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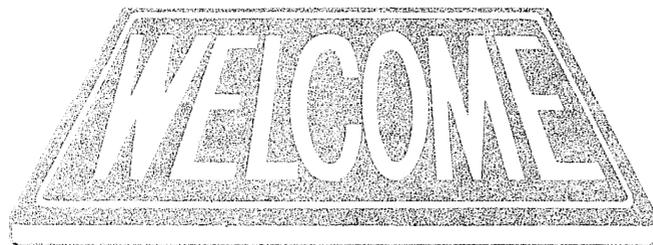
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## Israeli news

### Israeli news - election

#### News analysis: Merger deal rankles Likud on eve of party's primary

By DAVID LANDAU  
JERUSALEM (JTA) - Likud Party leader Benjamin Netanyahu is facing unrest within his party after he decided to merge two smaller parties into the Likud's slate in the upcoming national election. That decision will leave far fewer Knesset seats available for Likud loyalists when Israeli voters go to the polls May 29 to elect the next Knesset and, in a separate ballot, prime minister.



**BENJAMIN NETANYAHU: Facing unrest.**

Knesset seats are based on the proportion of the national vote a party wins. Under this system, candidates higher up on a party list are more likely to secure a seat than those lower on the list. The order of candidates on the list is determined in party primaries. The agreement Netanyahu signed two weeks ago with the right-wing Tsomet Party, led by Rafael Eitan, and with Likud renegade David Levy's Geshet Party called for the two parties to run on a joint list with Likud.

Levy and Eitan agreed to forego their own candidacies for prime minister in return for securing the second and third spots, respectively, on the joint list behind Netanyahu. The agreement also specified that Tsomet and Geshet candidates would have seven places each in the first 42 spots on the joint Knesset list. With top spots on the list reserved for Levy and Eitan - as well as for Ariel Sharon, the Likud Knesset member who put the deal together - popular and more moderate Likud figures such as Knesset members Dan Meridor and Ze'ev "Benny" Begin may be pushed aside - to the dismay of many in the party. While the merger agreement was scheduled to be endorsed by the Likud Central Committee last week, tensions within Likud are expected to come to the surface after the party's primaries, to be held early this week.

At that time, the Likud leader can expect trouble, say political pundits - especially when a significant number of party loyalists find that because of the deal with Tsomet and Geshet, they have placed too far down on the list to be assured seats in the next Knesset.

Current opinion polls show the combined Likud-Tsomet-Geshet Knesset list winning 42 seats.

The bitter irony for Likud loyalists is compounded in such cases as that of Reuven Rivlin, a former Knesset member and longtime Likud activist from Jerusalem who decided not to break away from Likud when his political mentor, Levy, formed Geshet. Had he gone with Levy, he would have been virtually assured a Knesset seat among Levy's guaranteed seven on the combined list. Now, he is unlikely to secure a slot amid the jostling for the 27 available "safe" seats for Likud candidates, not including the one already reserved for Netanyahu.

#### Peres, Netanyahu make bid for Russian immigrant vote

JERUSALEM (JTA) - The two top contenders for the Israeli premiership did their best last week to woo supporters of a fledgling political party made up mainly of Russian immigrants. Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Benjamin Netanyahu, leader of the opposition Likud Party, appeared March 17 before the founding convention of the Yisrael ba-Aliyah Party, which was meeting to elect its slate for the May 29 Knesset elections.

Natan Sharansky, the former Soviet Jewish activist and prisoner of Zion, founded the party to champion immigrants' rights. "Yisrael ba-Aliyah" - which has the dual meaning of "Israel for immigration" and "Israel moving upward" - has drawn its primary support from among the more than 600,000 citizens of the former Soviet Union who immigrated to Israel since 1989.

Recent polls suggest that the party, which has signed up some 36,000 supporters, may win at least four of the 120 Knesset seats in the upcoming elections. More than 1,800 delegates met March 17 at Jerusalem's Binyanei Ha'uma convention center, where they elected Sharansky party chairman and first on their Knesset slate. The next three slots on the list went to Michael Nudelman, Yuli Edelstein and Yuli Stern.

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**A prime minister under tension**  
A concerned-looking Prime Minister Shimon Peres inspecting a guard of honor. Peres was guest of honor March 7 at a parade for new army officers at an Israel Defence Forces base in the south of Israel. Copyright: ISRANET.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres took time out from a busy schedule to attend the parade of new officers at an IDF base in the south of Israel. The prime minister was under much pressure as he tried to grapple with the effect of the latest bout of terror bombings in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv that have claimed the lives of 65 people in the previous two weeks.

Happy Passover to the Jewish Community

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## TeleMedisys: A First in Manitoba

"Life Saving Service Launched for Cardiac-related Problems"

By JILL BRANDES

Can a simple phone call save your life? For those who suffer from heart disease and cardiac-related problems, the answer may be an emphatic "Yes"! TeleMedisys Inc., a new Canadian company that provides telemedicine services, announces the inauguration of a 24-hour telephone monitoring service for those with cardiac-related problems. Accessible at any time, world-wide, the service utilizes state of the art computer and telecommunications technology and the expertise of health professionals to quickly determine the seriousness of a perceived heart attack and facilitate the best medical solution.

A portable, easy-to-use heart monitor enables people to monitor their electrocardiograms anywhere in the world, send a tracing by phone, possibly avoid an unnecessary trip to the hospital, or else receive a quick response to a life-threatening situation. Since time is a major factor when dealing with cardiac-related problems this monitoring service offers its clients both peace of mind and chance to enjoy a carefree lifestyle.

Developed in Israel by Car Guard in the 1980s, the monitoring device used is proven technology. These cardiac devices, already in service in 20 countries (including the United States, England, France, Italy and Mexico), have been shown to benefit both the health care systems and TeleMedisys subscribers.

In Israel, for example, there has been up to an 85% reduction in hospital visits and shorter hospital stays for users of the cardiac devices, thus eliminating unnecessary and costly treatment.

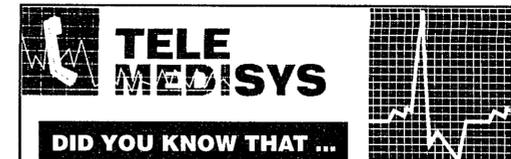
To become part of Manitoba's first telemedicine service contact Carla or Paul Divinsky at TeleMedisys. An appointment will be set up for a nurse to visit you at home, at your convenience. A complete medical history is taken and your vital signs including blood pressure, pulse, respiration and electrocardiogram (EKG) are recorded, then transmitted to the monitoring centre, and filed as your baseline health profile.

A TeleMedisys subscriber receives a pocket-sized monitoring device, about the size of a transistor

radio, and is instructed on its use. Whenever an episode occurs, a client simply attaches the monitor's three electrodes to either side of the chest and to the groin area, presses a button, and within 40 seconds there is an accurate reading. A quick phone call to the monitoring centre's 1-800 number sends the tracing to a cardiac nurse who is supervised by a senior cardiologist. The tracing is compared with the baseline EKG and personal health profile, professionally analyzed and within minutes, results are available.

If there is a problem, the monitoring centre phones the ambulance, finds out which hospital a client will be sent to, then faxes the pertinent data to health care professionals at that centre so that lifesaving measures can be initiated at once without costly time delays for triage.

Quick, easy access to medical monitoring can make all the difference in the fight against Canada's number one cause of death. To subscribe, or for more information phone Carla or Paul at 944-1951 or 1-800-249-6671.



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