



Teaneck USY  
Closter USY

# Israel Insight

ישראל מקרוב

## News Briefs:

- Iranian Officials announced the construction of a second nuclear reactor. Their first reactor is due to begin testing and normal operations later this year. The Iranian government still insists that the reactors are purely for energy, though much of the international community is suspicious of ulterior motives.
- The national bank, the Bank of Israel, quelled rumors of recession. A new report confirmed a 4% growth rate for the economy, stable exports, a trade surplus and no budget overruns.
- Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Salam Fayyad expressed his pessimism at the chances of a peace accord with Israel this year. He argued that Israel had not fulfilled its obligations under the "road map" peace plan by not removing West Bank settlements. Israeli officials countered, pointing out that the PA had not met its security obligations.

### Teaneck USY

Congregation Beth Sholom  
354 Maitland Ave  
Teaneck, NJ 07666  
E-mail:  
contactus@teaneckusy.org

### Closter USY

Temple Emanu-El  
180 Piermont Road,  
Closter, New Jersey 07624  
E-mail: ween@templeemanu-el.com

## Iran Lends Syria Missile Technology

- The Israel intelligence community reported that Syria continues to enjoy the military and intelligence assistance of Tehran. Syria receives arms from both Russia and Iran.
- Officials expressed their concern over the rearmament of the Syrian armed forces with advanced missiles and high-precision rockets.
- Syria is known to possess Zelzal missiles, which have been upgraded to a range of 250 km. This puts these Iranian-designed weapons in range of major Israeli infrastructure like airports and factories.
- During the 2006 Lebanon War, Hezbollah fired many Syrian-made rockets into Israel. The defense establishment fears Syria has been rearming Hezbollah since the war. The possibility of Zelzal missiles in terrorists' hands is particularly worrisome.



Presidents Ahmadinejad and Assad in Damascus

Source: Haaretz (Archives)

## Israel is a Sushi Mecca

- The 100th sushi restaurant opened in Tel Aviv, making the coastline city the world's 3rd largest sushi market per capita. The largest is Tokyo and the second largest is New York.
- There are 62 restaurants in Tel Aviv that specialize in sushi only and 38 others where sushi is a large portion of the menu.
- Not all of them are kosher. About 20% of the sushi restaurants in Tel Aviv are under Rabbinic supervision.
- Sushi is a rapidly expanding part of the Israeli diet and, according to Noam Shaked, the site director of the 2EAT website, one out of every ten Israelis eat sushi at least once a month.

## Likud Chairman Calls for Action

- Current Likud Party Chairman and former Prime Minister B. B. Netanyahu toured Sderot to drum up support for his party's platform. He currently leads the opposition to PM Olmert's coalition. He strongly supports increased offensive action against militants in Gaza and Lebanon.
- "When I was Prime Minister Palestinians were afraid," stated Netanyahu. He continued, "During our term not one Qassam landed here, Hezbollah had thousands of missiles and did not fire even one, and when they did fire we hit them so hard that they stopped firing for six years. They should be afraid of us."
- One student, about to be drafted, questioned the government's ability to protect its citizens, expressing his feeling of abandonment with regard to the constant barrage of rockets on the city.
- Netanyahu replied that the only way to stop the attacks would be force, and Israel needed the support of every citizen and every soldier. He encouraged the student to join a combat unit and join him in the defense of Israel's border.