



IN THE NEWS

Israel, Palestinians talk security handover

Israel's defense minister and a Palestinian security official met to discuss the handover of security in five West Bank cities.

The meeting between Shaul Mofaz and Mohammed Dahlan was the second in three days.

Israel is expected to turn over to the Palestinian Authority security in Jericho, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Tulkarm and Kalkilya.

Israel pledges to bring Ethiopian Jews

Israel pledged to bring all Jews currently in Ethiopia to the Jewish state by 2007.

Starting in June, Israel will double the number of Falash Mura — descendants of Jews who converted to Christianity but who have since returned to Judaism — granted entry to the Jewish state, to 600 a month.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon announced the decision Monday after meeting with the chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel, Sallai Meridor; Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu; Absorption Minister Tzipi Livni; and Interior Minister Ophir Pines-Paz.

The Jewish Agency, which had lobbied to double the monthly rate of Falash Mura aliyah, will take over the compounds where some 15,000 Falash Mura live while waiting to immigrate from Addis Ababa and Gondar.

The compounds currently are run by the North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry.

Rice meets with Weisglass

Condoleezza Rice met with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's top adviser.

The U.S. secretary of state met with Dov Weisglass on Monday to discuss her visit to the region next week, Israel's plans to increase security cooperation with the Palestinians and the possibility of coordinating this year's planned Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

WORLD REPORT

PUBLISHED WEEKDAYS BY JTA—THE GLOBAL NEWS SERVICE OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE · WWW.JTA.ORG

As Jewish groups' needs evolve, professionals seek new training

By CHANAN TIGAY

NEW YORK (JTA) — Shuli Passow had been working for a year and a half in the human resources department of a large investment bank in New York, but at the end of 2001 she decided it was time for a change.

She had enjoyed the job and appreciated the hands-on management and administrative experience it offered her. But Passow felt she just didn't belong in a large corporation.

"My experience there confirmed for me that I didn't want to be in that industry," said Passow, 28. But "maybe there was some way of bringing those skills into an environment that was more meaningful."

Fast forward to 2003. Based on a newspaper ad and a tip from a friend, Passow decided to enroll in the Wagner-Skirball program at New York University. It's a dual-degree course in which students work toward two master's degrees at once — one in public administration, specializing in nonprofit management, and the other in Hebrew and Judaic studies.

"I knew I wanted to do something that would give me the management and administrative skills and that would prepare me for work in the Jewish world as well," she said. "This was kind of the perfect fit."

Passow, who is now about halfway through the program, isn't alone in wanting to meld Jewish learning with serious training in administration. Several top-flight American universities now offer dual-degree programs that are training a small number of students in both fields.

The appearance of these programs re-

fects the evolving nature of Jewish organizational life, Jewish communal leaders say. They also come at a time when many Jewish communal professionals speak — not for attribution — of a leadership crisis in Jewish organizational life.

"The institutions of the American Jewish community have been in a process of maturing, and have become much more professional in what they want and expect of their professional leaders," said Robert Chazan, who co-directs the NYU program with Roy Sparrow.

Chazan said the program "has been greeted with a lot of community enthusiasm," and he expects an increasing number of universities to adopt the model.

Two or three decades ago, a master's in social work was the degree of choice among Jewish professionals, by an overwhelming margin. But that route is no longer sufficient, said Allan Finkelstein, president of the JCC Association of North America.

"Today, to lead an agency or run a major department or a major program anywhere, you need to have another skill set," Finkelstein said.

That's where the dual-degree programs come in.

"Very often, particularly when there are searches for the top executives, a lot of the lay people say, 'We have to go outside of the field' " and hire someone with management training, said Susan Shevitz, director of the Hornstein Program in Jewish Communal Service at Brandeis University.

"We want to say that it's true, you do need excellent managerial skills if you're going

Continued on page 2

BEHIND
THE
HEADLINES

■ Programs combine training in management skills and Jewish knowledge

Continued from page 1

to come in at the mid or top levels of any of these organizations," she said. "But what you lose if you go just with MBAs is what is unique about Jewish communal organizations — that is, a basis in Jewish knowledge and values. Jewish communal organizations provide services through the lens of their Jewish identities and the history, values and culture of the Jewish people. Professionals in this field need grounding in both management and Jewish communal realities."

Founded in 2001, NYU's program, which takes two and a half to three years to complete, combines graduate studies in the Wagner Graduate School of Public Service and the Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies, granting students degrees from both.

There now are some 25 students in the NYU program, taking courses such as financial management, managing non-profits, public policy, microeconomics and statistics, along with classes on historical perspectives of the Jewish community, the contemporary American Jewish community and Hebrew.

Some students are recent college graduates while others are looking for a career change. Students gain practical experience from doing internships and projects with Jewish organizations as a component of the program.

Similar programs exist elsewhere in the United States. Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion/Los Angeles offers five dual-degree programs in coop-

eration with the University of Southern California. They include an M.A./MBA course between HUC's School of Jewish Communal Service and the Marshall School of Business, and an M.A./MPA program with USC's School of Policy, Planning and Development.

HUC began offering some of these dual programs in the 1970s, though the joint M.A./MBA course is only about five years old. The M.A./MPA program also includes 24 months of supervised fieldwork.

Brandeis' Heller School for Social Policy and Management offers a joint-degree program in conjunction with the university's Hornstein Program in Jewish Communal Service. About five students are enrolled in the M.A./MBA course, which takes 27 months, including summers.

"The challenge remains to recruit and retain the best and the brightest," said John Ruskay, executive vice president and CEO of UJA-Federation of New York. "I think the efforts to combine MBA, MPA, and Jewish studies — to offer students the opportunity to deepen their training in management and public affairs and Jewish studies — is a positive step and will help strengthen us in the future," he said.

Steven Windmueller, who directs the HUC-JIR School of Jewish Communal

Service, said dual-degree programs allow students to compete more effectively for jobs in the organizational world.

"We want them to have the capacity to function in the marketplace with the knowledge of not just how the Jewish community has operated, but how American society, especially not-for-profit organizations, have functioned," he said. "The key here is to be competitive. Hopefully graduates will understand not only the Jewish world, but the not-for-profit sec-

'Professionals in this field need grounding in both management and Jewish communal realities.'

Susan Shevitz
Brandeis University official

tor as well."

He added, "The graduates of these programs are federation executives, agency professionals, fund-raisers, program professionals, synagogue administrators. A whole array."

They also may be Hillel directors. NYU's Sparrow says a student named Adina Danzig came up with the idea for the dual-degree program while she was shuttling between master's courses at the Jewish Theological Seminary and the Wagner School; today, Danzig is executive director of Stanford University's Hillel.

"As a Hillel director, I spend a lot of time doing administration," Danzig said. "It's really important that I can also be an educated Jewish leader and teacher at moments." ■

JTA
WORLD
REPORT

Howard E. Friedman
President

Mark J. Joffe
Executive Editor and Publisher

Lisa Hostein
Editor

Michael S. Arnold
Managing Editor

Lenore A. Silverstein
Finance and Administration Director

JTA WORLD REPORT is published five days a week, except holidays, by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Inc., 330 Seventh Ave., New York, N.Y. 10001-5010. For more 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.
© JTA. Reproduction only with permission.

Author warned against Israel

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The author of a best-selling book on U.S. history once described Bush administration policy as "war after war against the enemies of Israel, at America's expense."

Thomas Woods' "The Politically Incorrect Guide to American History" is eighth on The New York Times paperback nonfiction bestseller list after being touted by conservative hosts on Fox and MSNBC.

Woods is a founding member of the neo-Confederate "League of the South," a group whose annual conference is listed

as an "extremist event" by the Anti-Defamation League.

Woods published a screed on the League of the South Web site in late 2002 against plans for war in Iraq, saying it served Israel's interests and not those of the United States.

He suggested that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon "may well intend to use the distraction that war with Iraq would provide as an opportunity to carry out the ethnic cleansing of the two million Palestinian Arabs living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza." ■

Some Israelis vote in Iraqi elections

By DAN BARON

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Iraq's first democratic election is over, but the impact of the Iraqi vote on Israel remains to be seen.

Jacky Hugi crossed borders, both international and cultural, to take part in Iraq's first democratic election.

But don't expect the Israeli journalist, who cast his absentee ballot in Amman, Jordan, to reveal which of the 111 parties he backed in Sunday's landmark vote.

"I am very hopeful that this is a new day for Iraq, and its relations with Israel," Hugi, the son of Iraqi Jewish immigrants, told JTA.

"But I think it would be unwise at this point to go public with which government I, an Israeli, want to see installed in Baghdad. I don't want to prejudice any Iraqis against this-or-that party even before the election is over," said the Ma'ariv correspondent.

With their country still not officially recognized by Iraq, only a handful of some 244,000 eligible Israelis voted as absentees, in Jordan, the United States and Britain.

But the election provoked widespread interest in a Jewish state where optimism at the fall of Saddam Hussein has been re-

placed with unease at seeing Iraq descend into sectarian fighting and jihadi terrorism.

"It may have been too early for us to have declared the Eastern Front pacified," said a senior Israeli official on condition of anonymity, referring to earlier assessments that with a peace deal in place with Jordan and a U.S.-friendly administration in Baghdad, Israel was no longer at risk of invasion from the east.

Avigdor Lieberman, a lawmaker with the right-wing National Union bloc, has warned that a triumph by Iraq's Shi'ite majority could link them to anti-Israel coreligionists in Iran and the Lebanese militia Hezbollah.

"We have to be prepared for an even greater strategic threat, a 'Shi'ite belt' all the way from the gulf to the Mediterranean," Lieberman said at a security conference in Herzliya last month.

But a veteran Arab affairs analyst gave a slightly rosier prediction for post-vote Iraq.

"If day-after wisdom prevails, this could

lead the majority Shi'ite parties to get over past hatreds and incorporate representatives of the Sunni minority in political life,"

said Smadar Peri of Yediot Achronot. "If the Sunnis are not brought in, Iraq will not know a day of quiet."

Preliminary results were expected early in the week, with final results known in seven to 10 days.

With Iraqis turning out to vote despite an unprecedented wave

of terror, at least one Israeli exulted in the very act of a free vote — which, according to President Bush's new favorite book, Natan Sharansky's "The Case for Democracy," is a crucial step toward stability and security.

"Everything seemed like a particularly hallucinatory dream," said Shahar Smooha of Ha'aretz, like Hugi an Iraqi expatriate who cast a ballot in Amman.

"Only my black finger reminds me what a celebration of democracy I took part in a few hours ago," he said, describing the indelible ink used to prevent voter fraud. ■

'It may have been too early for us to have declared the Eastern Front pacified.'
Senior Israeli official

Israeli satirist, filmmaker Ephraim Kishon dies at 80

By DAN BARON

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Unbowed by the horrors of the Holocaust, Ephraim Kishon immigrated to Israel and became his adopted country's most beloved humorist.

But Kishon died in semi-exile Saturday at 80, driven back to Europe by the same outsider sensibility that made for such great Israeli satire.

"With a sharp wit, both favorably and critically, Kishon set before us an exact mirror from which the ups and downs, fears, arts and opinions of Israeli culture could be seen," Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said in a eulogy broadcast over Israeli media Sunday.

"The painful fact was that for many years Kishon felt rejected by the Israeli cultural establishment," Sharon told his Cabinet. "But his monumental cultural works remain with us and with future generations. Thus we will remember him."

"He often said there was a clique of sabras who were against him because he was from Hungary," wrote actor Haim Topol in Yediot Achronot.

Kishon died of a heart attack in his second home in Switzerland, where he had enjoyed material comfort and renown earned from books that were translated into 37 languages.

A Hungarian who survived Nazi labor camps, he always enjoyed the irony that his urbane, dry humor — much of it riffs on family life — had found a ready audience in Germany.

They used to ask him how he could succeed in Germany of all places, his son, Raphael Kishon, told Army Radio. "He would reply: 'It's a wonderful feeling to know that the children of my executioners admire me and read my books.'"

Soon after arriving in Israel in 1949, Kishon taught himself Hebrew and achieved such virtuosity that he was given the satire column in Ma'ariv. Several successful books followed, including "So Sorry We Won!" in which Kishon mounted a spirited defense of Israel's triumphs in the 1967 Six-Day War, which were already drawing criticism in some parts of Europe.

In the 1960s, he began working in Israel's cinema and scored major coups for a nascent national industry. He wrote and directed "The Policeman" and "Sallah Shabati," both bittersweet social satires that were nominated for Academy Awards in the best foreign film category.

Kishon won the Israel Prize for his life's work in 2002. He was to be flown back to Israel for burial. "It is a country where nobody expects miracles, but everybody takes them for granted," Kishon once wrote about Israel. ■

OBITUARY

NEWS IN BRIEF

NORTH AMERICA

Bush speaks to Arab leaders

President Bush spoke to Arab leaders about Israeli-Palestinian peace. Bush spoke Sunday to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Jordan's King Abdullah II and Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah.

"A good portion of the calls yesterday were focused on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and how we move forward to bring about the president's two-state vision," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said Monday. "And there was a lot of discussion about the importance of supporting Palestinian leaders and the Palestinian people as they move forward to put in place the institutions necessary for a democratic state to emerge."

Orthodox back Ten Commandments display

In a brief to the U.S. Supreme Court, Orthodox groups backed the public display of the Ten Commandments.

The brief, from the Orthodox Union and Agudath Israel of America, suggests the Ten Commandments possess secular and religious meaning, and the secular themes inherent in the Ten Commandments are the historic foundation for a society based on the rule of law.

The brief was written by Nathan Lewin, under the aegis of the National Jewish Coalition on Law & Public Affairs.

Several Jewish organizations have written briefs opposing public display of the Ten Commandments. The Supreme Court is expected to hear two cases on the issue March 2.

Ad pulled for being anti-Palestinian

A U.S. media group pulled an ad promoting three of its newspapers amid criticism that it demonized Palestinians.

The Clarity Media group pulled the ad, which showed a girl playing a violin on one side and a Palestinian girl carrying an assault rifle on the other, accompanied by the words "PTA to PLO," the Denver Post reported.

The ad, which ran in the Jan. 24 edition of MediaWeek magazine, promoted the San Francisco Examiner and an upcoming publication planned for Washington.

MIDDLE EAST

Amnesty for peace?

Mahmoud Abbas reportedly will demand that Israel release all Palestinian security prisoners as a prerequisite for peace talks.

The London-based newspaper Al-Sharq Al-Awsat said Monday that the Palestinian Authority president, who is expected to meet Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon for their first summit next month, also wants Israel to withdraw its troops to the positions they held before the intifada began in September 2000.

Abbas has earned plaudits in Jerusalem and Washington for reining in violence in the Gaza Strip, although his truce talks with Palestinian terrorist groups fell short of the crackdown the Palestinians promised under the U.S.-led "road map" peace plan.

Mortars once more

Hamas terrorists shelled Gaza Strip settlements, calling into question a de facto cease-fire brokered by the new Palestinian Authority president.

There were no casualties in Monday's attacks on the Neveh Dekalim, Netzer Hazani and Rafiah Yam settlements, though one Israeli home was damaged.

Hamas called the shelling, which broke almost two weeks of relative calm in Gaza, retaliation for the death earlier Monday of a

Palestinian girl in the southern town of Rafah.

Palestinian witnesses said the 10-year-old was killed by Israeli soldiers, but the army denied its forces had operated in the area.

Israelis help tsunami victims

Israel is devoting a day to raising funds for tsunami victims.

The Israel Campaign for South East Asia Relief is being coordinated Tuesday by IsraAid, an umbrella organization for development and relief groups.

As part of the effort, the Galei Tzahal radio station and Channel 10 TV station will devote programming to raising funds.

Terror down, guards out

Israeli businesses are employing fewer security guards as Palestinian terrorism subsides.

According to Industry and Trade Ministry figures released this week, the number of doormen hired by restaurants and malls to check visitors for bombs is down almost 9 percent from last year.

Security experts attributed the drop to fewer Palestinian terrorist attacks following the death of Yasser Arafat and progress in building the West Bank security fence.

But a total elimination of the metal-detector-wielding guard is unlikely, and many Israeli businesses have found that customers still prefer to patronize places that feel protected.

Fly the hungry skies

The luxurious new terminal at Israel's international airport has drawn complaints for its lack of restaurants open on Shabbat.

Unlike the old terminal, Terminal 3 at Ben-Gurion Airport does not allow its cafes to open on Shabbat and other Jewish holidays. Israeli media ascribed the new policy to refusal by the rabbinate to grant kosher licenses to those eateries that operate on the Sabbath or Jewish holidays.

Representatives of Lufthansa and Austrian Airlines spoke out Monday against the policy, and were echoed by a member of the secular opposition party Shinui.

"Those arriving at the new terminal for the first time will not know whether they are at Ben-Gurion Airport or Tehran," lawmaker Ronni Berizon wrote in Yediot Achronot.

Terminal 3, a marble-and-glass colossus that cost Israel some \$1 billion, opened in November after a four-year delay.

WORLD

Britain to free Palestinian suspect

Britain said it would free a suspected Palestinian terrorist.

The decision to free Mahmoud Abu Rideh, who was arrested in December 2001 on charges that he had links to Osama bin Laden, comes as the laws under which he was jailed are being overhauled, Reuters reported.

Under revised laws, Britain will be able to place terror suspects under arrest or deport them, but won't be allowed to imprison them.

Syrian blasts Holocaust commemorations

A Syrian official criticized commemorations of the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

Writing in the London-based newspaper Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, Buthaina Shaaban accused the West of a double standard for marking the liberation of the Nazi death camp while failing to criticize Israel's treatment of the Palestinians, The Associated Press reported.

"A moral stand against the killing of people means" we "should not disregard the sufferings of some and focus on others," she wrote.