JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS

TEL AVIV (WNS) - The cost of living rose by 12.4 percent during July, the highest ever rate for July since the establishment of the State and twice the rise in July 1983, according to the central Bureau of Statistics. The increase during June was 13.3 percent, but the slight reduction in July does not herald a decline in the rate of inflation as July is traditionally a lower rate of increase month than June.

JERUSALEM (WNS) - Treasury officials and leaders of the Histadrut, the trade union federation, met for an economic summit to try and reach an understanding on ways to cope with the deteriorating economic situation in Israel. While no agreement was reached, both parties decided to meet again to continue the dialogue.

TEL AVIV (WNS) — Israeli tennis players will be going to the Soviet Union at the end of September, to take part in matches in the finals of the World Davis Cup. News of the Soviet agreement to the participation of Israelis was transmitted to the Israel Tennis Federation by the International Tennis Federation in London which received a cable from Moscow stating that the Israelis would be invited to the matches, to be held in the Ukraine, and requesting personal details of the Israeli players.

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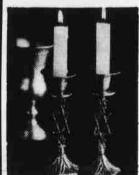


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JERUSALEM (WNS) - In the past three years, the number of Arabs in the West Bank increased considerably, reversing a decline in the last few years, according to a Bank of Israel survey. The decline was the result of more Arabs leaving than entering the West Bank. Although there are still more Arabs leaving than coming in, the number of Arabs leaving has decreased considerably, the study showed. It is estimated that last year only 4,000 more left than entered, compared to 11,000 who emigrated in 1982, 21,000 in 1981 and 22,400 in

TEL AVIV (WNS) - Mayor Shlomo Lahat of Tel Aviv has congratulated orchestra conductor Zubin Mehta and the members of the New York Philharmonic for "not surrendering to anti-cultural malice" and refusing to perform in Malaysia after that country demanded that the orchestra drop a score composed by the Jewish composer Ernest Bloch during its concerts there in early September.

TEL AVIV (WNS) - A sharp increase has been noted in the number of Lebanese visitors to Israel. in the number of Lebanese coming to work in Israel and in the number of Lebanese coming to Israeli medical centers along the border for treatment. No specific reason was given for the increases, but there is usually an upsurge in activity in the summer months.

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