



Maccabi TA wins again
Sports, Page 10

HAARETZ

English Edition

Hebrew U. leaves Harvard, MIT in the dust
Business, Page 6

Israel's Leading Daily Newspaper; Established 1919

Tuesday, June 8, 2004

www.haaretz.com

Sivan 19, 5764. Vol. 86, No. 25848

Arafat to oversee PA preparations for Israeli Gaza pullout

By **Arnon Regular**
Haaretz Correspondent

A three-member Palestinian Authority committee consisting of Chairman Yasser Arafat, Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia and apparently Mohammed Dahlan, the PA's former minister of security, is being formed to oversee PA activities regarding Israel's

withdrawal from Gaza. The committee's final composition and its functions are still being discussed by Arafat and Egyptian intelligence chief Omar Suleiman, Egypt's minister who is responsible for the Palestinians' situation and their security. The negotiations are taking place simultaneously to discussions over the possibility that Israel will lift

the siege of Arafat in the Muqata.

The new committee signifies means much greater involvement by the PA – and Arafat, personally – in implementation of the Israeli withdrawal plan. Egyptian elements are still pressing Arafat to grant Dahlan a significant role in the panel, but so far, the chairman has not conceded and the panel's composition, as well as the identity of the next interior minister who will be in charge of the security forces, has not been determined.

Palestinian sources said that Arafat gave "a positive response, in principle," to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak regarding Egypt's security plan for Gaza, but, as opposed to previous reports, the Arafat letter does not include explicit acceptance of the Egyptian demands – that is, reducing the number of PA security forces to three, appointing an interior minister with full authority over the three forces, transferring real powers to the Palestinian premier, and Egypt's training and directly supervising PA security forces operating in Gaza.

Arafat's office has issued a statement welcoming the Egyptian plan while also attacking it, warning that it deviates from the road map.

Meanwhile, efforts are under way in Gaza to find housing for the Egyptian security officials who are due in the Strip soon. An advance group

See **ARAFAT**, Page 10



Lior Mizrahi / BauBau

NRP Minister Zevulun Orlev, who proposed the compromise that is likely to be approved today, talking on the phone yesterday.

NRP compromise seen to keep party in government for next three months

By **Nadav Shragai and Mazal Mualem**
Haaretz Correspondents

The National Religious Party's Knesset faction is expected to approve this morning a compromise proposal for remaining in the government after the party's spiritual mentors, former chief rabbis Mordechai Eliahu and Avraham Shapira, refrained from ordering it to quit the coalition last night.

Under the compromise, proposed by Welfare Minister Zevulun Orlev, the NRP would stay in the cabinet for another three months, after which it would decide whether to leave on the basis of predetermined parameters. A majority of the faction apparently supports this plan.

But Housing Minister Effi Eitam, who advocates leaving the government, said that if the rabbis decide to order the party to quit, he intends to resign his

cabinet post even if the NRP's central committee ratifies Orlev's compromise. He said that his conscience will not permit him to be part of a government that uproots settlements.

Should Eitam leave, the chances of the Labor Party's joining the government would increase, even if the NRP remains – which would move the government to the left not only politically, but economically as well. For this reason, Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

is urging the party to stay.

Yesterday, Eitam and Orlev quarreled publicly over the latter's compromise at a memorial for David Bergman, former chairman of the NRP's Jerusalem branch.

"You want me... to organize the funeral [for the Gaza settlements] and then leave when it's time for the burial," Eitam accused Orlev. "That's unacceptable to me. It's moral corruption... The Master of the

See **NRP**, Page 6

Analysis
Nadav Shragai

When rabbis and politicians clash

For years, the National Religious Party has wavered between obedience to the rabbis and ordinary political behavior, in which the party's elected central committee has the last word. At the time of the Wye Agreement, former chief rabbis Mordechai Eliahu and Avraham Shapira were badly burned: they ordered the party to support early elections, but the party's central committee decided otherwise. Tekuma, a party set up by former NRP members that later merged with National Union, challenged the NRP on precisely this issue: in Tekuma, the rabbis decide: the politicians only offer advice. In the NRP, at least on paper, the opposite is true: the rabbis recommend; the politicians decide.

This duality – two decision-making centers that are often at loggerheads – was evident Sunday night. Ministers Zevulun Orlev and Effi Eitam and faction chair Nissim Slomiansky urged rabbis Eliahu and Shapira to express an opinion, but the rabbis – who, before the cabinet approved the disengagement plan, had demanded that the party resign if it passed – confined themselves to asking questions. They also refrained from expressing an opinion during the continuation of the discussion yesterday morning.

Both sides, the rabbis and the politicians, want the other to pull their chestnuts out of the fire. Eliahu and Shapira were

See **RABBIS**, Page 6

A tripartite Egyptian initiative

The Egyptians' intensive involvement in promoting the disengagement plan is not surprising. Even last year the Egyptians had made efforts to establish a cease-fire between the various Palestinian factions and Israel, and they have intensified these efforts since Ariel

Sharon announced his plan for withdrawal. The disengagement, according to the Egyptian assessment, could create a vacuum in the Gaza Strip, endangering Cairo's relations with the Palestinians, and even affect the peace with Israel.

Egypt had aspired to an agreement on withdrawal between Israel and the Palestinians, but the talks between the Egyptian intelligence head Omar Suleiman, and PA chair Yasser Arafat, and between se-

Analysis / **Zvi Bar'el**

nor Egyptian officials and PA Security Minister Mohammed Dahlan, led them to believe that such an agreement was not feasible, and not only because of Israel's stance. Dahlan explained to the Egyptians that there was currently no authorized body in the PA (other than Arafat) that could make policy decisions, to say nothing of imposing them.

With that in mind, Egypt came up with an alternative solution to an Israeli-Palestinian agreement. This is a tripartite agreement: between Egypt and Israel, and between Egypt and the Palestinians. It will enable Israel to avoid negotiating with Arafat, an issue the Egyptians have now dropped, while, on the other hand, Israel will be

See **EGYPTIAN**, Page 6

IDF kills three Palestinian civilians

One of the victims had been crippled by army fire in first intifada

By **Arnon Regular**
Haaretz Correspondent

Three Palestinian civilians, including a man crippled in the first intifada and a mentally handicapped youth, were killed by the Israel Defense Forces in separate incidents in the territories during the past 48 hours.

The first incident took place Sunday night at the entrance to the Qalandiyah refugee camp, north of Jerusalem. Arafat Yaakoub, 31 and a father of four, who had been shot in the back by the IDF during a demonstration in the first intifada in 1989, was killed by Israeli gunfire. According to relatives, Yaakoub had returned from work in Ramallah, and had stopped his car near a kiosk belonging to a relative, close to the refugee camp's entrance. They said Yaakoub was drinking coffee alone in the kiosk when disturbances broke out and youths began throwing stones at IDF soldiers in another area of the camp. They claimed that a jeep then drove into the camp and

opened fire from several dozen meters away in the direction of the kiosk. A number of shots reportedly hit the kiosk and a nearby wall, and Yaakoub was hit in the head. An ambulance crew declared him dead a short while later.

According to Yaakoub's cousin, he had rehabilitated his life since the first intifada incident despite his condition, having managed to support his two wives and four children. He said Yaakoub had recently been given a taxi by a group of donors.

Military sources gave the following account of the incident. "According to a preliminary investigation, a force that entered the refugee camp opened warning fire in the direction of a group of youths that was causing a disturbance. The gunfire was opened in the direction of a wall or at the ground, but the man was apparently hit inadvertently. The soldiers were not aware that they had hit someone during the incident."

An IDF force that was on duty at the Neveh Dekalim settlement in the Gaza

Strip shot and killed Muhammad Nabhan, 17, a Khan Yunis resident yesterday. Nabhan, who was not armed, was in the cemetery in the eastern sector of Khan Yunis at the time. An IDF spokesman said soldiers believed he was planning to attack them, since the cemetery is often used by terrorist organizations. Palestinian sources said Nabhan was not a member of any organization.

An IDF force operating in a village south of Tul Karm yesterday morning killed a resident, Omar Sarakh, 19, while he was wandering near the village. Palestinian sources said Sarakh was mentally handicapped, adding that soldiers had opened fire at him. The IDF said the soldiers had been seeking suspects preparing to carry out a bombing attack against Israeli targets, and that the youth had been carrying a bag and refused to stop when the soldiers called out to him. They said the force had observed the rules of engagement and fired at the youth only after shooting in the air and ordering him to halt.

The people of the newspaper

80% of Israeli teens read dailies; far fewer read books

By **Yulie Khromchenko**
Haaretz Correspondent

Non-Jewish and ultra-Orthodox teens read more than do their counterparts in the state school system, according to a comprehensive survey carried out as part of the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA).

The study also found that some 80 percent of Israeli teens read the newspaper – a level unheard-of in other Western countries.

PISA compared educational achievements in 41 countries. Alongside tests in reading comprehension, math and science – tests on which Israeli students' poor scores recently aroused a public furor – the program includes a comprehensive questionnaire dealing with issues such as school violence, discipline, socioeconomic status and reading habits. The Israeli study covered some 300,000 students aged 15 and 16.

Israeli teens, despite their poor scores on the reading comprehension test, proved to be slightly above the international average in terms of the amount

they read – though well below Finland, which took first place. The study found that while only 48 percent of boys read for pleasure, which is slightly below the international average, 70 percent of girls do – which is above the international average.

Not surprisingly, the study found a direct correlation between the amount of time spent reading for pleasure and performance on the reading exam.

Haredi students read much more than do students of the state secular schools and also more than the international average. Secular students read less than the international average, while students of the state religious schools are right at the international average in this regard.

Non-Jewish teens read more than Jewish teens, the survey found, and they also read a wider variety of material. Non-Jews read both more fiction and more comic books than do Jews, but fewer newspapers and periodicals. They also read less via the Internet.

Overall, Jewish teens are about average in terms of the amount they read, while non-

Jewish teens are above the international average.

Newspapers are read by 96 percent of religious Zionist teens, 93 percent of students at the state secular schools, and 89 percent of Haredi students.

In all other areas, however, the Haredim lead. Some 73 percent read fiction, compared to 68 percent of students at state religious schools and 62 percent of students at state secular schools. About 79 percent read nonfiction, compared to 74 percent of the national religious and 66 percent of the secular. And 80 percent read the comics, compared to only 55 percent of the secular.

Prof. Zemira Mevarech, who conducted the survey along with Prof. Bracha Kramarski, attributed the high level of reading among the Haredim to the lack of alternatives such as television and movies.

In addition to the 80 percent of Israeli teens who read newspapers, some 48 percent read periodicals and 26 percent read material connected with their studies. However, only 33 percent read fiction, while 18 percent read comic books.

Israel hits PFLP base near Beirut

Reuters

BEIRUT – The Israel Air Force fired four missiles at a Palestinian base south of Beirut yesterday, a Lebanese security source said.

The source said the attack on Naameh village, 20 km south of Beirut, was aimed at an area in which the radical, Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command has a large base.

"There were no casualties as the base had been abandoned some time ago," a Palestinian source said.

Israel said the strike came in response to rocket fire on an Israeli navy ship in the Mediterranean earlier in the day.

An army statement said the strike was conducted in response to a rocket barrage fired from Lebanon at an Israeli naval vessel patrolling Israeli territorial waters near the two countries' border.

The rockets missed the ship and fell into the sea.

האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

2004 Board of Governors

Partners in Excellence

The 67th meeting of the University's Board of Governors

The Polonsky Prizes, June 8

For Creativity and Originality in the Humanistic Disciplines at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Authority for Research and Development is proud to announce the winners of the Polonsky Prizes for Creativity and Originality in the Humanistic Disciplines for 2004.

The Polonsky Prizes were first initiated this year by Dr. Leonard Polonsky, a prominent member of the British Friends of the Hebrew University, who has very generously set up this program to highlight the creativity of Hebrew University scholars. The prizes are awarded for an original work – a book, paper, composition, or discovery in any field of the Humanities.

First Prize – Prof. Matti Bunzl, Professor of the History and Philosophy of Science – for her book "Quantum Dialogue – The Making of a Revolution"

Second Prize – Prof. Avram Zakai, Professor of History in the Department of American Studies – for his book "Jonathan Edwards's Philosophy of History: The Reformation of the World in the Age of Enlightenment"

Dissertation Prize – Dr. Anat Halman, Lecturer in the Jewish History Department, the Cultural Studies Program and the Institute of Contemporary Jewish – for her PhD thesis titled "The Development of Civil Society and Urban Culture in Tel-Aviv during the 1920s and 1930s"

Student Prize – Mr. Ugalit Marz-Masseh, PhD Student and Assistant Lecturer at the Department of Hebrew Literature and Research Fellow at the Scullion Interdisciplinary Research Center in Jewish Studies for his work titled "Other Voices: Baruch Spinoza and the Representations of the Other in Palestinian Byzantine Palestine."

The President, Rector, Vice President for Research and Development, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and the entire Faculty of the Hebrew University wish to extend their heartfelt congratulations to the winners and their sincere appreciation to Dr. Polonsky for giving the field of Humanities at the Hebrew University the accolade it so richly deserves.

Est. 1925