

# Resignations

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The Central Election Commission said it would make an official announcement at 7 p.m. Thursday.

Initial exit polls on Wednesday night had forecast a slight edge for Fatah, with Hamas coming in a strong second. The polls predicted that neither Hamas nor Fatah would have enough seats to form a government alone, and would have to rely on smaller parties to form a coalition.

The discrepancy between the exit polls and results provided by party officials was apparently due to voting in districts. The polls apparently failed to account for divisions within Fatah at the district level, which weakened the ruling party and allowed Hamas to capitalize. Some voters also said they were afraid to admit to pollsters that they supported Hamas.

A senior Fatah member, Saeb Erekat, said he could not confirm the unofficial results, but blamed Israel's refusal to resume peace talks with a Fatah-led government for the party's poor showing.

"Israel has declared us non-partners about four years ago and they were not speaking to our elected president," he told Israel Army Radio. "Everybody was blaming Fatah for every mistake in the world. Everybody was tying our hands and our

legs and throwing us into the sea. And now I think all these things, including our mistakes in Fatah, led to this result."

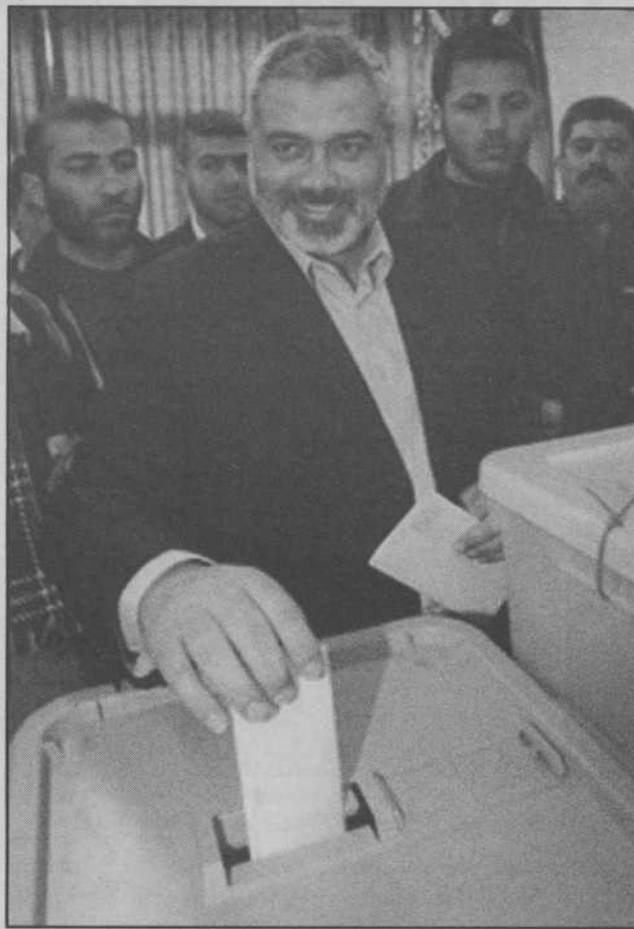
Olmert said Wednesday that Israel cannot trust a Palestinian leadership in which the Islamic group has a role, according to a statement by his office.

"Israel can't accept a situation in which Hamas, in its present form as a terror group calling for the destruction of Israel, will be part of the Palestinian Authority without disarming," Olmert told U.S. Sen. Joseph Biden in a meeting, according to Olmert's office. "I won't hold negotiations with a government that does not stick to its most basic obligation of fighting terror."

Israel is willing to help the Palestinians and Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas "a great deal" but only if they crack down on militants, Olmert said.

Israel has repeatedly asked Abbas to force Hamas and other militant groups to disarm but Abbas has refused, warning such an act could cause civil war. Hamas has committed dozens of suicide bombings against Israel.

President Bush told *The Wall Street Journal* in an interview Wednesday that the United States will not deal with Hamas until it renounces its position calling for the destruction of Israel.



Senior Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh casts his ballots inside a polling station in Gaza City on Wednesday.

The election Wednesday was the Palestinians' first truly competitive vote, with Hamas contesting a parliamentary vote for the first time and winning considerable clout. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians flooded polling stations throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip for a vote that would determine how Palestinians wanted to be governed and whether they would pursue negotiations or confrontation with Israel.

Long lines formed at polling stations, and 77.7 percent of 1.3 million eligible voters cast ballots. Under a compromise with Israel, some Arabs in east Jerusalem were allowed to cast absentee ballots at post offices in the disputed city, and voting was extended there by two hours because postal workers were slow.

Routine power cuts in the Gaza Strip town of Khan Younis forced election workers to count ballots by

candlelight.

"Whoever is the winner, it's a great victory for the Palestinians in general because partnership starts from this minute," said Samer Lulu, 29, a merchant who voted in Gaza City.

Hamas' success has alarmed Israel and the West, but Abbas has argued that luring the group, which has been behind dozens of deadly attacks on Israel, into politics would tame it and increase the chances for peace. The election will usher in a new parliament and Cabinet, but Abbas, who was elected president last year, will remain head of the Palestinian Authority regardless of the results.

"We are coming into a new phase. In this phase, we are calling for the international community to help us return to the negotiating table with the Israelis, conclude the peace process and implement it," Abbas said after the voting ended.

## Your Horoscope Says... Jan. 26-Feb. 1

### ARIES

Your mind is busy this week with thoughts of new projects and the things you want to get done. Best course of action is to clear up pending and overdue items. You'll have a clean desk in no time and will feel genuinely content and relaxed for the week.

Soul Affirmation: I will actually write a love letter to the universe this week.

Lucky Numbers: 14, 35, 38

### TAURUS

Lots of opportunities are swirling around you, and it will require some diligence on your part to make the most of some of them. You'll be happy you put in some extra effort this week.

Soul Affirmation: I open up to the universe. The universe opens up to me.

Lucky Numbers: 22, 36, 49

### GEMINI

This week is another week when your intuition and insights are remarkable. A lesson you learned in the past may suddenly reveal itself as more this week; you'll have plenty of food for thought.

Soul Affirmation: I paint my world in colors of the rainbow.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 25, 50

### CANCER

Someone whose values are different than yours may annoy you this week if you let them. Let your most tolerant mindset rule, and enjoy being able to listen to others' points of view. You'll feel very blessed by the end of the week.

Soul Affirmation: Change is my middle name.

Lucky Numbers: 12, 42, 54

### LEO

You learn something this week that makes you very happy. One of your most wonderful gifts is your ability to be delighted with all forms of learning and education. This is a terrific week for personal delight.

Soul Affirmation: Trust gives me a deep sense of peace and joy.

Lucky Numbers: 27, 33, 45

### VIRGO

Shopping has its appeals this week, and you'll want to check your bankbook balance before indulging in anything that is whimsical and expensive. Give yourself hours to think about what's important to you. Control impulses this week.

Soul Affirmation: I change the way I look at business this week.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 10, 18

### LIBRA

This week is likely to make you feel young again. You'll want to play jokes and tricks on people around you. Make sure they are ready to deal with your playful mood. Enjoy yourself, you fabulous being.

Soul Affirmation: Superficiality is often the best route to clarity.

Lucky Numbers: 14, 15, 17

### SCORPIO

You have more of a flair for communication this week than usual. Keep your words diplomatic but effective if your opinion is called for. A relative seeking advice will be glad they asked you.

Soul Affirmation: I make the first step and the universe will come to my aid.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 13, 29

### SAGITTARIUS

Mental fog lifts and you are sharp as a tack once again. You'll be making

decisions about partnerships and joint finances. Get in touch with those who can help you achieve your goals. Place the accent on initiative. Romance, passion and work are singing in harmony at nights during the week.

Soul Affirmation: My love for myself is the most important love for me to have.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 35, 41

### CAPRICORN

Don't sweat the small stuff this week. You have a keen eye for the big picture, and you'll be most productive if you ignore the petty this week. Your home is very happy at night during the week! Count your blessings.

Soul Affirmation: Cheerfully handling what comes at me is the test of who I am.

Lucky Numbers: 24, 31, 46

### AQUARIUS

Your energy level remains high; be careful not to overdo it but enjoy the wonderful feeling of your physical self as much as possible. A phone call from a friend who lives far away will brighten your week and inspire you with travel plans.

Soul Affirmation: Slow and easy is the best way for me to travel this week.

Lucky Numbers: 18, 25, 55

### PISCES

Things are busy this right now, and you love it! You feel very much as if you are at the center of life. Children will be a topic of conversation. Make plans to enjoy a special week with your honey.

Soul Affirmation: I appear to others what I know myself to be.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 13, 21

## Cancer

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risk of disease is controversial, in part because race was used to discriminate in human experiments. Now it is increasingly being exploited in the emerging field of medicine that tailors drugs to a person's genetics. Last year, the Food and Drug Administration approved a heart-failure drug specifically for Blacks. Different response rates also have been seen among certain ethnic groups to cancer drugs.

Two other reports in the journal link ethnic groups to increased risks of another disease — Parkinson's.

Researchers found that Eastern European Jews and North Africans of Arab descent were far more likely to have a gene mutation linked to the neurological disease than Whites and other ethnic or racial groups.

The studies were separately done by scientists at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City and INSERM, the French equivalent of the National Institutes of Health.

If larger studies confirm the findings, it could lead to the offering of genetic testing to high-risk groups, as is done now for breast cancer gene mutations among Eastern European Jewish women.



Pastor Lawrence Cook

### REVELATION 3:20 CHURCH

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