

## FAST FACTS

**Deadly crash in India's air:**

Two airlines collided in Mid-Air over India. The crash killed 351, including two Americans. The death toll was the 3rd highest in aviation history. The crash occurred when a Saudi Arabian jumbo jet collided shortly after take-off with a Kazak Airlines plane approaching the New Delhi Airport.

**U. N. calls for an end of Cuba embargo:**

The U. N. General Assembly for the fifth year in a row called for an end to the three-year-old U. S. trade embargo against Cuba by the biggest majority yet.

**Pope condemns gap between rich and poor:**

Pope John Paul II told a U. N. sponsored World Food Summit on Wednesday that it was "intolerable" that some people lived in opulence while others starved.

## Growing pains in the Middle East

J. KELLY DAVIS  
Back page editor

"We are still swimming in a sea of confusion... looking for a way out," said the grandson of Yitzhak Rabin as reported by the Associated Press. "Our world has changed. We are no longer the same family, the same people."

It's been exactly one year and eleven days since the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. The West has never seen situations in the Middle East as good, and today we seem to think things are actually very bad. Tension, both internal and external, for the countries of this region have been rising steadily. Conflict has renewed between the United States and Iraq, the Kurdish people are still facing difficulties, the monarchy in Saudi Arabia is facing stronger threats than ever before, and the peace process in Israel has been stagnant if not regressed. On top of all this, the



Mohammed  
Abu-Nimer

United States government still fails to clarify its role in these situations.

"You can't find a square mile on the world that isn't in some kind of turmoil," says Sepehr Moshtael. Moshtael is a 21-year-old Greensboro resident whose family fled Tehran, Iran in 1978 just before the Ayatollah Khomeini's Islamic revolution.

He points to developments in science and technology as well as population growth as a way to understand today's problems.

"We're going through growing pains," added Moshtael. He feels that these problems should be eventually worked out.

In Saudi Arabia, where our military bases dictate much of our foreign policy, there is growing dissatisfaction with the monarchy. Last week the military consolidated its forces, that were deployed in Dhahran and Riyadh, in Al Kharij. This move was in reaction to security problems, which include two bombings, around the bases over the past year.



Although the Saudi monarchy supports the U.S. presence, frustrations with the monarchy continue to spread. Unlike the revolution that occurred over fifteen years ago in Iran, this dissent is not entirely fueled by religious dogma.

Many of the people are pointing towards economic problems as

creating a need for change. Over the past 64 years the monarchy has satiated the Saudi people with governmental subsidies. Recently, the government has been cutting back on these subsidies. According to *The New York Times*, the per capita annual income has dropped by nearly two-thirds over the past 15 years.

So, most of the blame lies with the royal family. They are accused of either encouraging infidels to occupy space on the Arabian peninsula, or financial mismanagement leading to the poverty of many Saudi people.

The situation in Israel, although different from the other two involving U.S. military bases, is similar because the U.S. government—through non-action—has perpetuated problems that many had hoped would be averted.

"Unfortunately, not many things have changed," says Mohammed Abu-Nimer about the peace process in Israel.

Abu-Nimer cited several incidents that occurred over the past year. The West Bank and the Gaza strip were closed in February and have only recently been completely reopened. This means that no Palestinians were able to leave the regions—even to go to their jobs in Israel. No items were to enter or leave the regions. In effect they were completely isolated from the rest of the world.

This caused a great deal of economic decline and growing frustrations among Palestinians about their place in the Middle East.

Abu-Nimer also said that for the first time since 1993, there were clear public clashes between Israeli soldiers and Palestinians. This clash led to the deaths of 5 Palestinians, 15 Israelis, and caused hundreds of injuries.

"One thing positive that did happen was for [the] first time since 1923," says Abu-Nimer, "Israeli right wing leader shook [the] hand of a Palestinian leader."

According to Bill Schmickle, a political science professor with expertise in international politics, this is a very positive sign.

"In our history, we've found that compromise with the enemy is best obtained by more conservative leaders," he stated.

The hope of many people is that Netanyahu will be able to move to a more moderate position and forge some type of peace in the region.

"What success he obtains will probably be on firmer ground than by other, more liberal leaders," added Schmickle.

## Peace in the Middle East?

LAUREN GILL  
world editor

The struggle between the Arabs and the Jews began in the 600's. Almost 1400 years later, the war is still on.

Sunday morning, it appeared that negotiations were close, that an almost endless struggle would come to an end.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu telephoned Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to discuss the Hebron situation, but Netanyahu said that the delaying tactics of the Palestinians endangered the entire Israeli redeployment.

Only 400 Jewish settlers live among 100,000 Palestinians on Hebron's West Bank. Palestinian officials are looking to seal an accord with Israeli troops which would hand over 80% of the town to Palestinian police. Many Jewish settlers living in

Hebron fear a Palestinian massacre if an agreement is made.

According to Palestinian negotiator Hassan Asfour, Netanyahu only offered a verbal commitment to implementing the deals.

Both the Israeli prime minister and the Palestinian president have recently expressed hope of clinching a deal. But, during a Middle East economic conference held on Tuesday, Palestinians lashed out at Israel, accusing its right-wing government of choking their economy and hindering regional alliance.

Many students at Guilford are frustrated about the situation in the Middle East, and most are fairly uninformed.

Senior Nat Gray, when asked about the recent occurrences in the Middle East replied, "Sounds terribly frightening, but I feel too uninformed to say anything."

First-year Marc Bernstein commented that, "The phone call was typical. I wasn't sur-

prised to hear that nothing had been resolved. They've tried time and time again to settle things. They were going to settle everything while Yitzhak Rabin was alive, but after he was assassinated last year by an Israeli Jew who opposed his peace efforts, people lost hope. Israel lost a lot of security. Rabin was considered Israel's great hope. They thought that he would be the one to resolve the fighting that had been with since Israel has been Israel."

Wednesday afternoon, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu cancelled a trip to the United States to further negotiate with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat. This recent event has many Israelis and Palestinians curious about how soon peace will be achieved. An Israeli official who requested anonymity said to the Associated Press, "It's possible, but it's also possible it will happen tomorrow."

## Student Voices:



Roy Jessup  
senior

"As long as economics a factor in the Middle East and also nationalism then peace won't be obtained"



Alit Bedik  
first-year

"Living in Israel for 10 years I experienced a lot of the hate and the violence... I really don't believe that it's ever going to [change.]"