

Spanish column/world Jewish news



Noticias de Israel y el Mundo

por ALEJANDRO FABBRO

Mejor israelí.

Según el Director de la organización Azul y Blanco (colores de la bandera de Israel), Meir Barel, dijo que en los últimos años ha aumentado el consumo por parte de los ciudadanos israelíes de productos nacionales. Durante los últimos años, hemos visto una tendencia en todas las industrias de comprar productos fabricados en Israel, dijo. La organización fue creada en 1994 y busca crear una conciencia entre el público y las instituciones del gobierno de consumir productos israelíes. Si ofrecemos la posibilidad de los mismos productos, uno local y otro del exterior al mismo precio, el consumidor adquirirá el israelí. Según un estudio realizado por la Asociación de Fabricantes, hay una absoluta preferencia de productos fabricados localmente sobre los productos extranjeros, principalmente por la mejor calidad y los precios competitivos. La encuesta dice que el 95% de los hogares compran productos fabricados en Israel, resultando un incremento de un 2% en los cuatro años. Un 90% de los hogares israelíes consumen carne israelí, mientras que el 67% compra cerveza israelí comparada con el 60% de hace cuatro años atrás. Estamos observando un suave despertar del consumidor israelí en la compra de productos locales por su calidad y precio, dijo Barel. Los israelíes también prefieren los 'Cafés' locales como Aroma, Arcaffe e Ilan en vez del reconocido Starbucks norteamericano, que decidió cerrar sus puertas hace dos años. La contradicción llega del gobierno que este año decidió comprar banderas israelíes más baratas en vez de comprar las locales.

Tasa de enfermedad.

La tasa de mortalidad por cáncer entre los sobrevivientes israelíes del Holocausto es más alta que la de las personas de su misma edad que inmigraron previo a la Segunda Guerra Mundial según un informe realizado por investigadores de la Alta Escuela de Salud de la Universidad de Haifa. Los sobrevivientes que fueron hijos durante el Holocausto tienen más riesgo de contraer cáncer de aquellos que tenían más edad durante la guerra. Agregado a esto, los que sobreviven del cáncer entre los sobrevivientes del Holocausto son un poco menos que los pacientes que sufren cáncer que no pasaron por este. El estudio fue realizado por Nani Vine Raviv bajo la dirección del Dr. Mica Brachne y el Profesor Shai Linn de la Universidad de Haifa, e Irena Lifschitz del Registro Nacional de Cáncer del Ministerio de Salud. Se realizó con la financiación de la Asociación israelí y esta basada en información de dos millones de israelíes de origen europeo. El estudio sugiere hacer estudios tempranos para detectar la posible enfermedad.

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German Jewish leaders outraged over Iranian VP's World Cup presence

By AXELROD TOBY

BERLIN (JTA) - Jewish leaders expressed outrage that an Iranian official would attend the World Cup opening ceremonies in Munich.

Given repeated Holocaust denial by Iran's president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the participation of his vice president, Mohammed Aliabadi, "is a provocation and evidence of the political bankruptcy of German policy vis-a-vis Iran's mullah regime," Stephan Kramer, general secretary of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, said in a statement.

The reaction comes as Jewish leaders - including newly elected council president, Charlotte Knobloch - are suggesting that the Iranian president should not enjoy traditional diplomatic immunity should he decide to come to Germany during the World Cup, which begins June 9. Holocaust denial is illegal in Germany.

Several Jewish, pro-Israeli and Iranian opposition groups are planning to demonstrate against the Iranian regime during the Iran-Mexico game in Nuremberg on June 11.

Though Ahmadinejad has been cagey about his own plans, his vice president is definitely coming, said a spokesperson for the German Foreign Ministry, who reported June 7 that the Iranian Embassy had confirmed Aliabadi's plans. Conservative politician Gunther Beckstein, interior minister for the State of Bavaria, told the New Osnabruck Times on June 8 that he anticipated no problem in welcoming Aliabadi to the games "as long as he behaves like a civilized person."

Across the former Soviet Union

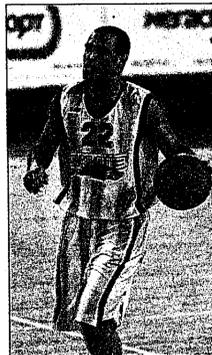
This Jewish guy's got game: Israeli makes mark in Ukrainian hoops

By YULIANN VILKOS

KIEV, Ukraine (JTA) - Israeli basketball player Afik Nissim doesn't like to play on Saturday for his Kiev team, but he recently had to do so for a big game.

"I try not to violate Shabbat, but basketball is the only thing I can make an exception for," says the 25-year-old, who was raised in a suburb of Tel Aviv. "If I have to travel with the team or play on Saturday, I do: It's my job, and I love it," says Nissim, who has played basketball since he was 6 years old.

Unfortunately, Nissim's team, BC Kiev, lost in the finals to Azovmash. But Nissim, who has averaged just less than 10 points a game this year, has still established himself as one of the key players on one of Ukraine's top teams. Nissim, who plays guard and is known for his outside shooting, is



Israeli basketball player Afik Nissim, who plays for the Ukrainian team, BC Kiev. Credit: BC Kiev.

the shortest player on the team. But his height is not the only thing that makes him stand out. He's not the only foreigner in BC Kiev - in fact, the team largely consists of foreigners - but he is the only Israeli player. And he is believed to be playing in any professional sport in Ukraine this year. No Israeli has ever played in the NBA, but a few have starred on U.S. college teams.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Nazi papers declassified

WASHINGTON (JTA) - The U.S. government declassified more than 8 million pages of files related to Nazi war crimes. The material including documents relating to the CIA's employment of suspected Nazi war criminals after World War II. The members of the government's Interagency Working Group said at a news conference June 6 that the revelations pointed to the dangers of working with war criminals, as the United States did after World War II. Among other revelations, the papers show that former Nazis employed by the United States were more susceptible to recruitment as double agents by the Soviet Union. Additionally, the papers show that the United States had a strong lead on the whereabouts of Adolf Eichmann in 1958, but did not pursue it because of fears that his capture would expose the Nazi past of high-ranking officials in the West German government, which was allied with the United States.

State Dept. blasts Israel for human trafficking

WASHINGTON (JTA) - Israel is on a U.S. State Department watch list of nations that fail to effectively prevent human trafficking. Israel was classified as being on the Tier Two watch list in the report released June 5. Tier Three is the worst classification, reserved for countries that fail to comply with minimum U.S. standards. Israeli law enforcement has made strides in cracking down on sex trafficking, the report said, but the same was not true of labor trafficking and "the estimated thousands of victims of forced labor were not provided with protection." It described fees demanded of laborers ranging from \$1,000 U.S. to \$10,000 U.S., "a practice that often leads to debt bondage and makes these workers highly vulnerable to forced labor once in Israel," it said.

UN asks Israel to stop making nukes

WASHINGTON (JTA) - A UN commission recommended that Israel refrain from manufacturing any more nuclear weapons as a step to a nuclear-free Middle East. The UN's Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission, chaired by weapons inspector Hans Blix, released its 60 recommendations on June 5. Regarding the Middle East, Blix recommended that most nations commit to not possessing any nuclear weapons. However, with Israel he recommended only that it commit to not manufacturing any more weapons. Israel is highly unlikely to agree to dismantle the 200 warheads it is believed to possess as the region's sole nuclear power. Israel's agreement would be a start, Blix said.

Israeli news

Behind the headlines

Israel celebrates quarter-century since strike on Iraqi nuke facilities

By DAN BARON

TEL AVIV (JTA) -

Twenty-five years ago, eight Israeli fighter pilots took off in their F-16s on a crucial and extremely dangerous mission that forever changed the Middle East. The June 7, 1981, strike against Iraq's atomic reactor at Osirak, which many believed denied Saddam Hussein the bomb, has long been a case study in air power virtuosity.

Of late, with Western jitters building over Iran's nuclear ambitions, it is also being examined as a model for a pre-emptive action to deprive a dangerous regime of doomsday weaponry. Israel has been celebrating the 25th anniversary of Osirak by lifting some of the secrecy over the mission. The seven surviving pilots have been giving interviews, while real-time footage of the mission, captured by the planes' onboard cameras, was publicly broadcast.

"I felt that it was the future of the State of Israel on my shoulders," recalled Maj. Gen. Amos Yadlin, a former F-16 pilot turned military intelligence commander.

At the time, of course, there was no place for triumphalism. Israel knew that no matter what the outcome, it would be accused by the international community of brinkmanship, even warmongering. There were also U.S. ties to consider. Israel had received its first fleet of F-16s from Washington by chance, after a shipment destined for Iran was canceled in light of that country's Islamic Revolution in 1979.

And despite the warplanes' advanced capabilities, getting them to make the round trip to Baghdad without support required a major gamble on Israeli technical ingenuity. Israel was also in the midst of implementing its landmark 1978 peace accord with Egypt, and knew that this could be imperiled should Cairo choose to back an aggrieved Baghdad.

But for Israel's then-Prime Minister Menachem Begin, almost all risks were worth taking in order to ensure the continued survival of the Jewish state. "We decided to act now, before it is too late," Begin would say. "We shall defend our people with all the means at our disposal."

Relik Shafir, who flew last in the eight-plane formation, would later confess that he expected to be killed by Iraqi ground fire, along with his wingman Ilan Ramon. As



Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin discusses Israel's strike on Iraq's Osirak nuclear facility during a June 9, 1981, news conference. Credit: Chananian Herman/GPO.

it happened, the late Ramon went on to an illustrious air force career, culminating in his appointment to become Israel's first astronaut on the ill-fated Columbia space shuttle mission.

Any small mishap might have ended the mission. The chief of Israel's air force at the time, David Ivry, said that one of his main concerns was that one or more of the F-16s would suffer mechanical problems as they zoomed at an ultra-low altitude from a secret base in the then-occupied Sinai Desert across Jordan and Saudi Arabia and into Iraqi territory.

Then there were the freak glitches. A Mossad agent almost blew the mission when in front of air crew servicing the F-16s, he dropped a briefcase full of Iraqi dinars that were to be given to the pilots to use for bribes should they be shot down. The formation was also spotted after takeoff by Jordan's King Hussein as he holidayed upon a yacht in the Red Sea. Thankfully for Israel, his efforts to alert Saddam about the incursion failed.

The Osirak mission went off almost without a hitch. The reactor core was destroyed in a surgical strike that was timed for a Sunday afternoon to reduce civilian casualties. The pilots made it home to the embrace of families that they had kept in the dark about the planned operation for months.

As predicted, there were condemnations across the board, from the United States to the United Nations to the Arab League. But no serious sanctions against Israel materialized, and some insiders recounted feelings of relief and sympathy in Western halls of power. Richard Allen, U.S. national security adviser at the time, was the first to inform President Reagan of the Osirak strike.

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ISRAELI NEWS BRIEFS

Abbas delays referendum deadline

JERUSALEM (JTA) - Mahmoud Abbas postponed a deadline for Hamas to accept a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict or face a Palestinian referendum. Abbas originally gave the radical Islamic group until June 6 to accept the proposal composed by Palestinians held in Israeli jails. But with debate still raging between Hamas, which runs the Palestinian Authority government, and Abbas' more moderate Fatah faction, the president put off the deadline until June 8. If Hamas does not accept the plan, which calls for a Palestinian state in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and eastern Jerusalem, Abbas says he will put it to a Palestinian vote. Polls suggest the proposal would pass.

Olmert, Abdullah talks near

JERUSALEM (JTA) - Ehud Olmert visited Jordan on June 8 for talks with King Abdullah II. Sources in Jerusalem said the Israeli prime minister would use the meeting, which had yet to be officially announced, to enlist Jordanian support for his plan to withdraw from parts of the West Bank and annex others in the absence of peace talks with the Palestinians. Abdullah is believed to be jittery about unilateral Israeli moves in the West Bank, given their impact on the Palestinian majority in Jordan. Olmert is believed to have won only partial endorsement of his policies from Egypt's president, Hosni Mubarak, when they met two weeks ago. The talks with Mubarak and Abdullah were expected to pave the way for a first summit between Olmert and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas at the end of the month.

Rockets on Sderot

JERUSALEM (JTA) - An Israeli home suffered a direct hit from a Palestinian rocket. One woman was lightly hurt by the June 6 morning salvo from the Gaza Strip against the border town of Sderot, which caused serious damage to her home. At least two other rockets struck near the local school, where students had not yet arrived. Islamic Jihad and other Palestinian terrorist groups have recently stepped up rocket fire in defiance of Israeli countermeasures.

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