

Shamir Visits Driver Injured By Terrorists



Jerusalem...Israel Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir chats with bus driver Yaakov Saada during a visit to the Hadassah-University Hospital here shortly after Shamir assumed office in the rotation of Israel's coalition government. Saada was injured by terrorist grenades last month during an attack on young soldiers and their families just outside the walls of the Old City.

Cabinet Ratifies Accord With Egypt To Submit Taba Dispute To Arbitration

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The Cabinet formally ratified an agreement with Egypt to submit the Taba border dispute to international arbitration. It rejected pre-conditions proposed by Minister of Commerce and Industry Ariel Sharon.

The arbitration panel, consisting of three international jurists and one representative each from Israel and Egypt, will convene in Geneva later this month. The agreement was reached last September to resolve the issue by arbitration, favored by Egypt, instead of conciliation, preferred by Israel. It followed more than a year of on-again-off-again negotiations that failed to settle the dispute.

The Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty of 1979 provides for either arbitration or conciliation in cases where the two countries cannot reach bilateral agreement. Sharon demanded that before the arbitration instrument was signed, Egypt lift all restrictions on tourism to Israel, close the Palestine Liberation Organization office in Cairo and pay compensation to the families of seven Israeli tourists killed by a berserk Egyptian soldier at Ras Burka in eastern Sinai last year.

The Foreign Ministry said the compensation issue is under negotiation with Egypt. The two governments will exchange the ratified arbitration documents prior to the start of the process in Geneva.

Aiding World's Farmers



Bar-Ilan University plant pathologist, Professor Yigal A. Cohen, holds a new breed of mildew-resistant cantaloupe he has developed in collaboration with American, Indian and Japanese colleagues at the U.S. Vegetable Laboratory in Charleston, S.C. The new muskmelon is expected to save farmers throughout the world millions of dollars now spent on fungicides needed for commercial cultivation of melon crops. The newly-developed cantaloupe will also enhance Israel's agricultural exports to Europe.

West Bank Violence Continues

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Violence flared in the West Bank for the fifth consecutive day with confrontations between Israel Defense Force troops and rock-throwing, tire-burning mobs blocking roads and assaulting Israeli vehicles. Three Israeli civilians and a border policeman were injured by rocks Monday.

A 12-year-old Palestinian boy was shot to death by soldiers in a melee at the Balata refugee camp near Nablus and six other Palestinians were wounded there and in the Sanjeis and Abu Dis villages near

Jerusalem. The unrest gathered momentum after the fatal shooting of a 14-year-old Palestinian at the Balata refugee camp by border police last Friday. That incident followed on the heels of a riot at Bir Zeit University near Ramallah in which two 22-year-old Palestinian students were killed by the IDF.

The civil administration ordered the Bir Zeit campus closed until January 3, after the Christmas holidays. Curfews were imposed on Ramallah and El Birch.

The IDF declared a policy of restraint and security forces are trying as much as possible to avoid clashes with demonstrators, a military spokesman said. According to the spokesman, soldiers open fire only when their lives are clearly endangered or demonstrators block the main highways and refuse to disperse.

Arab businesses in East Jerusalem and most West Bank cities remained closed Monday in a commercial strike called Sunday to protest the killings of Arab youth by the IDF.

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