



# Daily News Bulletin

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## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### **Powell on fence, settlements**

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said loan guarantees for Israel might be affected by Israel's settlements and security fence.

Powell told foreign reporters in Washington that the fence "presents a problem" that is exacerbated by encroachment on Palestinian land. Israel recently said it wants to fence in the Jewish West Bank city of Ariel.

"We also have concerns about continuing settlement activity on the part of the Israelis," Powell said. "We are examining the loan guarantee program to determine what we should do about it and how it should be reflected in the actions we might take, either with respect to settlements or the fence."

Israel expects to borrow against \$3 billion in U.S. loan guarantees this year.

### **Jihad members killed**

Israeli soldiers killed an Islamic Jihad commander and a bomb maker in the West Bank. The deaths of the two men came early Thursday morning in the West Bank city of Tulkarm, Ha'aretz reported.

Also on Thursday, Israeli experts safely detonated a car rigged with explosives near Nablus. The interception was the third time a Palestinian car bombing was prevented in recent weeks, the army said.

### **Terrorist groups relisted**

The State Department has redesignated several Palestinian groups as foreign terrorist organizations.

In a memo released Thursday, the State Department announced the redesignation of 25 groups as terrorist entities whose designation was to expire Friday. The groups include Hamas, Hezbollah, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The Al-Aksa Brigade was deemed a foreign terrorist organization two years ago, but its designation was not due to expire this week.

### **Yeshiva student found dead**

The body of a missing American yeshiva student was discovered in northern Israel. Police said Eliezer Zusia Klockhoft, 19, who disappeared two months ago while hiking around the tomb of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai at Mount Meron, apparently suffered a fatal fall in a nearby forest. His body, which was found on Thursday, is to be returned to the United States following an autopsy, reports said.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

### **On anniversary of Yom Kippur War, some warn of renewed complacency**

By Leslie Susser

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Thirty years after the traumatic Yom Kippur War, Israel's military superiority over the Arabs is greater than ever.

That, at least, is the assessment of Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies. In its annual report, the think tank cites the quality of Israel's weapons systems and the U.S. victory in Iraq as reasons for a major strategic shift in Israel's favor.

But the report acknowledges that Israel still faces major threats from terrorism and nonconventional weapons.

And some analysts warn that the report's talk of Israel's superiority and strategic gains could lead to the same type of complacency that cost Israel so dearly in the 1973 war, when Israel was caught unprepared by an Egyptian and Syrian attack and suffered heavy losses in the first few days of fighting.

After the initial setbacks, Israel's ultimate victory — the war ended only after the Soviet Union threatened to intervene to stop Israeli tanks from entering Cairo and Damascus — was as impressive as its success in previous clashes with the Arab nations.

Still, Arab countries consider the war a monumental victory, and many Israelis consider it a defeat of sorts — primarily because it punctured Israel's aura of invincibility following the 1967 Six-Day War.

The shock of the Yom Kippur War left deep scars on the national psyche, affecting Israelis even today. Foremost among them is the anxiety that the national leadership is so locked into a "conceptzia" — a shared strategic concept that determines the leaders' worldview — that they may be misreading reality and ignoring opportunities for peace.

Some now warn that the assessment in the Jaffee Center report reflects a similar, misplaced confidence.

Commenting on the report's claim that Israel is now better off strategically than at any time in its history, the military analyst for the Ma'ariv newspaper, Amir Rapaport, observed wryly that "the last time we boasted that things were never better was in the autumn of 1973."

One of the Middle East's main problems is its instability, Rapaport noted.

"What seems crystal clear today could change totally tomorrow," he warned.

The report highlights the fact that in the recent land war in Iraq, the United States and its allies needed just four military divisions to defeat 23 Iraqi divisions. That, the report says, drove home to the Arab states the huge disparity between the quality of modern Western armies and their own.

That has two major implications for Israel, the report says:

- By defeating Iraq on the battlefield, the United States wiped out the biggest Arab army in the Middle East and nullified the possibility of an eastern-front coalition of Iraq, Syria and Jordan, united against Israel;

- Since Israel has many of the same capabilities as the U.S. military — not just American or Western weaponry, but superior control-and-command systems, real-time intelligence gathering facilities and so on — the allied victory enhanced Israel's own deterrent posture.

Shlomo Brom, a former deputy head of planning in the Israel Defense Forces and one of the report's authors, observes that Israel's standing army is not only far bigger than the American force used in Iraq, but also has many of the same battle systems.

Therefore, Brom concludes, the one remaining eastern-front foe — Syria, which

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Attempted suicide bomber jailed

A would-be suicide bomber who was stopped by guards at a Tel Aviv cafe a year ago was sentenced to 14 years in prison.

Hamas member Rifat Mukdi, who was sentenced in Tel Aviv District Court on Thursday, was carrying 30 pounds of explosives when he tried to enter the Cafe Tayalet last year, Ha'aretz said. Mukdi escaped and fled after guards intercepted him, but he was hit by a car before authorities reached him and arrested him.

### Media want kidnapping news

Israeli media want a gag order lifted on the details of businessman Elhanan Tannenbaum's abduction by Hezbollah. The Israel Broadcasting Authority and the Ha'aretz newspaper challenged the gag order in a Jerusalem court on Thursday.

They cited the public's right to know, given prisoner-exchange talks under way with Hezbollah.

### West Bank cities growing

Housing contracts for 600 new homes are being offered in three Jewish West Bank cities. The contracts issued Thursday are for homes in Beitar Illit, Ariel and the Jerusalem suburb of Ma'aleh Adumim.

Palestinians denounced the construction plans.

### 'Single mother' goes to work

The woman who prompted a nationwide movement by Israeli single mothers protesting welfare cuts will not run for public office.

Instead, Vicky Knafo, who set up a protest camp outside government offices after walking 125 miles from Mitzpe Ramon to Jerusalem in July, will work in a tomato plant one hour from her home, according to Ha'aretz.

Knafo, who recently declared her intention to run for the Mitzpe Ramon city council, said she decided instead to set an example by going to work.



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is weaker in land forces than Iraq was — “would have no chance in a military confrontation with Israel.”

Brom says the war also helped Israel's strategic posture by enhancing American deterrence, underlining the Arab world's fragmentation and increasing pressure on Iran, Syria and Hezbollah to stop fomenting violence against Israel and the West.

But Jaffee researchers acknowledge that some of Israel's new strategic gains depend on whether the United States manages to stabilize the regime in Iraq or whether it gets bogged down. If the latter happens, some of Israel's gains could be wiped out, they say.

Still, Brom maintains that the eradication of the eastern threat provides a rare opportunity to downsize the Israeli army.

There is “a window of opportunity to review the IDF's real needs,” he says.

Brom says the IDF should now be asking whether it really needs so many tank divisions. And he suggests that the IDF could save huge sums of money by shutting down production and development of Israel's own Merkava 4 tank, considered by many experts to be the most advanced of its kind in the world.

The defense establishment remains unconvinced, however, arguing that scaling down land-based forces could encourage an enemy to attack. Thus, despite its cost and the cuts in next year's defense budget, the Merkava project still is on.

The Jaffee report suggests that, given the changed strategic situation, Israel should focus less on threats from conventional weapons and more on terrorism and nonconventional warfare. Israel should brace for terrorism and spend more on developing sophisticated methods to fight it, the report suggests.

The report also sees no end in sight to the Palestinian intifada. On the contrary, Brom says, Palestinian society is in an advanced state of disintegration, and therefore no Palestinian government is ready to act against terrorism.

That, some left-wing Israelis warn, is precisely the type of “conceptzia” that prevents the government from seizing the initiative and making the Palestinians a generous peace offer that might induce them to lay down their arms.

But Brom warns that the Israeli government is not prepared, as long as terror attacks continue, to take steps like dismantling settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

“Only the U.S. could do something,” Brom says, “but its commitment is low.”

The second big issue for Israel is nonconventional weapons. According to Ephraim Kam, Jaffee's deputy director, Iran is only three to four years away from producing a nuclear bomb and is emerging as Israel's “next main problem.”

Kam says Iran is not only closer than ever to nuclear capability, but there is a significant increase in Iran's involvement in terrorism against Israel.

Yoram Schweitzer, another Jaffee researcher, takes Kam's analysis a step further, warning of the threat of terrorists armed with nonconventional weapons.

The war in Iraq did nothing to advance the fight against international terror, he says.

“Al-Qaida still has significant and proven capabilities of carrying out mass terror,” Schweitzer says. “But unless bin Laden the man is liquidated, Al-Qaida will not be defeated. And Al-Qaida could target Israel too.”

According to the Jaffee figures, Israel has 538 warplanes, nearly 4,000 tanks, 8,000 armored vehicles, about 630,000 soldiers, 1,348 field guns and 236 helicopters.

Syria can match this for size, but not for quality. Egypt, which also has Western weaponry, lacks Israel's sophisticated command-and-control and intelligence systems.

Ironically, the Jaffee report came out just days before the 30th anniversary of the 1973 war against Egypt and Syria.

Then, too, the prevailing military theory was that Israel was far stronger than any combination of its enemies. The “conceptzia” on which Israel based its security thinking then was that no country would dare attack Israel because of its clear superiority.

The initial Syrian and Egyptian gains in the war came partly because their massive joint attack, on the holiest day in the Jewish calendar, took Israel by surprise.

Israeli intelligence officials had warned of the possibility that a war was brewing, but the country's leaders had been told by the United States not to launch a pre-emptive attack, as they had done in 1967.

In any case, Rapaport notes, the war in Iraq — from which Israel supposedly has derived so much benefit — is not yet over. “What message will be given if the U.S. is forced to flee from Iraq with its tail between its legs, as it did from Vietnam?” he asks.

For Israel, the message could be dire. □

## JEWISH WORLD

### European lawmakers to Mideast

More than 150 European legislators are slated to head to the Middle East later this month.

The visit is part of an initiative launched by a new pro-Israel group of European lawmakers. The legislators, representing all the E.U. members and candidate countries as well as Norway and Switzerland, will travel to the Middle East on Oct. 25-28, a French lawmaker, Francois Zimeray, announced in a statement in Paris on Wednesday.

Titled "A Moment for Peace," the visit will include meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, King Abdullah of Jordan and the Palestinian Authority's prime minister-designate, Ahmed Karia.

### Forum to focus on rights

A conference reviewing progress made by 55 countries in combating human rights abuses begins next week. Organized by the Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe, the annual meeting is set to draw more than 500 international experts, government representatives and human rights activists.

The Oct. 6-17 conference will take place in Warsaw.

### Fund honors slain doctor

An Israeli hospital launched a fund in honor of an emergency-room physician killed last month in a suicide bombing.

The American Committee for Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem created the fund to honor Dr. David Applebaum, a U.S.-born physician who was among seven people, including his daughter, killed in a Sept. 9 attack in Jerusalem. Applebaum directed Shaare Zedek's department of emergency medicine. More information on the fund is available at [www.acsz.org](http://www.acsz.org), or at 800-346-1592.

### Web site creator charged

The orchestrator of an extremist Jewish Web site is on trial in Paris for alleged incitement to racial hatred. Alexandre Attali, 29, the founder of [www.amisraelhai.com](http://www.amisraelhai.com), an extreme-right pro-Israel site, is accused of compiling a list of some 150 people whom he accused of supporting boycotts against Israel, and placing Stars of David next to those he believed to be Jewish. In an adjoining piece, Attali allegedly suggested that they "be beat over the head with a baseball bat."

### Foundation opens D.C. office

A group working to improve interethnic relations is opening an office in Washington. The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, headed by Rabbi Marc Schneier, marked the opening of its Interethnic Congressional Office on Thursday.

## Following Sharon visit, Israel, India prepare for special forces exercise

By T.C. Malhotra

NEW DELHI, India (JTA) — Seeking to strengthen defense ties following Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's visit here last month, India and Israel are planning to hold joint military exercises for their elite special forces.

To prepare for the exercises — which would be a first between the two countries if the plans come to fruition — a team of Indian special-forces officers would visit Israel for training in the next few weeks.

Based on their assessment, a schedule for joint training and exercises in India then would be drawn up, government sources said.

Neither Israel nor India has confirmed the joint exercises. However, government sources said the decision for the exercise was taken shortly before Sharon paid a state visit to New Delhi in September.

The visit, which was considered an important symbol of growing Israel-India ties against the backdrop of the shared threat of Islamic terrorism, was cut short by two suicide bombings in Israel on Sept. 9.

The government sources said India would stand to gain from the proposed exercise, as its commandos would be able to learn the latest techniques and use of sophisticated equipment for surgical strikes, with minimum casualties to the Indian teams.

Indian troops previously have carried out joint military exercises with U.S. and German forces. In addition, media reports suggest that Israel reportedly is willing to sell specialized weapons and equipment — including satellite-guided communications systems and surveillance sets — to the Indian special forces.

Over the past decade, Israel has started to fill the gap left by the collapse of the former Soviet Union as a key supplier of military equipment to India.

Israel and India re-established diplomatic ties in 1992, but they have grown much closer since 1998, when most world powers — including the United States, Britain, France and Germany — imposed an arms embargo on India after it became a nuclear power. The United States and other countries later lifted the sanctions.

With both Israel and India regular targets of Islamic terrorists, the exchange of information on various security-related concerns also has strengthened ties between the two democracies.

According to one Indian analyst, the joint special-forces exercise is the next logical step in the growing defense collaboration, and it will prove to be mutually beneficial.

"As the war against terrorism extends itself to new theaters across the world, the unique skills that each of these forces have acquired within their own local conflicts will complement each other and help strengthen the force capabilities of both countries," Indian security expert Ajai Sahni told JTA.

"Such cooperation would include the possibility of setting up or expanding sophisticated defense and dual-use production facilities in India, with Israeli know-how, which could provide Israel with an additional assured source of weapons and munitions in times of crisis," he said.

"It now is increasingly clear that India is veering away from its past and uncritical support for the Arab cause, and is now moderating its position by qualifying its support for a Palestinian state with demands for the cessation of terrorism directed against Israel," Sahni added. □

## JDate weds UJC

NEW YORK (JTA) — The largest online Jewish dating service has partnered with the federation system. Jewish singles can volunteer for social-service programs through the United Jewish Communities, which represents 156 Jewish federations and 400 independent networks of social-service providers.

"Partnering with UJC is a great way for JDate members to give back to the community while enjoying the opportunity to meet other like-minded Jewish singles," JDate co-founder Alon Carmel said. □

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES****30 years later, Israel is still dealing with Yom Kippur War***By Dan Baron*

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Dashing in his eyepatch and brimmed general's cap, Moshe Dayan was disgraced by a strategic oversight that cost his country dearly.

Dayan's lowest moment has been immortalized in "Silence of the Sirens," a television drama broadcast in Israel on Wednesday night in honor of the 30th anniversary of the Yom Kippur War.

That the late defense minister is played by his bohemian actor son Assi is, perhaps, an irony appropriate to a country where the cataclysmic conflict with Egypt and Syria is still discussed in the hushed, hurtful tones of children robbed of their innocence.

"Having Assi Dayan in the role of his father is significant," "Silence of the Sirens" screenwriter Motti Lerner said. "No less significant is the opportunity to examine, in public, how Israel managed to get so badly taken by surprise."

"Silence of the Sirens" focuses on the two weeks leading up to the outbreak of hostilities on Oct. 6, 1973, when Dayan and Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir ignored intelligence warnings about Egyptian forces massing on the Suez Canal and similar Syrian designs for the Golan Heights.

The decision meant Jerusalem was fatally slow to respond to the combined onslaught that caught Israelis at sleep or at prayer on Judaism's holiest day.

In the 18 days it took to turn the war around, some 2,300 Israeli servicemen died.

Though the war's final outcome was a resounding military victory for Israel, the early setbacks constituted a blow to national morale unparalleled since the 1948 War of Independence.

"It was about as shocking as an act of man can be, especially coming on Yom Kippur," said Haifa engineer Pinhas Herzog, who saw action on both fronts as a paratrooper platoon commander.

"Even after we had regrouped and begun fighting back, we still knew we would be paying the price of our lack of preparedness for years to come."

The ordeal bred the inevitable conspiracy theories — such as that Israel, having launched a pre-emptive strike to begin the 1967 Six-Day War, had been ordered by the United States to fight from a position of pure retaliation and self-defense to maintain international support.

But official opinions have mellowed since, with even Prime Minister Ariel Sharon — then a maverick reserve general and division commander who forced an Egyptian cease-fire by leading Israeli forces across the Suez Canal — saying the war improved the Jewish state's strategic position.

"Clearly, Israel exists in a region that refuses to reconcile itself to our presence," Sharon said in a television interview. "But at least the Arabs learned in 1973 that they cannot beat us militarily."

Indeed, historians argue that the surprise Suez attack — celebrated to this day as a victory in Cairo's October War Museum — restored Egyptian pride battered in 1967 and thus paved the way to the 1978 Camp David peace treaty.

At a Tel Aviv symposium marking Shimon Peres' 80th birthday last month, the Israeli elder statesmen took the theory further, telling his audience that the Yom Kippur War ushered in

an era of Middle East peacemaking that culminated with the Oslo accords. But Lt. Gen. Moshe Ya'alon, who as the Israeli army's chief of staff has seen firsthand how quickly Oslo deteriorated into the bloodshed of the Palestinian intifada, took a somewhat different tack.

Just as war "brought Egypt, the biggest and most important Arab nation, to realize that the only way out of the imbroglio the Arabs marched into in 1948 was negotiations on the basis of recognizing Israel," so "will it be in the conflict with the Palestinian Authority," Ya'alon told Yom Kippur War veterans on Tuesday.

Of course, there is a world of difference between the sprawling Sinai Desert tank battles and hand-to-hand skirmishes in the Golan 30 years ago, and today's often messy sweeps of West Bank and Gaza terrorist strongholds.

Israel's military intelligence, like its civilian adjuncts the Mossad and Shin Bet, has been bolstered massively since the Yom Kippur debacle and keeps a close eye on restive neighbors.

But all that is not enough, it seems, to stop Palestinian teenagers donning explosives belts and blowing up Israeli restaurants and buses.

According to David Makovsky of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, it comes down to geography rather than military prowess.

"When the Egyptians and the Israelis made peace, they suddenly had a hundred miles of desert between them. They signed a treaty and, for the most part, they never really saw each other again," Makovsky told *The New Yorker* magazine.

"But with the Israelis and the Palestinians, the quality of the relationship after they make a deal is at the core of everything, as with a marriage," he said. "And when the Israelis begin to think that what the Palestinians really intend is not land-for-peace but land-for-war, well, it doesn't bode well for the marriage."

Still, Israelis who shunned the Sinai after the intifada erupted are flocking back once more to the shifting sands and tranquil beaches that have forgotten the din of war.

At the Taba border crossing, Egyptian border officials who once scowled at Israeli passports now are happy about the return of tourism.

Many of the luxury hotels in Sharm el-Sheik or Nuwaibe even offer Israeli television by satellite, so visitors over these High Holidays can, if they wish, enjoy "Silence of the Sirens." □

**Middle East film canceled**

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A pro-Palestinian film due to be shown at a French movie theater was canceled following pressure from the local city council.

Local Palestinian solidarity groups had organized a screening of "Jenin, Jenin," by Israeli Arab producer Mohammed Bakri, in the city of Mulhouse on Thursday. It was to be followed by a debate on the theme "Israel-Palestine — Which Issues," the regional daily *Dernieres Nouvelles d'Alsace* reported.

The deputy mayor of Mulhouse, Michel Samuel-Weis, said he had asked the theater to cancel the screening following meetings with the local Jewish community and what he described as the film's "lack of balance." He had also suggested that Bakri's film be shown together with another film about the battle in the camp, but organizers had refused the offer. □