

## Yitzhak Rabin assassinated

By DIANNA CAHN  
Associated Press Writer

### Right-wing Jewish suspect in custody

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, an Israeli war hero who became one of his country's foremost architects of peace, was shot and killed Saturday night as he left a pro-peace rally. A suspect, a right-wing Jewish law student, was in custody.



Yitzhak Rabin

Rabin, 73, was about to get into his car when the gunman fired three bullets from a close distance, hitting Rabin in the back and stomach. He was taken to Tel Aviv's Ichilov Hospital, where he died about an hour later on the operating table. Hundreds of people waiting outside the hospital burst into tears when Rabin's top aide, Eitan Haber, announced that Rabin had died. In spontaneous mourning, Israelis held up candles and cigarette lighters to express their sorrow.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who was with Rabin at the rally and was only yards away when the shots were fired, assumed the leadership of the government. Peres, who shared the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize with Rabin and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, has been firmly committed to the Mideast peace process.

By law, when a prime minister dies in office, the government is deemed to have resigned and becomes a transitional government. The president, Ezer Weiz-

man, must begin contacts on the formation of a new government.

Peres convened the shaken Cabinet ministers for a special mourning session in Tel Aviv late Saturday. One of the ministers, Yossi Sarid, vowed that the government would carry on Rabin's peace policies.

In Washington, President Clinton said Rabin "risked his life to defend his country — today he gave his life to bring it a lasting peace."

Arafat called Rabin a "great leader of peace."

Israeli radio and TV reports identified the gunman as Yigal Amir, a 27-year-old law student from Herzliya who had been involved in right-wing causes, including setting up illegal settlements in the West Bank.

TV reports said Amir told his investigators he acted alone and that he did not regret the deed.

Earlier Saturday, a previously unknown Jewish extremist group, identified only as "In," claimed responsibility in an announcement given to Israeli police reporters on their beepers. Government spokesman Uri Dromi said that "a Jewish

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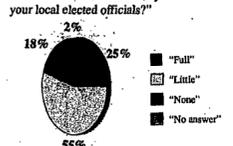


Virginia Tech shuts down Syracuse in Big East showdown.

#### SPORTS

#### On Government Reform ..

"How much confidence do you have in your local elected officials?"



"Do you support limits on the number of years elected officials can serve on town, village, city or county government boards?"



Find out what local voters feel is important via a P-R telephone poll.

#### SPECTRUM



Medicare, Medicaid cuts will have major impact on area hospitals.

#### BUSINESS



No longer in "Beverly Hills 90210," Shannen Doherty stars in a new film.

#### PARADE

#### WEATHER

Partly sunny, breezy and cool. High near 40.

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#### LOTTERY

Lotto 54: 1, 13, 17, 25, 39, 42. Supplementary No. 33. Lottery: 094. Win 4: 7545. Pick 10: 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 13, 14, 16, 24, 30, 32, 41, 47, 54, 55, 56, 59, 62, 73, 79. New England: Pick 3: 907. Pick 4: 6227. Tri-State Megabucks: 7, 9, 10, 31, 33, 34.

## Israeli citizens knew this could happen

By DENISE A. RAYMO  
Staff Writer

TEL AVIV, Israel — The assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin Saturday shook the population of Israel, but one citizen said he is sure the tragedy will not derail the Middle East peace process.

David Davidovich is the manager of the Ghetto Fighter House (English translation), a museum dedicated to the preservation of material from the Holocaust just north of Tel Aviv.

The museum hosted an international delegation of educators, including Beekmantown Central School psychology and government teacher Gary Duesberg for a few days, during which the assassination took place.

In a telephone interview with the Press-Republican Saturday, Davidovich said some Israelis thought something terrible would happen as the peace process forged ahead.

"We were very naive. We knew something like this could happen, but we didn't like to think about it. I think Israelis want peace, but there are differences

on how we want to get it." The suspected assassin, Yigal Amir, 27, was involved in right-wing causes, including establishment of illegal settlements on the West Bank.

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## Murder spurs local reaction

By GERIANNE WRIGHT  
Contributing Writer

PLATTSBURGH — The leader of the area's Jewish community said she holds onto the hope that the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin will not derail the peace he helped orchestrate.

"It's a major tragedy regardless if you're a supporter of Rabin's politics or not," said Rabi Carla Freedman of Temple Beth Israel. "He was a man of stature in the peace process. The question now is how is it going to impact the peace. Our sense is that it will re-double the current Israeli government's commitment

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## Rouses Point teen killed in crash

By MARK HOLLMER  
Staff Writer

CHAMPLAIN — A 16-year-old Rouses Point teen with his driver's permit was killed in a Ridge Road auto accident Saturday that left his four passengers in critical or serious condition.

Excessive speed is viewed as the cause.

Jason R. Rushford, of 75 Pratt St., suffered massive head injuries and died at the accident site, said State Police Trooper Kent Olsen.

Rushford and his four passengers were not wearing seatbelts, Olsen said.

The passengers: Judy Rushford, Jason Rushford's 37-year-old mother, suffered spinal injuries and a broken left arm and leg, Olsen said. She was taken

to CVPH Medical Center and then Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington, Vt., where she was listed in critical condition.

Michelle Rushford, 14, Jason Rushford's sister, suffered a possible ruptured spleen and internal injuries, Olsen said. She was in intensive care at CVPH and listed in serious condition.

Jessica Atkins, 17, also of 75 Pratt St., suffered cuts, internal injuries and a ruptured spleen, Olsen said. She was taken to CVPH Medical Center, where she was in intensive care and listed in serious condition.

Thomas Burkhart, 17, of 6 Crestview Way, was to go into surgery at CVPH Medical Center for a ruptured spleen.

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#### SUNDAY'S FEATURE

## Washing up

### Environmental cleanup projects continue at Plattsburgh base

By JEFF MEYERS  
Staff Writer

PLATTSBURGH — The Air Force will spend \$10 million this fiscal year to continue environmental cleanup projects on the former Plattsburgh Air Force Base.

About a dozen personnel from the Air Force Base Convergence Agency are still stationed at Plattsburgh and will remain there at least three more years.

"The Air Force has taken the responsibility for cleaning the base, and we will probably be here through the bulk of that effort," said Michael Sorel, local environmental coordinator for the Base Realignment and Closure Committee.

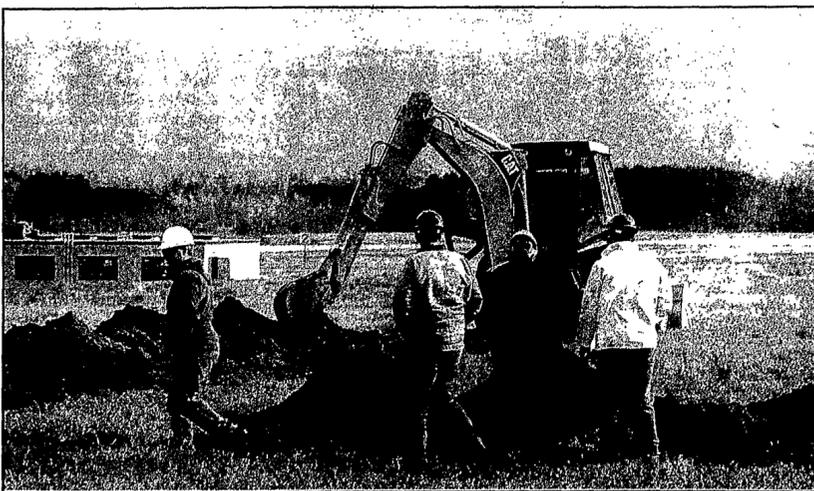
"Also, someone will be here through the long-term operation and maintenance of any systems we have in place (to monitor cleanup efforts)."

Originally, 40 sites were listed for cleanup on the base, including old landfills, hazardous chemical spills and lead-contaminated firing

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BECKMANTOWN BLAZE: Firefighters from 12 different stations responded to a structure fire on Route 22 in Beekmantown just north of Buck's Discount. The storage barn didn't last very long at all; the flames, which shot high into the air, almost completely consumed the building. The fire appears to have been caused by electrical problems. More than 15 fire departments were either called to fight the fire or stand by if needed. Story, Page A-3.



Contractors work on environmental cleanup projects on Plattsburgh Air Force Base.