



# Daily News Bulletin

Vol. 81, No. 177

Tuesday, September 23, 2003

86th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### **Arafat: Shrewd businessman?**

Yasser Arafat diverted \$591 million in Palestinian Authority tax revenue into bank accounts he personally controlled, a new report says.

The report by the International Monetary Fund, detailed in an editorial in Monday's New York Sun, showed that the P.A. president diverted the money between 1995 and 2000 to fund 69 businesses.

"All in all, excise tax revenue and profits from commercial activities diverted away from the budget may have exceeded \$898 million," the report said.

Palestinian officials dismissed the report.

### **Chirac meets American Jews**

French president Jacques Chirac met with a delegation of American Jewish leaders in New York.

Chirac defended France against charges of anti-Semitism, expressed concern about Iran's weapons capabilities and said that Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat is the only Palestinian leader who can break the cycle of Israeli-Palestinian violence.

Chirac "did not seem to accept our attempt to make a distinction between the arsonist and the fireman," said David Harris, executive director of the American Jewish Committee.

When France and others allow Israel to be isolated at the United Nations, "you announce anti-Semitism is kosher," Israel Singer, chairman of the World Jewish Congress, said he told Chirac.

Other participants in the 90-minute discussion Monday included top French officials, a delegation of four French Jewish leaders and leaders of major U.S. Jewish groups.

### **New rules for charity hires**

The White House announced new regulations to allow religious groups to receive federal funds for charitable programs. Four new regulations were finalized Monday that would ease religious groups' access to grants for homeless shelters and drug rehabilitation centers, and would allow these programs to discriminate in hiring based on religion.

The faith-based initiatives have been opposed by many in the American Jewish community, who fear they will blur the constitutional separation of church and state. Orthodox groups, however, support the initiative because they believe it treats religious groups fairly and equally.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

### **Going back to school is tough, especially in the wake of terrorism**

*By Loolwa Khazzoom*

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Going back to school is usually tough for students after the summer hiatus, but this year some Israeli students were relieved to be back in class after the summer's calm was shattered by the resumption of Palestinian terrorism.

Teachers now have to figure out how to make their students feel safe as yet another school year begins in the shadow of violence.

"I'm in favor of going back to the routine as much as possible, but we do not ignore what is going on," says Ronit Ben David, principal of Ironi Tet High School in Tel Aviv.

Students need the opportunity to discuss the ongoing crisis, she says. This year the school is offering a 15-minute homeroom period every day, instead of just once a week, so students can talk openly about what's on their minds.

"Students discuss current events, the government and personal things," Ben David says. "Everyone can get information and talk about what's going on, both the facts and the feelings."

Ben David says the homeroom discussions have been successful in providing "a place for students to free themselves and begin the day more relaxed."

Lilach Tsadka, an eighth-grade student at Arazim middle school in Or Yehuda, a suburb of Tel Aviv, says she is glad to be getting back to routine and appreciates opportunities to talk about the summer's disturbing events.

"It's important to know what happened and why," she says of recent bombings.

Sometimes, tragedy strikes close to home, and schools are forced to adapt their coping strategies.

When a student from Ironi Tet was killed several years ago in a terrorist attack at Rabin Square in Tel Aviv, the school responded with what it called a "circles approach": The closer people were to the victim, the more support they received.

The entire school went through three days of special programming to help staff and students cope with the loss, and the victim's class went through a whole month of special programs.

Close friends were offered an extended period of counseling.

Tragedy struck much more recently in a school district in the north. The Sept. 9 suicide bombing outside the Tzrifin military base in central Israel killed, among others, two men from northern Israel.

One was the father of two young students in Pardess Hanna, near Hadera; another was the father of two students in Haifa.

The area school district sent counselors to the victims' families and to the schools to speak with students.

"Students expressed lots of fears that maybe the same thing will happen to their own parents," says Ayelet Yaron, supervisor of guidance counselors in the Haifa District Ministry of Education.

A number of students also expressed anxiety about how to handle the pain of friends who had just lost their fathers.

"The kids cried a lot," Yaron says.

Though Yaron encourages the students to discuss their feelings, she says it's crucial to move quickly to solutions for dealing with fear, grief and anxiety. That's why the Haifa school district provides drama, art and music therapy for students.

Such programs are available for both Jewish and Arab schools, Yaron says.

"I don't think there is a very big difference between Jewish and Arab response," she

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Israel kills Hebron Hamas leader

Israeli forces killed a Hamas leader in Hebron. Israeli officials said Bas el Kawasmeh was involved in several attacks against Israelis, including an Aug. 19 suicide bus bombing in Jerusalem that killed 23 people.

After forcing his way into a local home to escape gunfire from soldiers trying to arrest him, Kawasmeh, who fired at soldiers with his machine gun, was crushed to death when armored bulldozers destroyed the house Monday.

### Morocco arrests murder suspects

Moroccan police have arrested two men suspected of murdering a Jewish man in Casablanca on Sept. 11.

The men are believed to be members of the Islamist movement Salafia Jihadia, which is suspected of being behind May bombings in Casablanca that killed more than 40 people, the Moroccan news agency MAP said. Those attacks mainly targeted Jewish institutions, but the victims were non-Jews.

The report also said police believe robbery was the motive behind the fatal stabbing in Meknes of a second Jewish man on Sept. 13.

### Israeli rabbi to talk with Iranian

One of Israel's chief rabbis says he will meet with Iranian delegates to discuss the fate of missing Israeli airman Ron Arad.

Rabbi Yona Metzger told Israeli police at a Rosh Hashanah toast that he was set to leave for Kazakhstan on Monday, Ha'aretz reported.

Metzger said he would visit Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon before leaving for the Muslim Asian republic to meet with an Iranian delegate, an ayatollah who is a senior representative of Saudi Arabia's king, and Christian representatives.

Arad disappeared after ejecting from his jet over Lebanon in 1986.



## 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](http://www.jta.org).

says. "When there is a terrorist attack in Haifa, Arabs are also affected. They are also killed."

Many children have developed symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of terrorism.

"We see there are a lot of consequences," Yaron says.

The attacks also "affect students' academic achievement. We try to reduce the impact so it will be short term, not long term. We stress returning as quickly as possible to everyday life, to studying, to learning, because we know that once someone is active, he doesn't dwell on his fears and his grief."

The return to the routines of normal life is what keeps many Israelis going during these difficult times.

"It's the most comforting thing to see students going on with their lives even though things are falling apart around us," says Ruti Lehavi, principal of Keshet High School in Jerusalem, a small school that has a mixed religious-secular population of 220 students.

None of Keshet's students was directly injured by the Sept. 9 attack at Jerusalem's Café Hillel, but the bombing shocked the school, which is nearby.

Many Keshet students heard the blast, and two were at the site of the explosion minutes afterward, volunteering with Magen David Adom emergency services.

Teachers and pupils immediately were in contact with each other, making sure everyone was alright.

The next day, teachers made time for the students to talk about their feelings. One ninth grader, Tamar, suggested putting flowers and lighting candles at the scene of the attack.

"Her friends said it's not the right thing to do," Lehavi says. "They said the right thing to do is go on with the routine."

In southern Israel, far from the scene of many terrorist attacks, carrying on with the routine of life seems a little easier.

"We are kind of far from all the problems," says Hayim Eizner, principal of the ORT school in Yeroham, a suburb of Beersheba.

The school began the year with a course offering students security tips. Other than that, Eizner says, "We have a guard all day long for the students, but that's it."

Two years ago, the Ironi Tet school in Tel Aviv held ceremonies after terrorist attacks, and children participated in the services.

"But we are finished with that. We can't do ceremonies every day. We have to try and have normal lives," Ben David says. "We can't live in a perpetual state of grief. It's not normal." □

## Fence mending in Washington

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Envoys for Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon are in Washington defending Israel's security fence.

Sharon bureau chief Dov Weisglass and Amos Yaron, director-general of Israel's Defense Ministry, were slated to meet U.S. National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on Monday to address whether the fence will encompass the Jewish city of Ariel, located a few miles inside the West Bank.

Concerned by Palestinian claims that the fence will impair Palestinian livelihood, the Bush administration has indicated that the United States might deduct the cost of the Ariel section of the fence from U.S. loan guarantees to Israel. □

## IAF outguns German pilots

NEW YORK (JTA) — Israeli fighter pilots "downed" more than 100 German planes in joint exercises with German pilots.

The drills, which took place in Italy this month, showcased superior Israeli dogfighting skills, security sources said Monday, though the sources did not provide figures for any Israel Air Force planes lost.

In 2001, Israeli top guns bested U.S. counterparts in 220 out of 240 aerial training engagements, according to Jane's Defense Weekly. □

## JEWISH WORLD

### Germany gets new Jewish leader

Germany's main Jewish group elected a new vice president Sunday to replace disgraced leader Michel Friedman.

Friedman resigned his post at Germany's Central Council of Jews in July after police found cocaine in his possession and allegations surfaced that Friedman was involved with prostitutes.

Friedman is succeeded by Solomon Korn, 60, who has headed Frankfurt's Jewish community since 1999.

### Bernard Manischewitz dies at 89

Kosher food magnate Bernard Manischewitz died Saturday in New Jersey at age 89. Manischewitz was the last in his family's line to run the kosher food giant B. Manischewitz Company, the Newark Star-Ledger reported. The food company was sold to private investors in 1991 after it had been in the Manischewitz family for three generations.

The company expanded under Bernard Manischewitz's tenure but also weathered a scandal in the mid-1980s over price-fixing for matzah. Manischewitz also was a Jewish philanthropist, serving as president of New York's United Jewish Appeal and of New York's Shearith Israel synagogue.

### The Dalai Lama and the Jews

Brandeis University will give the Dalai Lama a collection of Tibetan art objects. Brandeis' president, Jehuda Reinharz, will present the 138 objects, known as the Riverside Collection, to the Dalai Lama at a ceremony in New York on Tuesday.

The art objects recently were transferred from Brandeis' art museum to Tibet House New York, which preserves and displays Tibetan art and culture.

### Debate date changed for Sukkot

The Democratic Party changed the date of a debate scheduled for Sukkot to accommodate Sen. Joseph Lieberman's religious observance. The debate in Arizona between Democrats running for president now will take place on Oct. 9, rather than Oct. 12, the second day of Sukkot, the Jerusalem Post reported.

### French Shoah victims identified

A German researcher discovered the identities of 86 Jews killed by Nazis at a concentration camp in eastern France.

In the summer of 1943, Nazis performed medical experiments on Jewish victims at the Struthof camp in Alsace, an area occupied and annexed by the German army.

The disclosure follows five years of research by German historian and journalist Hans Joachim Lang. He has informed the families of those killed, the French daily Le Figaro reported Monday.

## At 80th birthday bash, Peres tells Sharon to act, and Labor will follow

By Dan Baron

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Shimon Peres is using a gala bash for his 80th birthday to call for renewed unity and moderation in Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking.

In a speech Sunday honoring Peres, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon offered what many here interpreted as an implied invitation to the Labor Party to join the government coalition.

On Monday, Peres, chairman of the Labor Party, responded by telling Sharon he would have Labor's support if he removed Israeli settlements in Gaza.

"You know we have no future in the Gaza Strip. You know it deep in your heart — it can't be otherwise," Peres said in remarks addressed to Sharon, who was sitting in the audience of the peace symposium at Tel Aviv University.

"You know we have no choice, and a Palestinian state will be established," Peres continued. "If such a state isn't established, we will lose the demographic battle with the Palestinians. Any delay is catastrophic for both us and the Palestinians, costing lives, money, the anxiety of mothers and the sorrow of fathers."

Asked about Peres' comments, a senior political source close to Sharon told the Israeli daily Ha'aretz, "The prime minister has mentioned he is willing to make painful concessions. Peres wants to do everything immediately and Sharon says we have to stretch it out over time."

Peres also had words of advice for the Palestinians.

"If you go on with terrorism, you will be the world's next target," he said.

Earlier in the day, Peres had told an audience of elder statesmen and other glitterati that making peace is more difficult than making war.

"When it comes to war, all of us are united," Peres said. "When it comes to peace, it is very complicated. While war winds up with victory, peace requires concessions. And who wants that?"

It was music to the ears of renowned guests, including Bill Clinton, who on Sunday took the stage to sing John Lennon's "Imagine" with a Jewish-Arab children's choir.

That the two-day symposium-cum-party coincided approximately with the 10th anniversary of the now-tattered Oslo accords was lost on no one — least of all Peres, whose reward for brokering them was the Nobel Peace Prize, which he shared with Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat and the late Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin.

To nods of approval from fellow panelists Mikhail Gorbachev, F.W. de Klerk, and Northern Ireland troubleshooter David Trimble, Peres took issue with Israel's decision this month to "remove" Arafat in principle.

"I believe that it was right to give Arafat the Nobel," Peres said, enumerating the Palestinian leader's Oslo-era undertakings to recognize the Jewish state, abandon terrorism and negotiate a two-state solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders.

Many Israeli and international observers, however, believe Arafat's pledges were glaringly insincere, as evidenced by the continuing record of Palestinian terrorism.

Peres lamented the "feeling in the country that if we get rid of Arafat it will solve the problem."

Peres rapped Arafat for the "mistake" of not dismantling Palestinian terrorist organizations as required by Oslo and its diplomatic offspring, such as the recent U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan.

Yet he dismissed terrorism as a passing phase in the march of enlightenment — "a protest by an outgoing generation not to let an incoming generation take over."

Such sentiments did not sit well with some 200 protesters gathered outside — nor, perhaps, with Sharon, who has made the war on Palestinian terrorism his life's aim.

But Sharon, a sabra soldier who spent decades sparring amiably with the urbane, Polish-born Peres, showed no signs of displeasure. At Sunday's keynote session, he even said he and Peres could one day "work together again" — which many Israeli commentators took as a signal of another national unity government in the making.

Peres bestowed on Sharon a simple benediction: "Do not despair." □

## 5763: STRENGTH AMID STRIFE

**Europe's Jews seek identity independent of anti-Semitism**

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME (JTA) — The past year marked an important milestone in Europe, at least in Jewish terms — 13 years since the fall of communism. Consider it free Europe's Bar Mitzvah.

Like individual Bar and Bat Mitzvah celebrations, the occasion represented a symbolic rite of passage for the more than 2 million Jews in Europe, particularly those in former Communist states.

It provided an opportunity to reflect on the dramatic accomplishments since the end of the Cold War, which enabled a Jewish revival in Eastern and Central Europe, as well as to consider the dangers and questions that still lie ahead.

"We have to stress the anti-Semitism we see and other dangers, but why not also celebrate?" Diana Pinto, a Paris-based historian, asked in December at a conference how the fall of communism had affected European Jews.

Those dangers, of course, were what captured international headlines — a grim litany of global challenges that included rising anti-Semitism, international terrorism, Islamic fundamentalism, Holocaust revisionism, widespread support for the Palestinian cause and a demonization of Israel.

Fallout from the war in Iraq was a further cause for concern, as anti-Semitism often became mixed with anti-Zionism and anti-Americanism, and Jews themselves were divided on the war.

The impact of these challenges and the consideration of how Jews should respond were the subject of intense debate in Op-Ed pieces and at synagogue services, at international conferences and at local community meetings — and around the Shabbat table.

So intense was the debate that it tended to mute any cause for celebration among European Jews. Last fall, for example, in the Israeli newspaper Ha'aretz, writer Judith Tydor-Baumel went so far as to assert that "a great wave of anti-Semitism has washed over Europe, reinstating the taboo on anything that smacks of Judaism."

Attitudes like this made many Jews in Europe bristle.

"We tend to let outsiders set our agenda," historian Michael Brenner, a professor at the University of Munich, complained at one point. He noted the danger of focusing Jewish debate on "the threats to the Jewish world, rather than the Jewish world."

"There is an enormous disconnect between what American Jewish organizations and the Israeli press are writing about European anti-Semitism and the reality on the ground here," said Edward Serotta, an American photographer who has chronicled Jewish life in Eastern and Central Europe for nearly 20 years.

In one of the more notable statistical trends to emerge this year, figures showed that in 2002, Germany outpaced Israel as the main destination for Jewish emigrants from the former Soviet Union. Germany absorbed 19,262 such immigrants that year, compared with Israel's 18,878.

Those immigrants have tripled Germany's Jewish population in the last decade, bringing the number of Jews to about 100,000 in 83 German congregations, up from about 30,000 in 1989.

Even in France, some observers said, overt anti-Semitism appears to be a fringe phenomenon: The wave of anti-Semitic incidents that erupted last year appeared mainly to be carried out by disaffected Muslim youths.

Meanwhile, France's new conservative government took measures to counter bias crimes. France's Education Ministry in February launched a campaign to stamp out anti-Semitism and other types of racism in schools. The plan included the creation of a monitoring committee in Paris, the appointment of a team of mediators for egregious cases and the publication of an educational booklet to be distributed to schools.

Aliyah from France — and Europe in general — was not expected to skyrocket, particularly given the continent's economics.

"We are, after all, a 'homo economicus' like everyone else," said Serotta, who directs the Vienna-based Central European Center for Research and Documentation. "Hungary, the Baltics, Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia are all getting ready to join the European Union, and Jews are far more focused on the opportunities that will avail them than thinking of leaving."

Indeed, Jews welcomed the decision in December to invite 10 new countries — all but two of them post-communist states — into the European Union. That step formally abolished the East-West bifurcation that had divided Europe since the end of World War II.

It also helped validate the emerging Jewish communities in these countries as part of the European and Jewish mainstream.

"These changes in Europe itself highlight the issue of Jews feeling part of an enlarged E.U. as a minority group," Mario Izcovich, the Barcelona-based director of Pan-European Programs for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, told JTA.

It was in this spirit that in November, almost 13 years to the day after the Berlin Wall came down, the European Council of Jewish Communities chose Prague for a meeting of presidents of Jewish communities from 40 European countries.

The ECJC will hold its third General Assembly in Budapest next May, almost immediately after the formal ceremony that will induct Hungary and several other countries into the European Union. The Budapest event is expected to draw at least 700 Jews from across Europe.

Izcovich said the ways in which European Jews view themselves, their community and their role are changing. For more than half a century, the trauma of the Holocaust was a powerful agent that bonded European Jews and fostered Jewish identity.

But with firsthand memory of the Holocaust fading, younger generations have refocused their priorities, Izcovich said.

As European Jewry struggles for its new identity, religious movements, cultural institutions and Jewish communities continue to grow and thrive. The continent is awash with Jewish cultural events, scores of books on Jewish themes and by Jewish authors were published, and communities throughout the continent grew.

On the religious front, Reform and Conservative Jewish movements have made inroads into some countries where the only religious stream had been Orthodoxy, in some cases sparking heated religious debate.

The Jewish Federation in the Czech Republic formally recognized Conservative Judaism as an established religious stream. This summer, the group launched an international job search for an official Conservative rabbi to serve the Czech Jewish community.

Two Reform congregations started up in Milan, and nascent ones emerged in Florence and Rome.

In July, the World Union for Progressive Judaism held its 75th anniversary conference in Berlin — a four-day event that not only demonstrated Reform Judaism's growing impact but also symbolized the renewal of Jewish life in Germany. □