be serious about worldly pursuits are not forced to make their lives "compartmentalized" as they would in a nondenominational camp, Berkowitz says.

Arielle Vogelstein, 12, of Baltimore, is exactly the kind of camper Yaish Shabbat is designed for. During a basketball practice, she fights intensely under the rim for a rebound, wins a jump ball and coolly grabs some high-fives from teammates as she chews gum and adjusts her headband.

"Everybody is religious, so I can still play basketball and sleep over and not worry about what I eat," she says.

Kicked off at Arcadia's campus this summer, Yaish Shabbat's three two-week overnight sessions are already packed, with up to 75 kids paying about \$1,000 per week for the opportunity to pursue their secular passions while praying, studying a daily Torah portion, keeping kosher and observing Shabbat.

Berkowitz, also the headmaster at New York's Ramaz Lower School, says the camp is no different than home for most campers, where they "live an integrated Jewish life in a modern world."

Ironically, Krinsky — who was raised in an observant home in Johannesburg — never intended to launch a religiously Jewish camp. The one-time world-ranked tennis

MIDEAST FOCUS

New debate on yeshiva draft bill

In a flip-flop, a Knesset committee rejected an amendment requiring yeshiva students to serve two weeks a year in the Civil Guard.

The new vote in the special Knesset committee was held Monday after fervently Orthodox legislators claimed they came late to last week's meeting and missed the vote on the amendment, which was approved, Army Radio reported.

The requirement had been proposed as an amendment to a bill regulating draft deferments for yeshiva students. The full bill is expected to be submitted to the Knesset for final votes later this week.

Terror cell uncovered

Israeli police uncovered a terrorist cell linked to Yasser Arafat's Fatah organization that allegedly was involved in killing Palestinians suspected of cooperating with Israel. Police in the West Bank said cell members killed three Palestinians suspected of cooperating with Israeli authorities and wounded six others, Army Radio reported.

Israel OKs new towns

The Israeli government authorized a proposal to establish 14 new towns in the Galilee and Negev.

The proposal aims to increase Jewish presence in the areas and prevent illegal Arab construction, the Israeli daily Ha'aretz reported.

None of the new settlements are for the Arab sector. Housing Minister Natan Sharansky, the driving force behind the initiative, told the Cabinet that no new land needed to be appropriated for the towns.

Authorization of the project comes after a recent controversy over the government's decision to support a bill permitting the allocation of state land for exclusively Jewish communities. The government later referred the matter to a constitutional committee and revised its official position to oppose the legislation.



Daily News Bulletin

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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.
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pro and second-best Jewish player in the world (he says competing at Wimbledon didn't compare to singing the Israeli national anthem at the Maccabi Games in Israel) hit on the idea out of necessity.

For some time, about 85 percent of his campers have been Jewish, he says, but only in recent years did he find himself making special supermarket runs to ensure that a growing Orthodox clientele could keep kosher.

So Krinsky began asking parents of campers and others in the community if they saw a need for a camp that offered secular programs in an observant framework.

Soon, he says, he realized that "if you wear a yarmulke, and you play golf, you have nowhere to go" for summer camp.

But at Yaish Shabbat, "it's all Jewish — it's so much easier," he says.

Dina Lyman, 20, a junior at Yeshiva University's Stern College for women and a counselor at Yaish Shabbat, calls the camp "a way of life."

A former counselor at Camp Lavi in Pennsylvania, she helps campers talk about the harmful impact of gossip some days after morning prayers and how they can avoid it when things heat up on the basketball court or golf course.

Mixing Jewish teaching and sports "just flows naturally," she says. "To some, this isn't a vacation from Judaism, it's your essence."

For these campers, that's more than rhetoric. Like any kids, they laugh and joke with each as they help the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia's "Israel Now" program by creating a mural showing solidarity with Israeli kids living with terrorism.

They draw messages like "Israel Rules," pictures of hands colored with American and Israeli flags gripped tightly together, peace signs and hearts.

"Rav Kook wrote that we should show love for each other for no other reason than that we're one nation," Berkowitz tells the campers, speaking of one of one of Judaism's leading 20th-century thinkers.

Krinsky, meanwhile, believes there's a bright future for a camp that fosters that kind of commitment. So far the camp has attracted kids largely from the metropolitan New York area, though a few came from as far away as France and Latin America.

But "wherever there's an Orthodox shul, there's my customers," he says. □

Calif. governor calls for crackdown on anti-Semitism at state universities

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — The governor of California has asked the heads of two major state university systems to take action against anti-Semitic incidents on their campuses.

Gray Davis proposed a seven-point action plan in a letter to President Richard Atkinson of the nine-campus University of California system and Chancellor Charles Reed of the 23-campus California State University system.

In particular, Davis pointed to incidents at or near the University of California at Berkeley campus, including an attack on two Orthodox men, vandalism at the Hillel house, an illegal sit-in by pro-Palestinian demonstrators and a spate of anti-Semitic graffiti. In addition, pro-Palestinian groups at San Francisco State University disrupted a pro-Israel observance with virulently anti-Semitic invective, posted blood libels and used their Web sites for Holocaust denial.

Davis' specific requests included:

- a thorough review of all anti-Semitic incidents on all campuses, and actions taken in response;
- an assessment of planned steps to prevent future incidents;
- a review of campus policies on demonstrations to ensure that free speech does not escalate into violence;
- orientation sessions for new students that include warnings that hate crimes will be prosecuted;
- the promotion of such values as civility, tolerance and understanding within the academic community; and
- a review of course descriptions to ensure "that they are forums for intellectual inquiry and not vehicles for discrimination, intimidation and hate." □

JEWISH WORLD

Restitution shake-up proposed

A leader of Holocaust restitution efforts around the world is proposing an organizational shake-up.

Israel Singer, the president of the Claims Conference and the co-chairman of the World Jewish Restitution Organization, is expected to suggest a partial merger of the two groups to make restitution efforts more efficient.

However, some officials attending the Claims Conference meeting in Luxembourg this week worry that such restructuring would not resolve larger debates on how Holocaust restitution money should be distributed.

Israel embassies hard to staff

U.S. diplomatic posts in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv are among the most difficult to staff in the Foreign Service, according to a U.S. government report.

The report, released last month by the General Accounting Office, found that the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv and the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem are among the 98 posts that the State Department considers hard to staff.

On average, fewer than two people apply for each open position in these posts.

The State Department provides a 5 percent pay addition for staff in Tel Aviv and a 10 percent bonus for those working in Jerusalem, according to the report.

'Jewish Jordan' to play in Israel

"The Jewish Jordan" has signed a deal to play basketball in Israel.

According to the Baltimore Jewish Times, Tamir Goodman, an observant Jew, has signed a three-year contract to play with Maccabi Tel Aviv, beginning this fall.

Goodman, 20, left the basketball team at Towson University in Maryland last winter following an altercation with his coach.

The 6-foot-3-inch guard initially drew attention while in high school because he plays with a yarmulke and refuses to play on the Sabbath.

Matchmaker, matchmaker . . .

A group of American Jewish singles arrived in Israel in search of Jewish partners.

The 32 singles are on a 10-day trip organized by the Jewish singles Web site Jdate.com and Birthright Israel, which offers free, first-time trips to Israel for Jews aged 18 to 26.

The American group will meet several groups of Israeli singles during their stay.

The American group is two-thirds men and one-third women, an imbalance that organizers attributed to the security situation in Israel.

Report of huge bribe from Iran could fuel probe of AMIA bomb

By Sergio Kiernan

BUENOS AIRES (JTA) — Argentine Jews are hoping that a report of a \$10 million bribe allegedly paid to former Argentine President Carlos Menem to cover up Iran's responsibility for the 1994 bombing of a Jewish community center here will galvanize efforts to crack the case.

Members of the Jewish community were deluged today by calls and mails from friends and relatives after The New York Times on Monday published the leaked testimony of a defector from Iranian intelligence.

The community has been frustrated by the listless investigation of the 1994 car bombing, which destroyed the AMIA community center, killed 85 people and wounded hundreds.

"Witness C," an Iranian man identified in the Times as Abdolghassem Mesbahi, said in a sworn statement that Menem received the bribe to cover up Iran's responsibility for the attack and deflect the investigation away from the Islamic republic.

"This comes to show, again, that many in Argentina have been working actively to cover up the Iranian trail," said Laura Ginzberg, who lost her husband in the bombing and heads the group APEMIA, a group for victims' relatives and survivors.

"Everything touching the government's role in the case becomes a state secret," Ginzberg told JTA. "They traded with the blood of our loved ones. They made money withholding the truth."

Ginzberg's group marked the eighth anniversary of the bombing July 18 with a ceremony. Demonstrators displayed a large banner reading, "The Argentine government is the local connection to the bombing."

"We were right," Ginzberg told JTA. "They are involved."

After a seven-year investigation by federal judge Juan Jose Galeano, the case went to trial in September 2001. Relatives of the victims have harshly criticized Galeano's handling of the investigation.

Galeano interviewed Mesbahi on two occasions in Mexico City, in July 1998 and May 2000. He kept the contents of the interviews a secret, but last year had to release copies to the three-judge panel overseeing the trial.

According to his deposition, Mesbahi defected from the Iranian secret service in 1996 and placed himself under German protection. He reportedly helped Germany solve the murder of five Iranian dissidents at a Berlin restaurant.

In his testimony, Mesbahi described an extensive Iranian intelligence network in South America. The network's main task was gunrunning and influencing Muslims in the region.

Mesbahi said Buenos Aires was the regional headquarters for the organization and that the Iranian Embassy in Buenos Aires provided support for a cell that bombed the Israeli Embassy here on March 17, 1992, killing 28 people.

The same happened with the 1994 bombing of the AMIA community center, Mesbahi said.

After each bombing, Iran sent commercial missions to Buenos Aires and trade increased exponentially, Mesbahi told investigators.

Iran became a model customer, purchasing massive amounts of commodities and leather products, never complaining about exorbitant prices or asking for reciprocal purchases of Iranian produce.

It was not the only payoff, said Mesbahi, who claimed that Menem received Iranian financial support during his 1989 campaign for president, and after the 1994 bombing received a further \$10 million in a Swiss bank account.

The Iranians were interested in Menem, who is of Syrian ancestry, because they believed he shared their dislike of Jews and Israel and would be sympathetic to Iranian interests, the Times said.

An Iranian official called the Times report "a journalistic fairy tale" concocted by Zionists.

Menem's former chief of staff denied the allegations in the report, calling them politically motivated. □

NOTE TO READERS: Jews everywhere are looking to Israel's leaders to provide a vision for the future. In this special series commissioned by JTA, Israel's top political figures answer the vital question: Where do we go from here? Also included in the series are pieces by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Defense Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Former Prime Minister Ehud Barak.

VISIONS FOR PEACE

Topple Arafat, then talk peace

By Benjamin Netanyahu

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Just a few months ago, America lost thousands of its citizens to terrorist attacks. How can we defeat this international terrorism?

First, we must recognize the difference between freedom and tyranny, between good and evil.

President Bush boldly declared that terrorism, the deliberate attack on civilians, is never justified; it is always evil. Israel and the United States are today waging the same war and confronting the same evil. Like the United States, Israel did not seek this war. It was forced on us by a savage enemy that glorifies in a culture of death, in which murderers are called martyrs and suicide is sanctified.

Second, we must topple the terrorist regimes. An enemy that sends children to die and to kill other children is an enemy that cannot be placated.

An enemy that openly preaches the destruction of our state is not a partner for peace. With such evil, there can be no negotiations and no concessions.

The only way to fight it is to confront it and to destroy the regimes that sustain it.

Once terror is defeated, I believe other Palestinians will come to the fore with whom we will forge a genuine and lasting peace.

Yet the apologists of terror say that the way to end terror is not to fight it but to appease it, to give in to the terrorists' demands. The root cause of terrorism, they say, is the deprivation of national and civic rights.

If that were the case, we would have found endless examples of terrorism in the thousands of conflicts and struggles for national and civil rights in modern times.

But the opposite is true. Mahatma Gandhi did not use terrorism in fighting for the independence of India. The peoples of Eastern Europe did not resort to terrorism to bring down the Berlin Wall. Martin Luther King did not resort to terrorism in fighting for equal rights for all Americans.

These and other genuine fighters for freedom pursued their cause without resorting to terror because they believed in the sanctity of each human life. They were committed to the ideals of liberty and they championed the values of democracy.

But those who practice terrorism do not believe in these ideals.

They believe that the cause they espouse is so all-encompassing, so total, that it justifies anything and everything.

They believe that it allows them to break any law, discard any moral code and trample all human rights into the dust.

There is a name for the mind-set that produces this evil. It is called totalitarianism. Indeed, the root cause of terrorism is the totalitarian mind-set, a tyranny that systematically brainwashes the minds of its subjects to suspend all moral constraints for the sake of a twisted cause. This is why from its inception totalitarianism

has always been wedded to terrorism, from Lenin to Stalin to Hitler to the ayatollahs to Saddam Hussein to Osama bin Laden to Yasser Arafat. It is not merely that the goals of terrorists do not justify the means they use. It is that the means that they choose tell you what their real goals are. Those who target the innocent never protect freedom and human rights.

We can see this clearly every time terrorists come to power.

Those who fight as terrorists rule as terrorists, setting up dark dictatorships in Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan or Arafatistan.

Indeed, Yasser Arafat is the quintessential terrorist.

Both the means he employs and the goal he espouses are illegitimate.

Arafat pursues a goal of "policide," the destruction of the Jewish state, by employing the means of suicide and mass terror.

Arafat does not want a Palestinian state next to Israel. He wants a Palestinian state instead of Israel.

By contrast, any time that Israel has been confronted with an Arab leader who was genuinely committed to peace and spoke of peace to his people, we have made peace with that leader: Menachem Begin with Egypt's Anwar Sadat, Yitzhak Rabin with Jordan's King Hussein.

But five Israeli prime ministers have been unable to make peace with Arafat for a simple reason: Arafat does not want peace.

America rightly defeated the Taliban. And today, in an historic mission that deserves the support of civilized peoples everywhere, President Bush is courageously leading the free world to dismantle Saddam's regime before it acquires nuclear weapons. If Israel is to end terror and begin peace in our own part of the world, we must also dismantle Arafat's regime, a mission equally worthy of support from all foes of terror and all friends of liberty. □

Benjamin Netanyahu is a former prime minister of Israel and an influential leader in the Likud Party.

Russian Jewish group pitches in after floods ravage rural regions

By Lev Krichevsky

MOSCOW (JTA) — The Russian Jewish Congress is distributing aid to families harmed by the most disastrous floods in more than a century in Southern Russia.

Some 50 families in the Stavropol region, Jews and non-Jews alike, are receiving aid from the RJC after the recent floods, which left at least 105 people dead and over 200,000 homeless.

The water destroyed more than 12,000 houses and damaged more than 47,000 in nine regions of Southern Russian and Northern Caucasus.

"This flooding is a terrible calamity for the entire region," said Adolph Shayeveich, one of Russia's two chief rabbis, who visited the affected areas earlier this month.

Local and federal authorities swiftly responded to the calamity by sending blankets, boots and toiletries to the affected areas.

Government financial aid also followed, although it was far from enough to compensate for lost property. Insurance is still a novelty in Russia, especially in rural areas, and the disaster drove most families in the region to desperation.

Only one-fifth of the RJC aid was distributed to Jewish victims; the support provided to non-Jews "has significantly raised the profile and the authority of the Jewish community" with local officials and non-Jews, said Shertil Shaumov, the rabbi in Pyatigorsk, a city in Stavropol. □