

IN THE NEWS
**Israel's Peretz:
Cease-fire holding**

Israel's defense minister said the cease-fire with Hezbollah is generally being maintained.

Amir Peretz said Monday that Israeli officials are meeting with members of the United Nations peacekeeping force in Lebanon to discuss a withdrawal of Israeli troops from southern Lebanon.

The cease-fire took effect early Monday.

**Sporadic clashes
occur in Lebanon**

Israeli troops killed six Hezbollah fighters in sporadic post-truce clashes.

The gunmen were shot in four separate incidents Monday throughout southern Lebanon.

In all cases, the army said its troops opened fire after coming under Hezbollah attack.

Israeli experts said the incidents were unlikely to shake the cease-fire that came into effect Monday morning, and predicted that such clashes would occur as Hezbollah tries to chase out Israeli troops that remain on Lebanese territory.

**President Bush:
Hezbollah lost**

Hezbollah lost the war it launched, President Bush said.

"Hezbollah attacked Israel, Hezbollah started the crisis and Hezbollah suffered a defeat in this crisis," Bush said after assessing the war Monday at a meeting attended by Vice President Dick Cheney, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

The major reason, he said, is that the cease-fire resolution ending the war calls for a Lebanese army force, backed by a robust international force, to take control of southern Lebanon, Hezbollah's heartland.

Bush said the crisis helped clarify the difference between a terrorist group and a sovereign nation.

WORLD REPORT

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As war ends without clear victor, Israelis tally successes and failures

By LESLIE SUSSER

JERUSALEM (JTA) — As a U.N.-brokered cease-fire takes effect after 33 days of fighting between Israel and Hezbollah, criticism is growing of Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's handling of the war.

Some politicians and opinion-makers are calling for his resignation. Israelis are also asking more searching questions: Did Israel win or lose the war? And what are the regional ramifications likely to be?

The strongest attack on Olmert came from the influential journalist Ari Shavit. In a front-page op-ed in Ha'aretz entitled "Olmert must go," Shavit wrote, "You cannot bury 120 Israelis, keep a million in shelters for a month, erode our deterrent power, bring the next war very close, and then say, 'Oops, I made a mistake. That's not what I meant. Pass me a cigar, please.'"

The main arguments Shavit and others make against Olmert are that his decision to go to war was made hastily and without considering all the possible consequences; that he was persuaded into believing that air power alone could do the job; that he was late in ordering the large-scale entry of land forces into Lebanon and left the home front exposed to rocket fire far longer than necessary; and that he did little to alleviate the suffering of people in the North, who were forced to spend over a month in bomb shelters.

Olmert's perceived blunders have given the Israeli right a new lease of life. They believe the war has dealt a lethal blow to Olmert's plans for a major unilateral with-

drawal from the West Bank.

Their argument is that both of Israel's previous unilateral pullouts — from Lebanon in May 2000 and the Gaza Strip last summer — were perceived by Israel's enemies as weakness and led to heavy rocket attacks on Israeli civilians from precisely those areas the Israel Defense Forces no longer controlled.

This pattern would be repeated with far worse consequences if Israel withdraws from the West Bank, the right-wingers say.

Some right-wingers believe that without its defining idea of unilateral withdrawal, Olmert's Kadima

Party may start to implode.

Likud Knesset member Yisrael Katz says he expects a sweeping shift in Israeli public opinion that could lead to a major shake-up in Parliament. To make the most of it, he's urging the Likud to form a parliamentary bloc with Avigdor Lieberman's Yisrael Beiteinu and to bring vote-catching outsiders like the former IDF chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Moshe Ya'alon — tipped as a possible candidate for defense minister — into the Likud.

Katz speaks about a possible reversal of the "big bang" in Israeli politics that led to the formation of Kadima last November and the Likud's subsequent ouster from power.

"The Likud must take the lead in forming a strong, centrist Zionist alternative opposed to further unilateral moves," Katz told JTA.

Independent polls show that Olmert's West Bank "realignment" plan is in trouble. Before the war, it had more than 60 percent

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NEWS
ANALYSIS

■ *There are sharp differences of opinion over whether Israel won or lost*

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support; now, according to a poll by the respected Dahaf Institute, 47 percent of Israelis are in favor and 47 percent against.

Moreover, others polls show that Olmert's approval rating has plummeted from 75 percent at the start of war to under 50 percent. Worse: Less than 40 percent are satisfied with the way he handled the war, and some polls suggest that if elections were held today, Kadima would crash from 29 Knesset seats to around 16.

Looking at the bigger picture, there are two schools of thought in Israel on the probable regional fallout of the war. Pessimists maintain that the inconclusive fighting with a small guerilla band has undermined Israeli deterrence and altered the regional balance of power in favor of Israel's enemies in Iran and Syria, and that a wider outbreak of fighting is simply a matter of time.

In their view, Syria may be tempted into thinking that by following the Hezbollah model, it will be able to recapture the Golan Heights by force.

Optimists contend that the pounding taken by Hezbollah and Lebanon actually has enhanced Israel's deterrent capacity, that the regional power balance has shifted in Israel's favor and that it could create momentum for peace talks with Lebanon, Syria and the Palestinians.

What ends up happening could depend on the extent to which Hezbollah is able to rearm and whether Iran is able to

produce a nuclear weapon. U.N. Security Council Resolution 1701, on which the cease-fire is based, calls for Hezbollah's disarmament; Security Council Resolution 1696 urges Iran to stop enriching uranium by Aug. 31 or face possible sanctions.

So far, however, Hezbollah is refusing to hand over its weapons, and Iran's leaders say they intend to go ahead with their nuclear program.

There are sharp differences of opinion among Israeli pundits over whether Israel won or lost. In a piece headlined "We did not win," Yediot Achronot analyst Nahum Barnea writes: "Israel goes into the cease-fire bruised, divided and concerned. The question of what happened to Israel in this war deserves a searching debate. In this war Israel was battered, Lebanon was battered and Hezbollah was battered. We naturally focus

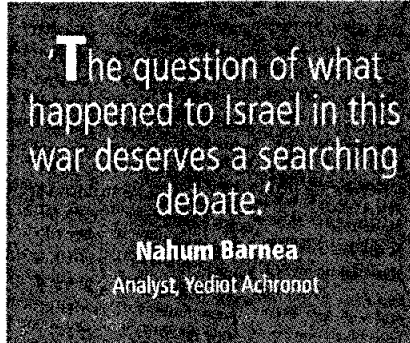
on the blows we took. And they are not insubstantial. The number of dead, the paralysis of the home front, turning hundreds of thousands of Israelis into refugees, and perhaps the hardest blow of all: the realization that the IDF cannot meet our expectations."

But on the same page, Barnea's colleague Sever Plotzker takes a diametrically opposite view. Plotzker describes Resolution 1701 as a major political achievement for Israel, "perhaps one of the most important

in its history. It can be summed up in a phrase: Israel and the world against the Hezbollah thugs."

Winner or loser, it's clear that Israel has been shaken, and there well could be a state commission of inquiry into the war and the way it was prosecuted, with tough questions for the political and military echelons.

If there is, Olmert — whose term of office began with such promise just over 100 days ago — will be the main target. ■



Gunter Grass admits to SS past

BERLIN (JTA) — Nobel Prize-winning author Gunter Grass' admission that he was an SS member has drawn both rage and defenses of the writer.

While some say the revelation devalues his life's work, others are showing more understanding for the pressures faced by the teenager who later would write such modern German classics as "The Tin Drum."

Grass, 78, whose autobiography is due out this fall, told the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung in an interview published last Friday that he was drafted into the Waffen SS in the final months of World War II.

The Waffen SS was the elite fighting force of the SS, the Nazi Party's quasi-military unit, and was declared part of a criminal organization at the Nuremberg Trials. Grass was interned briefly in a POW camp in Bavaria after the war.

Literary critic Helmuth Karasek told the radio program BDR that Grass should have revealed the truth sooner, and suggested that the Nobel Prize committee

might not have wanted to honor someone "whom they knew had been a member of the Waffen SS and had long denied it." Grass won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1999.

Grass biographer Michael Juergs said he was "personally disappointed," and has called into question the validity of Grass' life work. But German writer Erich Loest told the Tagesspiegel newspaper that Grass' admission should be "accepted without condemnation. He was very young and there was no one to influence him in the opposite direction," he said.

The German writer Ralph Giordano, who survived the war in hiding with his Jewish mother, told the radio program WDR2 that he praised Grass.

"Good that you have done this, Gunter Grass," he said.

Grass told the Frankfurt paper he was drafted as a 17-year-old following a stint in a support unit for the German air force, and was brought to serve in a Waffen SS tank division in Dresden. ■

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Seattle victim thrust into hero's spotlight

By TALIA S. COUTIN

NEW YORK (JTA) — It was only a phone call, but it changed everything.

Dayna Klein's act of defiance halted the shooting spree at the Jewish Federation in Seattle on July 28 and made her a heroine. Now Klein, five months pregnant, is sharing her story, urging all employers to take workplace security seriously, speaking up for gun control and speaking out in the media against the kind of prejudice that may have led to the catastrophe.

Even with her left arm in a brace, her Israeli husband, Erez, at her side in an interview with JTA, she reports that she is able to slide her wedding band on and off and can squeeze toothpaste onto the toothbrush. She still needs to see nerve specialists, and her arm, which she flung out to protect her stomach and catch the whizzing bullet, may never fully function again.

"There's no road map on what to do when you get shot as a pregnant person," she said half-jokingly.

Throughout the interview, she retains her composure, but her eyes glisten when she talks about Pam Waechter, her colleague who was killed in the attack.

Klein, a native of Long Island, N.Y., grew up in a secular Jewish household. When faced with the choice of attending Hebrew school or playing soccer, she chose the latter, and became bat mitzvah one month ago, as a 37-year-old.

The speech that "I gave as part of my bat mitzvah was about all the wonderful things I learned really as a kid playing soccer, about the commitment and being on a team," reflected Klein, a brown-haired woman who smiles easily, even under the strain of the tragedy.

Klein delved into the communal and religious aspects of Judaism when she moved to Seattle with her now-husband, whose family lives in Haifa, two and a half years ago after leaving Bakersfield, Calif., she said.

In January 2004, on her father's *yahrzeit*, a colleague at the federation convinced Klein to attend the adult b'nai mitzvah class at Kol HaNeshamah, a progressive Reform synagogue in Seattle — which became the first synagogue she

and her husband ever joined.

"The opportunity to have worked at the federation really has expanded my scope and interest in being a part of Jewish community life," she said.

At the federation, where she worked as the director of major gifts, Klein initiated projects to send impoverished youths in Israel to summer camp — and for Russian children to travel to Israel to explore their religious heritage.

As a side project, she worked closely with the Reform and Conservative movements in Europe "to help them become less marginalized," she said, including raising money to send an Italian student aspiring to enter the rabbinate to the Leo Baeck College in London.

On the day of the shooting, Klein was in her office sending thank you notes to donors and making calls, wishing people a peaceful Shabbat.

She then heard noises that sounded like bubble wrap popping, she said, and then screams. Then she was shot in the arm.

The gunman then warned that anyone caught seeking help from the outside would be killed immediately.

But Klein, 17 weeks pregnant and wounded, crawled to her desk, picked up the phone and dialed 911.

"Somewhere in my mind, I had the information I needed and because I was able to stay calm, everything rushed to the surface and I was able to do what I needed to do," she recalled.

The gunman caught her, infuriated. He cursed at her, pointed a gun at her head, took her hostage and launched into anti-Semitic diatribe.

He then demanded to speak with CNN. She thrust the phone at him with the 911 operators still on the line.

He took it and talked with the operators. He relented. He put the gun down, and walked out.

"One very unhappy person sadly took his aggression out and manifested his racism by hurting me and my friends and my community and I do not blame Israel nor would I ever blame Israel," she said. "Israel is such a scapegoat to so many people who are just racists."

The alleged shooter, Naveed Haq, is in custody and awaiting arraignment, which is slated for Tuesday.

Klein, who has a master's degree in social work, attributes confidence and aplomb to her training in crisis intervention and the skills she learned as a director of the American Red Cross.

"It's what saved my life, it saved my baby's life, and I hope I saved a lot of other people's lives in the process — and it's just because I had a little bit more knowledge than the next guy and was able to use it when I

needed to," she said.

As the SWAT team escorted her out the building, she saw her close friend and the federation's campaign director, Waechter, sprawled on the stairs. Waechter died in the shooting, which injured four other women, in addition to Klein.

"The most important thing to me is to maintain the integrity of Pam's legacy. Pam truly does have a legacy on Seattle's Jewish community," Klein said of her friend and colleague. She says her son will carry Waechter's name in some way.

Klein is transforming the tragedy into a lesson plan while trying to heal from the physical and psychological wounds, offering to visit any Jewish organization to encourage that security precautions be taken and emergency planning provided.

"Balancing being a heroine and recovering from what could potentially be a lifelong disability, you know, I'm going to take these really horrible lemons and make a hell of a glass of lemonade, and hopefully just be able to save more people."

'Somewhere in my mind, I had the information I needed and because I was able to stay calm, everything rushed to the surface.'

Dayna Klein
Seattle shooting hero

NEWS IN BRIEF

MIDDLE EAST

Olmert takes responsibility for war

Ehud Olmert took responsibility for Israel's war with Hezbollah. Speaking Monday to the Israeli Knesset, the Israeli prime minister said the war showed that "Israel won't suffer any harm to come to its sovereignty or citizens."

Olmert's comments came amid increasing criticism over his government's management of the monthlong war.

Nasrallah declares victory

Sheik Hassan Nasrallah declared victory in Hezbollah's war with Israel. Speaking Monday on Hezbollah's Al-Manar Television, Hezbollah's leader said his group had won a "strategic, historic victory" in the monthlong conflict.

The war, which began July 12 when Hezbollah killed eight Israeli soldiers and kidnapped two more in a cross-border raid, led to the deaths of more than 1,000 Lebanese, reduced Hezbollah strongholds to ruins and cost the country billions of dollars in damage.

At the same time, Hezbollah gained some credibility in the Arab world because it did not capitulate to Israeli forces and wreaked a monthlong campaign of violence on northern Israel.

Sharon's condition worsening

Ariel Sharon's condition deteriorated further. Doctors at Sheba Medical Center in Tel Hashomer said Monday that the former Israeli prime minister's brain function had worsened and he had developed pneumonia in both lungs.

Sharon has been in a coma since suffering a Jan. 4 stroke, which followed a milder stroke.

Palestinian rocket reaches deepest point

A rocket fired by Palestinian terrorists in the Gaza Strip reached deeper than ever into Israel.

The Russian-made Katyusha hit the Ashkelon marina Monday, causing damage but no casualties. Officials said the strike, 15 miles from northern Gaza, marked a new record for Palestinian terrorists who have been trying to extend the range of their rockets.

Israel's air force bombed the launcher in the Gaza town of Beit Hanoun, killing three Palestinians. Locals described the dead as farmers but military officials said they were trying to retrieve the launcher.

Israel releases Palestinian official

Israel released a Palestinian Authority Cabinet member. After his release Monday, Labor Minister Muhammad Barghouti, a member of Hamas, called on Israel to release other arrested Palestinian officials.

NORTH AMERICA

AIPAC judge won't broaden case

The judge in the classified information case against two former pro-Israel lobbyists rejected a prosecution attempt to broaden the indictment. Prosecutors had sought to redefine as classified a document described as unclassified in the original indictment. Judge T.S. Ellis III rejected the request last Friday, saying it would unconstitutionally alter the indictment.

Keith Weissman, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee's former Iran analyst, asked Larry Franklin, a Pentagon Iran analyst who since has pleaded guilty, for the document in June 2003.

From previous reporting, JTA has learned that the document was a draft of the Bush administration's Iran strategy. It's the only document that Weissman or his former boss, Steve Rosen, actively

solicited, according to their August 2005 indictment. In pre-trial rulings, Ellis has made clear that at trial he will expect a higher bar of evidence to prove that defendants knew they were hearing classified information in conversations, as opposed to receiving documentation.

Israeli protested on Capitol Hill

A group suing a former Israeli military chief staged a news conference outside a congressional office building where he was holding a briefing. Speakers at Monday afternoon's protest, which was sponsored by the Coalition for Justice & Accountability, accused Moshe Ya'alon of war crimes for his involvement in the 1996 bombing of a United Nations compound in Kana, Lebanon, that resulted in 106 civilian deaths.

One of the speakers, Michael Pouishock, a cooperating attorney with the Center for Constitutional Rights, represents families of the victims, who have filed a civil suit against Ya'alon. Speakers also blasted Israel for the recent war with Hezbollah.

Ya'alon briefed congressional staffers, administration advisers and policy insiders on the crisis in Lebanon.

U.S. officials meet Jordanians over worker rights

Jordan's labor minister met with U.S. officials amid allegations of abuse of foreign workers at Jordanian-Israeli joint ventures.

Bassem Salem met Sunday with the U.S. ambassador to Jordan, David Hale, and delegates from the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative to discuss workers' rights in the country's qualified industrial zones.

Alleged murderer's father uses JAP defense

The father of a man standing trial in Tennessee for allegedly murdering his wife said he helped his son conceal the body because "she was a typical JAP." The videotaped deposition by Col. Arthur March was played Saturday in a Tennessee court.

March's son, Perry, is accused of killing Janet March in 1996 after she said she wanted a divorce. Court TV reported that Arthur March, who received a reduced sentence in exchange for testifying, called his former daughter-in-law a "Jewish-American Princess," adding "Anything she wanted, she went to her father."

Jewish Greeks advocate for Israel

Jewish fraternities and sororities are launching an Israel advocacy push on college campuses this fall.

Alpha Epsilon Pi and Alpha Epsilon Phi, the two largest Jewish Greek organizations, brought 90 students to Louisville, Ky., from Sunday through Tuesday to learn about building support for Israel.

WORLD

Group: Anti-Semitic incidents up in Britain

Anti-Semitic incidents in Britain escalated in July due to hostilities in the Middle East, a survey found. The Community Security Trust, which monitors security in the British Jewish community, recorded twice as many incidents in July 2006 as during the same time period a year before.

The trust also warned that the risk of a terrorist attack against the British Jewish community was heightened, though no specific threats to the community have been linked to last week's foiled terrorist plot at major London airports.

Donors conference set for Lebanon

Sweden invited 60 countries and aid agencies to attend a donor conference to help rebuild Lebanon. Israel was not invited to the conference, which is scheduled for Aug. 31 in Stockholm.