



Daily News Bulletin

Vol. 81, No. 168

Wednesday, September 10, 2003

86th Year

TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

Two bombings kill 13 in Israel

Two suicide attacks rocked Israel on Tuesday.

The attacks, one in Jerusalem and one in central Israel, occurred within hours of each other. Hamas claimed responsibility for both attacks.

In the first bombing, at least seven Israelis were killed at a bus stop near the Tzrifin military base in Rishon le-Zion. More than 15 people were wounded.

At least six people were reported dead in the suicide attack Tuesday night in Jerusalem, near Cafe Hillel in the German Colony. [Page 1]

Israel: Targeted strikes won't halt

After Tuesday's terrorist attack at an Israeli army base, Israel vowed that its policy of targeted killings would continue.

"Today's attack is another clear indication that the Palestinian Authority refuses to budge even one bit regarding the fight against terror," David Baker, an official in the Israeli prime minister's office said after the blast, which killed seven.

"It's obvious that they continue to adamantly refuse to even begin to dismantle the terrorist infrastructure in its territory and take the necessary steps to prevent such murderous attacks like the one we saw today here outside Tel Aviv."

The United States also condemned the attack.

The State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said the bombing "underscores the urgency with which the Palestinian Authority needs to take immediate and effective steps to dismantle and disarm the terrorist capabilities of organizations that take innocent lives." [Page 1]

Sharon's trip to India

Indian police arrested more than 100 Muslims protesting Ariel Sharon's visit there.

The arrests, which came in Bombay during one of many rallies against the Israeli prime minister's visit, fueled fears of a possible terror attack.

On Tuesday, Sharon was welcomed with a ceremony at the presidential palace in New Delhi.

Meanwhile, India's prime minister vowed that Israeli-Indian ties will be strengthened in the coming years. Sharon's trip, the first by an Israeli prime minister since the two countries established full ties 11 years ago, is focusing on defense and technological cooperation. [Page 4]

Terrorists attack after P.A. shake-up and Israeli strike on Hamas founder

By Dan Baron

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel had feared an outbreak of terror attacks this week after its failed airstrike against the founder of Hamas and the resignation of Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas.

The fears soon came true.

Two suicide bombings struck the Jewish state Tuesday, killing at least 13 victims and wounding dozens.

The two attacks left the U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan in tatters and marked a new surge of deadly violence in the nearly three-year old intifada.

Also this week, Ahmed Karia conditionally accepted a nomination to replace Abbas.

A suicide bomb attack at a crowded Jerusalem cafe on Tuesday night claimed at least six lives, including the bomber, and wounded dozens.

Tuesday night's bombing, which wounded dozens, occurred near Cafe Hillel in the trendy German Colony neighborhood of Jerusalem.

A security guard at Cafe Hillel, a popular hangout for young people in Jerusalem's leafy German colony, tried to stop the bomber from going inside, police said, but the bomber managed to push his way in.

That attack came just hours after another suicide bomber killed at least seven Israelis and wounded 15 others at a bus stop near the Tzrifin military base near Rishon le-Zion.

In a statement faxed to the Al-Jazeera network, Hamas claimed responsibility for both attacks.

The attack at the base drew pronounced U.S. condemnation.

"We certainly condemn in the strongest possible terms the horrific act of terrorism today," said State Department spokesman Richard Boucher. "We extend our deepest sympathies to the victims of the attack, their families, and to the Israeli people. This underscores the urgency with which the Palestinian Authority needs to take immediate and effective steps to dismantle and disarm the terrorist capabilities of organizations that take innocent lives in order to prevent the peace process from going forward."

Israel reacted in even stronger terms.

"Today's attack is another clear indication that the Palestinian Authority refuses to budge even one bit regarding the fight against terror," said David Baker, an official in the Israeli Prime Minister's Office. "It's obvious that they continue to adamantly refuse to even begin to dismantle the terrorist infrastructure in its territory, and take the necessary steps to prevent such murderous attacks like the one we saw today outside Tel Aviv."

From India, where Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is on a four-day visit, Israeli officials vowed that its policy of "targeted killings" of suspected terrorist would continue.

An airstrike Saturday in Gaza lightly wounded Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the blind, paraplegic cleric who founded Hamas, along with 15 others. Yassin was meeting with other Hamas leaders in an apartment building.

"It's us or them," Sharon told Israel's daily Yediot Achronot over the weekend, referring to the leaders of Hamas. "They are dead men. We won't give them any rest since they have just one goal, our destruction."

Karia condemned the suicide attacks. "Such an act stresses once again" the need

MIDEAST FOCUS

Karia wants mutual cease-fire

Incoming Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Ahmed Karia wants an Israeli-Palestinian cease-fire.

Karia also told the Israeli daily Ha'aretz on Tuesday that in order for him to be successful as prime minister, Israel must make concessions, some of which are called for in the "road map" plan.

Israel must halt its assassinations of Palestinian terrorists, freeze settlements in the West Bank and end its isolation of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, he said.

Israel: Al-Qaida looking at us

Al-Qaida tried to recruit a Saudi Arabian pilot to attack the Jewish state in a Sept. 11-type attack, Israel's army chief of staff said.

Lt. Gen. Moshe Ya'alon said the possibility was particularly alarming because Saudi Arabia has deployed F-16s in northern Saudi Arabia.

Israel is asking Saudi Arabia, via the United States, to move the planes.

Israel kills 3 Palestinians

Israel killed three Palestinians during a gun battle Tuesday in Hebron. In addition to the members of Hamas killed in the battle, a Palestinian boy was also killed.

'Jerusalem ER' wins Emmy

A program segment about an Israeli emergency-room doctor won an Emmy Award.

"Jerusalem ER," a segment by NBC's Israel bureau on Brian Williams' news program, focused on Dr. Avi Rivkind, director of surgery and trauma at Hadassah University Hospital in the Ein Kerem neighborhood of Jerusalem.

NBC Israel Bureau Chief Martin Fletcher said the award is bittersweet. "I feel terrible that people here are suffering and my career is blossoming," he said.

for "ways to end this killing," Karia said, speaking before the attack in Jerusalem. Karia said he regretted that innocent lives were lost "as a result of violence and counterviolence."

Karia, considered a pragmatist, is a veteran of the PLO and one of the architects of the Oslo accords. During the past decade, he has served in several positions in the Palestinian Authority.

Most recently, he was speaker of the Palestinian legislative council.

On Tuesday, Karia told the Israeli daily Ha'aretz that in order for him to be successful as prime minister, Israel must halt its assassinations of Palestinian terrorists, freeze settlements in the West Bank and end its isolation of Arafat.

Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz said Israel would not cooperate with a prime minister who followed Arafat's orders and refused to crack down on the Palestinian terrorist infrastructure.

Tuesday's terrorist attacks highlighted what that infrastructure can achieve.

"To see all these cars ground to a halt, and the helicopters in the air, the dozens of police cars and ambulances is to remember that we have a crying need for an unrelenting effort to stop this war," said Stephen P. Cohen of the Israel Policy Forum, who was in the Rishon le-Zion area when the bombing occurred. "There could be no better use of the president's time and efforts."

If Karia is to succeed, he will have to navigate the political waters better than his predecessor.

In his short-lived tenure as prime minister, Abbas repeatedly clashed with Arafat over Palestinian Authority policy, particularly regarding control of the Palestinian security services.

But in his resignation speech before Palestinian lawmakers, Abbas placed the blame on Israel and the United States for undermining his government.

"The fundamental problem was Israel's unwillingness to implement its commitments in the road map," he said.

He also indirectly criticized Arafat and other Palestinian leaders, emphasizing "harsh and dangerous domestic incitement against his government."

After Abbas' resignation, members of Sharon's Cabinet repeated their calls for harsh measures against Arafat for undermining peace efforts.

The Palestinian leader should "not be immune from anything," Cabinet minister Uzi Landau told Israel's Army Radio. Other ministers called for exiling Arafat.

Israel and the United States accuse Arafat of supporting terrorist attacks and of blocking Abbas' efforts to implement the road map.

Israeli officials have even suggested that Arafat be killed.

Palestinians warn that any successor to Arafat in the West Bank and Gaza Strip would be marked from the outset as an Israeli patsy and that exile would amplify Arafat's power. □

Russian library gets Jewish room

MOSCOW (JTA) — A Jewish reading room will be inaugurated at the Russian State Library in Moscow.

The holdings of the library, known during Soviet times as the Lenin Library, include tens of thousands of books in Yiddish and Ladino, as well as one of world's largest collections of medieval books in Hebrew.

A leading Jewish academic praised the opening of the new facility as offering new opportunities to Jewish research in Russia.

"Until now, anyone doing scholarly Jewish research in Moscow had to leave Moscow to do it," said Arkady Kovelman, Director of the Center for Jewish Studies and Jewish Civilization at Moscow State University.

The new reading room is a result of several years of development and planning by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the Russian Jewish Congress, Moscow State University and The Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

The room also is expected to make accessible to the public a book collection that the Soviet government took from the Lubavitcher rebbe after the 1917 Russian Revolution. □



Daily News Bulletin

Norman H. Lipoff, *President*

Mark J. Joffe, *Executive Editor and Publisher*

Lisa Hostein, *Editor*

Michael S. Arnold, *Managing Editor*

Lenore A. Silverstein, *Finance and Administration Director*

Paula Simmonds, *Marketing and Development Director*

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.

JEWISH WORLD

Jewish groups mixed on Karia

Jewish groups gave a mixed reaction to the appointment of Ahmed Karia, the Palestinian Authority's prime minister-designate.

The Zionist Organization of America was highly critical of Karia, calling on President Bush to reject his appointment because of what the ZOA called Karia's incitement against the Jewish state.

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs echoed the U.S. government's concern that Karia "operate independently of Yasser Arafat and consolidate control over all the Palestinian security forces that will be required to fight terrorism."

Americans for Peace Now called on both the United States and Israel to give Karia a chance. No Palestinian prime minister "will be able to build an independent political base in favor of moderation without significant, tangible results to show the Palestinian people," the group said in a statement.

U.S. Jews marking 350 years

U.S. Jewish groups met to discuss plans for next year's celebration of the 350th birthday of American Jewish life.

The meeting Tuesday at the Center for Jewish History, in New York, centered around plans for the yearlong celebration in 2004, which will mark 350 years since 23 Jewish refugees came to New Amsterdam from Recife, Brazil.

Information about the year's special events, which still are being planned, will be listed on a new Web site, www.celebrate350.org.

The site includes a calendar of events nationwide, message boards for Jewish organizations and general information about the history of American Jews. Celebrations are expected to include tributes to Jewish history from U.S. municipal and governmental bodies, including the U.S. Library of Congress, which is planning a special exhibition.

Leni Riefenstahl dead at 101

Leni Riefenstahl, known for her documentary film that depicted a 1934 Nazi rally at Nuremberg, died Monday night at the age of 101.

Critics said Riefenstahl helped promote a Nazi aesthetic of beauty and purity in "Triumph of the Will" and other films that she made during the Hitler era. But Riefenstahl denied that she was a propagandist, saying her films represented a search for beauty.

Holocaust denier sentenced

A Belgian court sentenced a Holocaust denier to a suspended prison term.

Siegfried Verbeke received Tuesday's sentence for distributing pamphlets for minimizing the Holocaust. Verbeke has refused to apologize for his views.

Despite dismay at Phalcon deal delay, optimism runs high on Sharon visit in India

By Dan Baron

NEW DELHI (JTA) — With police snipers on every street corner, endless traffic rerouting and large swathes of airspace shut down, New Delhi on Tuesday could have been mistaken for a city under siege.

But it was merely what authorities called a "Delta alert" — India's way of showing visiting Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon that it, too, knows the business of security.

Perhaps more than anything else, Sharon's trip to India this week underscored how much security indeed is a business.

As Sharon was whisked from his suites in the palatial Taj Mahal Hotel to meetings in various colonial-era government buildings, Israeli defense contractors were hammering out lucrative deals with Indian counterparts safe from prying eyes.

New Delhi journalists were kept at bay — sometime literally by miles of cordons and barricades. The Israeli media delegation, which was brought in for perfectly timed photo-ops, otherwise had to make do with milling about in the Taj lobby, eyed by strapping Shin Bet bodyguards and Sikh doormen.

"We regard India as one of the most important countries in the world," Sharon said at a reception at the presidential palace before going off to scatter rose petals at a monument to Mahatma Gandhi. "I believe this visit — the first by an Israeli prime minister — will help us move forward."

For some Muslims in India, however, the trip was a step backward. Indian police arrested more than 100 Muslims in Bombay during one of many protests held around the country on Tuesday.

Despite the protests, Indian-Israeli cooperation deepened this week.

On Wednesday, Sharon was to sign several agreements with top Indian officials, cementing bilateral relations between the two countries.

India recognized Israel in 1950, but full diplomatic relations between the two countries were not established until 1992. Non-military trade volume — from diamonds to textiles — has ballooned to \$1.6 billion this year from \$200 million in 1992.

But the real deals were in Israeli ordnance and military exports, for which India has become a prime customer, spending up to \$2 billion a year.

The prize product was the Phalcon, an Israel Aircraft Industries early-warning radar system that, if acquired, would give India a tactical edge over neighboring nuclear rival Pakistan. India seeks to purchase three Phalcons, mounted on Russian-made Ilyushin IL-76 aircraft. Before the trip, both sides had raised hopes of signing a deal during the Sharon visit.

But it was not to be.

New Delhi officials cited reluctance to portray the ex-general Sharon — vilified by India's massive Muslim minority and much of its media — as a sort of overblown gunrunner. And Indian officials did not want to stoke tensions with Pakistan, which has warned that a military alliance between India and Israel could destabilize the nuclear-armed region. The Phalcon deal could be closed next month, Indian officials said.

Israeli officials had a somewhat different account of the turn of events, blaming last-minute haggling by accountants in the Indian Defense Ministry for the delay.

IAI had said the Phalcons would sell for between \$1.2 billion and \$1.3 billion, but in New Delhi one of the IAI's high-level executives grudgingly put the price at \$1 billion.

The United States is watching the deal with interest. Sources in Washington said the Bush administration, which holds sway over Israel's major defense deals, approved the Phalcon sale in May after ascertaining that India and Pakistan had backed down from the nuclear standoff they reached last summer.

The White House was less inclined to give the nod to Israel to sell India its \$2.5 billion Arrow anti-ballistic missile system, which uses Israeli and U.S. technology.

Washington sources said that the Arrow, unlike the Phalcon, would give India such a decisive strategic advantage over its nuclear adversary, Pakistan, that Islamabad could use it as a reason for upgrading its nuclear arsenal. □

NEWS ANALYSIS

Could call for foreign involvement in Iraq spur change on 'road map'?

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Could President Bush's call for greater foreign involvement in rebuilding Iraq spur a change in U.S. policy toward Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts?

It depends on whom you ask.

Bush is seeking U.N. sanction for the U.S.-led occupation of Iraq as a means of attracting foreign troops and money to help with the enormous cost of rebuilding the country.

That's an about-face from the administration's earlier go-it-almost-alone policy, which was welcomed by Israelis and Jewish groups for keeping out European, Arab and Muslim views that are more sympathetic to the Palestinians.

There had been concern in the months prior to this war of a repeat of the 1991 Persian Gulf War, which was followed by intense pressure on Israel from Bush's father.

This time around, several Middle East analysts and members of Congress say, dealing with the Iraq situation leaves the administration hardly any time to establish new policies in the Mideast.

"The main concern of the administration is getting international involvement in Iraq, and that won't involve any changes in the Israeli-Palestinian context," said Bob King, the chief of staff for Rep. Tom Lantos (D-Calif.), the ranking Democrat on the House International Relations Committee.

A U.S. State Department official said the new quest for foreign involvement is viewed by the administration as separate from the "road map," Bush's plan to end Palestinian terrorism against Israelis and establish a Palestinian state within three years.

At the same time, the official said, the administration would continue to pursue the road map as the best path to peace.

Israel's partnership in the war on terrorism was crucial to U.S. interests and it would not be sacrificed, said Stuart Roy, a spokesman for House Majority Leader Rep. Tom DeLay, (R-Texas) a key Bush ally.

"Israel's war on terror is the same and central to the U.S. war on global terror," Roy said. "If we can get other countries involved in troops or financially in Iraq, that's great, but we don't believe there would have to be concessions" from the Israelis.

But the Palestinians are thinking — and hoping — differently.

Ahmed Karia, the Palestinian Authority prime minister-designate, made it clear that "international legitimacy, which is very important to what the United States is doing in Iraq, would be enormously related to what is happening in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip," according to Stephen P. Cohen, a Middle East analyst who met with Karia on Monday.

Cohen, national scholar for the Israeli Policy Forum, an organization that promotes peace policies in the region, said he agreed with that assessment.

The Bush administration and Israel primarily blame the Palestinians for the collapse of the peace process because of their failure to contain terrorism.

European leaders have signed on to that view, agreeing this week to classify the political wing of Hamas as terrorist.

But they may expect a quid pro quo from Bush through greater pressure on Israel.

European and Arab leaders want Israel to freeze settlements, lift restrictions on Palestinian travel and stop targeting terrorist leaders for deadly strikes — all elements of the road map.

But some analysts think Bush can't focus the same level of attention on both the road map and Iraq. Bush is less worried about the road map because its failure can be attributed to the Palestinians and Israel, said Gal Luft, an Israeli colonel who now heads the U.S.-based Institute for the Analysis of Global Security.

In contrast, the U.S. stake in Iraq is considerably higher.

"Iraq is about American prestige," Luft said. "If America does not foster peace between Israel and the Palestinians, nothing happens to American prestige. If America fails in Iraq, American prestige is in danger — it's much more critical."

Judith Kipper, a Middle East expert at the Council on Foreign Relations, said the United States was overextended and was much likelier to expend its limited resources on Iraq. "The same people who do Iraq and Afghanistan do Arab-Israeli, and there are only so many hours in the day," she said.

Still, some in Congress said Israel ultimately will have to face some changes.

A spokesman for Sen. Joseph Biden (D-Del.) said the United States would have to accelerate the road map in order to sustain foreign support for Bush's Iraq policy.

"The stakes here are very high, not just for Iraq, but for the region," said Norm Kurz. "It's not just that if Iraq is left in the lurch it becomes a failed state and a haven for terrorists, but U.S. credibility in the region takes a hit.

"It's not in Israel's interests for the region to become further destabilized and for the U.S. to become a weakened player," he said.

Indeed, there were signs over the weekend that Bush's patience with certain Israeli policies is ebbing. The president's top foreign-policy officials went on television to reiterate their opposition to targeted killings and warn of the consequences of expelling P.A. President Yasser Arafat.

"To kill one Hamas leader but wound nine children or 10 children in the course of this, who will grow up to become Hamas leaders or Hamas killers later, they have to consider the long-term consequences of this policy," U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell told ABC's "This Week."

Palestinians said they saw a link between the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and Iraq, as well as the need for the United States to accommodate Arab views.

"Iraq is related, definitely," Ghassan Khatib, the Palestinian labor minister, told JTA in a telephone interview from the West Bank. "The increasing sensitivity in Washington to the regional requirements may be positive to the peace process." □

Saudis: Barbie is evil

NEW YORK (JTA) — Barbie dolls are Jewish tools, the Saudi government is saying.

The statuesque blond dolls promote the lewd behavior of a "perverted Western world," say posters distributed by the Saudi religious police in schools, mosques and hospitals in the kingdom.

The poster, called "The Jewish Doll," is being distributed by the Commission for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, a government agency headed by a Wahabbi cleric appointed by King Fahd. □