



# Daily News Bulletin

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86th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Mediator: Israeli hostage alive

An Israeli businessman kidnapped by Hezbollah in 2000 is still alive, according to a German mediator.

The mediator reportedly was allowed to visit Elhanan Tannenbaum recently as part of an exchange of gestures that included Israel's release Monday of the bodies of two members of Hezbollah.

In addition to Tannenbaum, Hezbollah kidnapped three Israeli soldiers in 2000 — Benny Avraham, Adi Avitan and Omar Souad.

### Iran to Britain: Let our man go

An Iranian diplomat's recent arrest in Britain for involvement in the 1994 bombing of an Argentine Jewish center will harm ties with Britain, Iran said.

Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi made the comments in a telephone conversation with British Foreign Minister Jack Straw, according to the Iranian state-controlled IRNA media agency.

The former Iranian diplomat, Hade Soleimanpour, 47, was arrested last week at his home in northern England after an Argentine judge issued an arrest warrant for his alleged role in the attack at the AMIA community center in Buenos Aires, which killed 85 people. [Page 1]

### Hamas vows revenge

Hamas vowed to avenge the killing Sunday of two of its members.

Israel Radio reported that there were specific terror warnings coming from the West Bank city of Nablus regarding planned revenge for the deaths of Ahmed Shatiwi, a senior member of Hamas' military wing, and another Hamas member.

The two other Palestinians killed in Sunday's air attack in Gaza were members of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's personal security unit.

### Rutgers Palestinian summit splits

A pro-Palestinian group is moving a controversial conference to Ohio State from Rutgers University.

The Palestine Solidarity Movement told JTA it was moving the Oct. 10-12 national conference in a split with the New Jersey Solidarity Movement, which was sponsoring the conference.

Anti-Defamation League officials said it appeared the local, more radical group will stage its own anti-Israel event in New Jersey.

## Arrest in Buenos Aires bombing seen as positive by Argentine Jews

By Richard Allen Greene

LONDON (JTA) — Most Argentine Jewish leaders are pleased with the arrest of an Iranian believed to be connected to the 1994 terrorist attack on AMIA, Buenos Aires' main Jewish community center.

"We are very enthusiastic with the arrest" because it reflects a "remarkable change in this new Kirchner era," said Fabio Kornblau, the secretary of the AMIA Youth Department, referring to Argentine President Nestor Kirchner.

The arrest of Hade Soleimanpour, Iran's ambassador to Argentina at the time of the July 18, 1994, bombing that killed 85 people, took place Aug. 21 in Britain.

Intelligence authorities in Argentina and Israel have long believed that Iran was behind the terrorist attack, which was Argentina's deadliest to date.

As a result of the arrest, Iran has cut cultural and commercial ties with Argentina, and has warned Britain that diplomatic relations will be harmed.

That AMIA attack followed a terrorist bombing in 1992 at the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, which killed 29 people and which also remains unsolved.

When Kirchner attended a memorial service last month for the victims of the AMIA bombing, he said it was a "national shame that there has been no justice yet."

Kirchner ordered the release of Argentine intelligence information on the bombing soon after taking office this spring, reversing an order by the previous Argentine president, Eduardo Duhalde, that sealed the files.

The Argentine Jewish community — South America's largest — welcomed Kirchner's involvement in the case.

It was in sharp contrast to his predecessors, whom Jewish Argentines accused of failing to push hard enough for justice.

One of those predecessors, Carlos Menem, who was president at the time of the 1994 attack and who ran for re-election against Kirchner in elections this spring, reportedly was paid a \$10 million bribe by Iran to cover up the Islamic republic's role in the attack. Menem denied the charges, which were detailed in a July 2002 report in The New York Times.

Some of the skepticism over what many Argentine Jews see as a reluctance to pursue justice is apparent even in reactions to the news of Soleimanpour's arrest.

One member of Memoria Activa, a group for victims and their families that formed after the bombing, said he had little hope the arrest would do anything.

"How long will it take until they let him free?" said the member, referring to Soleimanpour.

Soleimanpour appeared in court last Friday. He will remain in custody until his next court appearance on Aug. 29.

Iran has condemned the arrest of the former diplomat, who had been working as a research assistant at the University of Durham in northern England.

Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi released a statement saying, "The measure has been politically motivated and has been carried out under the influence of the Zionists."

Israel welcomed the arrest and praised Argentina for pursuing Soleimanpour.

An Argentine judge, Juan Jose Galeano, issued warrants for the arrest of Soleimanpour and seven additional Iranian citizens in the week before the former Iranian ambassador was seized.

Argentina demanded the extradition of four other Iranians in March, sparking a

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Arafat taps new security chief

Yasser Arafat appointed former security chief Jibril Rajoub as his national security adviser.

The move by the Palestinian Authority president is seen as another attempt to keep power from the government of P.A. Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas.

### Scuffle near Temple Mount

Muslims tried to prevent Jewish tourists from visiting the Temple Mount.

The Muslim demonstrators intended to hold a prayer Monday at the gate where visitors enter the Temple Mount, which was recently opened to non-Muslim visitors after being closed for most of the past three years. The visits were renewed last week with only minor disturbances.

After police intervention, the Muslim worshipers left the area and the Jews were allowed to enter.

### Soldiers arrest five settlers

Israeli police arrested five settlers as soldiers dismantled an illegal outpost near Hebron.

Police and soldiers dismantled an outpost set up in the area known as Worshipers Way. Some 50 settlers were cleared from the site.

Settlers have tried several times to erect the outpost since 12 soldiers and security guards were killed in an Islamic Jihad ambush on Worshipers Way last November.

### Renewable energy conference

A special energy conference in Jerusalem this week will focus on pollution-free production of electricity. The Aug. 26-28 conference, titled "Cooperation for Energy Independence of Democracies in the 21st century," will draw energy experts from around the world and is being cosponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy, Israel's Ministry of National Infrastructure and the American Jewish Congress.



## Daily News Bulletin

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diplomatic war of words between Tehran and Buenos Aires.

Several former Argentine police officers and an auto mechanic have been on trial in Buenos Aires in connection with the bombing for nearly two years. That trial is expected to conclude before the end of the year.

But Israeli intelligence officials in particular have long insisted that responsibility for the bombing goes much higher — to the very top levels of the Iranian government.

Israeli and Argentine investigators also have implicated Syria, a Jewish security source told JTA.

The Lebanon-based militant Islamic group Hezbollah — which is supported both by Tehran and Damascus — named the bomber in the wake of the 1994 attack.

Israel believes that Soleimanpour and an intelligence officer working with him at the Iranian embassy at the time assisted the bomber.

Both Soleimanpour and the intelligence operative left Argentina a week before the bombing in order to distance themselves from the attack, the security source said.

Iran also withdrew its ambassadors from other South American countries in the days before the bombing, the source said.

Soleimanpour did not speak in court last Friday other than to confirm his name, but the BBC reported that a police officer said he denied the charges when they were read to him during his arrest.

Britain's Crown Prosecution Service now will represent the Argentine government in pressing for his extradition.

A British court will then decide if he should be sent to Argentina or set free. If the decision goes against the former ambassador, he can appeal to higher courts. The extradition process could take years. □

*(JTA correspondent Florencia Arbiser contributed to this report in Buenos Aires.)*

## Little-known museum tells story of Jews in the American military

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — On a quiet side street in northwest Washington, a world away from the millions of tourists who throng the capital's well-known monuments, stands the modest, little-visited National Museum of American Jewish Military History.

"My whole goal is to bring people here, to have people talk about" U.S. Jews who served in the military, said Edwin Goldwasser, a retired Florida lawyer and Korean War veteran who recently was named president of the museum.

Along the walls and in display cases are eclectic collections of photos and artifacts illustrating the contributions of Jewish men and women to America's armed forces, from the Revolutionary War through the most recent wars fought by the United States.

There is a mess kit dating from 1880, a portable ark and altar carried by Jewish chaplains during World War II, a memorial to 18-year old Sanford Lester Kahn, who was killed during the 1944 Normandy Beach invasion, and a large photo blowup of three World War I vintage Jewish female marines, known as Marionettes, being inspected by a fearsome-looking female sergeant.

A section on Rescue and Renewal tells of the concentration camps and the GIs who liberated them — and of the young American Jewish sailors who manned the "illegal" immigrant boats to Palestine.

Archivist Thomas Wildenberg is a font of information.

"Did you know that there were 12 Jewish women in the first officers' graduating class of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps in 1942?" he asked.

"Did you know that Simon Suhler was decorated in the Indian wars and that four Jewish Union soldiers received the Medal of Honor during the Civil War?"

The museum was chartered by Congress in 1958 and is operated by the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America, whose offices are in the same building.

Goldwasser hopes to boost attendance by attracting some of the Jewish school and synagogue tours which now visit the U.S. Holocaust museum.

Wildenberg is preparing a new exhibit of aerial photographs taken by a Jewish Air Force man during World War II. □

## JEWISH WORLD

### France balky on Hamas

France is opposing efforts to place the political wings of Hamas and Islamic Jihad on the European Union's list of terrorist organizations.

France draws a distinction between the groups' military and political wings. The United States and Israel consider the organizations terror groups, and say it's ridiculous to distinguish among their constituent parts.

Last week, President Bush froze the assets of six Hamas members and five Hamas-linked charities and urged other countries to do the same.

### Schwarzenegger's dad checked

The Simon Wiesenthal Center is investigating the Nazi background of Arnold Schwarzenegger's father.

Last week, reports surfaced that the elder Schwarzenegger served as a Nazi storm trooper, and now the center is investigating what his unit did. The "Terminator" star-turned-California gubernatorial candidate long has been a supporter of the Wiesenthal Center.

"Should that record have any bearing on Arnold Schwarzenegger himself? In my opinion, absolutely not," the center's director, Rabbi Marvin Hier, said.

### Israelis still need visas

The United States rejected an Israeli request to exempt Israelis from visas needed to enter the United States.

As a result, Israelis need to undergo personal interviews before they can enter the United States. Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom reportedly asked for the exemption during meetings last month in Washington.

But the rejection came, in part, because the percentage of Israelis who are rejected for visas is higher than the minimum 3 percent threshold allowed for exemption.

### Magazine ranks Yeshiva high

Yeshiva University was ranked among the top universities in the nation.

The magazine U.S. News & World Report, in its annual college rankings, ranked Yeshiva, modern Orthodoxy's flagship academic institution, 40th in national research doctoral universities.

### Goussinsky to remain in jail

Greece said it would keep a Russian Jewish media mogul under arrest until it decides whether to extradite him to Russia.

Vladimir Goussinsky, who fled Russia following a Kremlin-backed campaign against him on allegations of fraud and embezzlement, was arrested Aug. 21 after arriving in Athens on a flight from Tel Aviv.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

### Over opposition of Muslim groups, Pipes appointed to peace institute

By Matthew E. Berger

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Jewish and Arab leaders say President Bush's appointment of Middle East scholar Daniel Pipes to a federal think tank — despite the objections of Arab groups and some congressional Democrats — offers a window into White House policy on Middle East issues.

Bush's Aug. 22 appointment of Pipes, director of the Philadelphia-based Middle East Forum, to the board of directors of the U.S. Institute of Peace comes after Arab American and Muslim groups waged a strong battle against his Senate confirmation. They called Pipes an "Islamaphobe" who made bigoted comments against Arabs and Muslims.

The USIP was founded by Congress in 1984 to create programs and fellowships that foster peace and non-violent conflict resolution. The organization frequently sponsors lectures in Washington on international conflicts. Its board is appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate.

Jewish groups were gearing up to back Pipes in the Senate, saying they rely on his insight and scholarship on militant Islam. In the end, however, no heavy lifting was required. Instead, Bush placed Pipes on the board through a recess appointment, allowing him to serve without confirmation until the end of the congressional term in January 2005.

Jewish leaders say the move shows the White House's commitment to combating the threat radical Islam poses to the United States and its allies. Pipes had warned of the danger of militant Islam long before Sept. 11, and criticized many scholars in his field who he said had become apologists for Islamic militancy.

Arab leaders, however, say the appointment shows that some White House officials hold the same "right-wing" views on Middle East issues as Pipes. Specifically, they point to Elliott Abrams, a senior official on Middle East affairs at the National Security Council, who they say has a track record of public comments that put his positions in line with Pipes'.

Pipes was nominated for the post in April but his confirmation was postponed last month by the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee after several lawmakers, including Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), voiced opposition to it.

"It certainly reached a level of attention and publicity that surprised me," Pipes told JTA on Monday. Major newspaper editorials came out for and against the nominee.

Pipes said he was told the White House decided to use a recess appointment because of its eagerness to fill the institute's board, not because of concerns over Pipes' ultimate confirmation.

Pipes said Kennedy and others misunderstood the writing and work he has done for more than 25 years, at times taking his comments out of context and at other times distorting them.

Arab groups claimed Pipes had said that Muslims do not follow proper hygiene, but Pipes said he was simply describing the way Europeans look at Muslims.

Also, he said many of the comments he has made about radical Islam often are mistaken as accusations against the Muslim religion in general.

"I'm making a fairly complex and novel argument about the differences between religious Islam and radical Islam," he said. "It's an important argument that needs to be made."

Pipes said he will expand on his rationale for the objections to his nomination in a column for the New York Post.

Hussein Ibish, communications director of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, said Pipes is prevaricating when he says that he is trying to distinguish between Islam per se and terrorist actions linked to militant Islam.

"He defaults to putting everyone in an Islamist militant category," Ibish said. "You have to basically agree with his pro-Likud stance to not be considered a militant Muslim." □

## Ethiopian-Israeli kids use music as a way of staying off streets

By Uriel Heilman

TEL AVIV (JTA) — The lights are low and the music is thumping, and disc jockey Jacob Sandaka stands behind a set of turntables with a large pair of headphones draped around his neck.

In front of him, dozens of young men and women move their bodies in time with the throbbing music, dancing and talking.

Cautiously, Sandaka slows the beat and switches one of the records, then gradually mixes the new tempo in with the old one. A friend watches with bated breath to see if Sandaka will make a seamless switchover.

The beats come in at a perfect rhythmic match. Sandaka beams.

This is no typical DJ party.

For one thing, it's at a community center in Nazareth Illit, not a club. For another, there are no drugs or alcohol, and nobody's smoking.

And for Sandaka, 17, this is class.

Sandaka is one of nearly 100 Israelis of Ethiopian background who spent the past year in "Music Is the Answer," a special DJ course for at-risk youth sponsored by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

The program focuses on high-school dropouts and teenagers who have been kicked out of school.

"Music Is the Answer" has helped dozens of Ethiopian-Israeli teenagers discover a new way to have fun, learn and express themselves without turning to drugs or crime, administrators say.

It's also a way for Israel's black minority to connect with its African origins.

"The idea is to help connect them with their roots," says Ronen Heruti, administrator of the institution that runs the program, the DJ Contemporary Music School, in Tel Aviv.

"The idea was to take advantage of the popularity of DJing and the hype that surrounds this subject to start these kids off in an environment that provides an alternative to trouble — and to give them a sense of pride and self-confidence," he says.

The musical component has special appeal to Israelis of Ethiopian parentage, Heruti believes, because being a disc jockey is like being an African beat-master.

Like a disc jockey playing a club, one person set the beat for the group in the African tribal tradition while the others drummed or danced to the beat in unison with him.

"Ethiopians are very connected to music and dance, so DJing is perfect," says Eran Sourjon, the project's manager and chief instructor of the course.

"The idea was not to make everyone DJs, but to find leaders who could be DJs at this point in their lives."

The biggest Ethiopian DJ in Israel today is a man who calls himself Yaya. He enjoys broad popularity among young Israelis across the ethnic spectrum, according to the director of marketing at the Tel Aviv DJ school, Elie Eidelman.

The classes for the Ethiopian students started this year, but the Tel Aviv DJ school has been working on and off with at-risk youth for about four years.

Israelis of other ethnic groups are welcome to join the classes, but this program is designed specifically to appeal to Ethiopian-

Israeli teenagers and usually takes place in largely Ethiopian neighborhoods.

This year, classes with 15 to 20 students started in cities including Netanya, Rehovot, Hadera, Nazareth Illit, Tel Aviv and Bat Yam. As the year progressed, the classes generally shrank to 10 to 12 committed students.

"This was an idea to give them something to do: Come and DJ," Sourjon says. "I developed a curriculum for youth that are not used to sitting in classes. As soon as you come with music, it catches their attention."

The program focuses on music with black roots. Students learn about 20th-century music and black history, from Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X to Aretha Franklin and Stevie Wonder.

Ethiopian immigrants to Israel have experienced some of the same difficulties American blacks have faced in the United States: racism, and economic, cultural and linguistic barriers.

"They already were connected to American black culture," Sourjon says. "I said to them: 'You are an Israeli black culture. You have your roots in Ethiopian music.'"

Sourjon tries to connect hip-hop with Amharic music.

"It's black music with an Ethiopian bent," he says. "I told them, 'You like Tupac and Ja Rule? Well, they took your parents' music and turned it into what you know. Let's take their music and turn it into something fresh and new.'"

The idea of rescuing disenfranchised kids from trouble piqued the JDC's interest.

"The kids in this program are already halfway out on the street. This helps to try to catch them and get them interested in something in life," says Esther Rozman, program director of art and creativity at the Ethiopian division of the JDC's Israel office.

The program also is emblematic of Ethiopian acculturation in Israel.

"It's a search for an identity," Rozman says. In Ethiopia, she says, "they were different because they were Jews. Here, they are different because they're black."

The JDC pays for the project, which costs about \$60,000 per year. Students pay a nominal fee.

"For me, the important thing is that they learn. It doesn't matter what," Rozman says.

"It works. They're very good at it. They start to believe in themselves. They turn into little stars whose friends want to imitate them."

One of those little stars is Sandaka: After a year in the course, he not only spins for friends at the local community center but has started playing clubs for money.

"I am a DJ. I make money," Sandaka says with obvious pride. "It's more of a hobby than a profession, but if something comes of it, I sure will be a DJ. It's cool."

Born in Israel to parents who immigrated from Ethiopia in 1985, Sandaka long had harbored an affinity for hip-hop and what he calls "black music," but he hadn't given much thought to becoming a disc jockey until he heard about the course from friends.

"Instead of hanging around outside and doing nonsense, they went to practice," Sandaka says. "I started going, too."

When Sourjon, an experienced disc jockey, saw that Sandaka was serious, he took the teenager under his wing.

"It's a long process, and that's good," Sourjon says.

"The kids learn that sometimes to gain proficiency you have to put in time." □