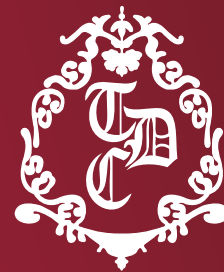


# The Diplomatic Club



November 2009



## PEOPLE

AMBASSADOR  
OF JORDAN TO  
ISRAEL  
H.E.MR. AL-AYED

## MIDDLE EAST DIGEST

DUBIOUS  
PROSPERITY

## DIPLOMATIC EVENTS

THE ANGOLAN  
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### **Dear Friends,**

2009 was an eventful year, during which the Middle East was generated the hoped for peace. We wish the Middle East an active 2010 year, focused on peace and development, where hatred dissolves and harmony blooms.

#### **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

According to Christian tradition, Bethlehem is the birthplace of Jesus of Nazareth and the town is inhabited by one of the oldest Christian communities in the world, though the size of the community has shrunk in recent years due to emigration. According to Biblical tradition, the city is also believed to be the birthplace of David and the location where he was crowned as the king of Israel.

#### **HAPPY EID AL-ADHA!**

As three million pilgrims completed the Hajj, the once in a lifetime Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca, Muslims around the world celebrated Eid Al-Adha on December 8th. Eid Al-Adha is the religious festival of sacrifice commemorating the strong devotion to God Abraham proved through his willingness to sacrifice his son. After demonstrating his obedience, God gave him a sheep to sacrifice instead and ever since, Muslims have been sacrificing their best animals on Eid (in addition to praying, celebrating, feasting and shopping).

While home slaughtering is illegal in many countries due to health concerns, Muslims can still purchase animals sacrificed according to ritualistic requirements. In the West Bank where slaughtering is allowed however, families continue the tradition and top it off by leaving the streets filled with holy, cleansing and purifying sacrificial blood.

#### **HAPPY HANUKKAH!**

The first night of Hanukkah is the festival of lights. Let the fact that the buses were still running in Israel show that it really isn't that major of a celebration for the Jewish faith. However, it's still important in that it commemorates the Jewish reclamation and rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem from the Greeks, and the small amount of olive oil they found to light the temple's menorah which miraculously lasted for eight days. Chanukah Sameah.

I just want to wish you all the best and of course health for the next year and I hope all your dreams and wishes comes true. I also hope that all the political and economic problems will solved as soon as possible. I wish that no more bombs are falling in the middle east and other parts on this planet!! But I am also sure, that some of these wishes are just dreams. But I am also sure, that sometimes dreams can get reality. So I don't stop to believe in it.

***Remain courageous and once again all the best and see you next year!***

***Happy Holidays***

***Julia Verdel***

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# PROUD TO SERVE HIS COUNTRY



*Ambassador Al-Ayed*

**F**or many Israelis the relations with Jordan resemble a glass of water. The optimists consider it half full, while the pessimists regard it half empty. On one side, this month Israel marked the anniversary with its closest Arab neighbor and former foe, which today is a partner and a friend. On the other – the peace remains somewhat chilly, many Jordanians object to normalization with Israel and the potential of relations is far from being actualized. In any case, the 15-th anniversary of peace between Israel and Jordan generated plenty of media and public attention in Israel, making Mr Ali Alayed, the ambassador of Jordan, an especially busy man. Last fifteen years were extremely turbulent and rich in events pregnant with dangerous consequences for both countries, and yet they also years of peace. The collapse of peace process followed by intifada Al-Aqsa, the disengagement from Gaza and the rise of Islamic HAMAS party to power, the Lebanon war of 2006, then Gaza war in 2009, assassination of Yitzhak Rabin and death of King Hussein – all of these fateful events took their toll, and still the two countries managed to maintain normal and consistent relations. In an exclusive interview to the Diplomatic Club, ambassador Al-Ayed presents the Jordanian perspective, talking about hopes, visions and disappointments of last fifteen years., he warns

Ambassador Alayed works in Israel for the past 3.5 years. Prior to his nomination as the ambassador of Jordan to Israel, he served in Cairo and Washington. He was also a political advisor to the prime minister and the chief of staff at the Jordanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As a member of a Jordanian team during the negotiations with Israel he is familiar with the historic circumstances of the treaty, its objectives and potential.

**DC – You’ve been working in Israel for quite some time now. How could you describe these three and a half years of your life?**

Ambassador Al-Ayed - Never a dull moment, you always wake up to some kind of news. Two wars, many changes in internal political arena...But you always have to stay professional. I was sent here to serve my country to help to create peace, and I’m proud to do that.

By Ksenia Svetlova

**DC – 15 years ago Jordan became the second Arab country to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel. Back then there was a lot of optimism about the future, it seemed that many other countries will follow along, yet until now all these dreams didn’t materialize. Why?**

Ambassador Al-Ayed - For us in Jordan the peace with Israel is a commitment. The peace between us is formal and irreversible. However, today, 15 years after signing the treaty we are far from realizing the enormous potential of our relations. Absent realizing the two state solution, the ties won’t grow stronger and expand no matter how diligent our governments work. As a member of Jordan Delegation to Peace Process with the State of Israel I’m fully aware of what the plan was, what could we really accomplish. We felt so much optimism back then, expecting that the Arab-Israeli conflict had come to an end, with comprehensive peace agreement just around the corner. Unfortunately, 15 years on we seem to be further from that objective which appeared to be, in 1995, so near.

**DC – You mentioned that Jordan is fully committed to peace with Israel, and that the peace is irreversible, yet many Israelis are aware of the huge gap in perception of peace between the leadership and the people on the street. The professional associations boycott Israel, its flag is being burned in the parliament and many people demand to expel the Israeli ambassador from the Kingdom and to return the ambassador from Tel Aviv. How can you explain this phenomena?**

Ambassador Al-Ayed - I cannot ignore or deny what you say – no matter what the Jordanian government says or does diligently – people still see what happens in Gaza West Bank and East Jerusalem, and it antagonizes the crowd. People are very much affected by what’s going on here. I don’t think that the Jordanians just wake up in the morning and say we want to do this or that without any reason. This is not the problem – the problem is Israeli-Palestinian conflict. I know the feeling of the Israelis about security – I





think that the Arab peace initiative answers their quest for security. I call to all to read the text of the peace initiative, I think it is a historic offer, 22 countries come with a unified position, offering Israel peace and security it longs for.

The core of the conflict is a Palestinian issue and this was identified by the Arab world when they came up with a Arab peace initiative in Beirut in 2002. If you solve the Palestinian issue, you solve the Arab Israeli conflict. The Arab Peace Initiative suggests the return of all occupied territories and return of normal relations with everybody. The Arab Peace Initiative is a gate not only to Palestinian, but to the whole Arab world and even more – all 57 Islamic countries.

**DC- Do you pay the price for your relations with Israel like Egypt did at the time?**

Ambassador Al-Ayed - I think it's not a matter of a price. I consider this not a win-lose, but a win-win situation. Strategically Jordan is committed to peace, The Hashemite kingdom has been known as peace loving country. We are committed to assist in every way to achieve this goal for we recognize and know that a significant dimension of our bilateral relations can only grow and expand in the context of the realization of the two state solu-

tion and the achievement of comprehensive peace. We believe that no Palestinian should suffer from curfews and closures, roadblocks, land confiscation, home demolition and daily threats to life and property. We also recognize and understand how important the security issue is to Israelis. I believe that the only effective and iron clad recipe is the two state solution and the comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

**DC - In 1967 22 Arab countries said no to normalization and no to dialogue. Today 22 countries offer a peaceful solution for Arab-Israeli conflict – does it mean that the region has changed?**

Ambassador Al-Ayed – Not only the region, the whole world had changed. Today peace is a necessity, not a luxury for us, in this part of the world. We see the reaction to Arab Israeli conflict – there is now fair approach to help out the whole region, we want peace, we don't want war, we don't want dark future for our children!

**DC – What are the alternatives? What if the peace track won't be restarted soon?**

Ambassador Al-Ayed - I think you don't want to be dragged into non-peace agenda... people in this region want peace, it's

clear. But if we don't have any progress in the peace front, the whole region will be dragged into darkness. And this will put in danger the whole region.

**DC – Let's talk about the bright side of things. Although the ambitious and large scale projects as the Peace canal remained only on paper, and yet there is a proven record of accomplishments in fields of trade, tourism, water cooperation...**

Ambassador Al-Ayed – It's true, there is economic cooperation, but not at the level that we wanted to achieve. There is cooperation in tourism, water, Aqaba-Eilat – but we could have so much more, it would help our economy, well being, and this would contribute to the front of peace. I don't really care about the economy in that sense until we solved our problems. We have to think out of the box and tackle the issues with a real action plan, The status quo is no good for anybody and it's harmful for us and our future.

I know that the Israeli people want peace and the Arab world wants peace. I hope when we'll meet again on 16 anniversary, the situation will be very different, that we will have an independent Palestinian state and a solution for a comprehensive peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors... ■



## A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF ISRAEL'S NATURAL GAS SECTOR

Between 1996 and 2000, beginning with the enactment of the Electricity Sector Law, in 1996, the Israeli government decided that 20% of the country's electricity sector would be generated by independent power plants, mostly the type that use natural gas to generate electricity.

Then, immediately upon the beginning of the 21st century, Israel was indeed propelled into the natural gas era. This was made possible by the discovery in March 2000 by Yam Tethys (Israeli Delek Group and the US Noble Energy) of the Mari-B field offshore Ashkelon, followed in September 2000 by BG's discovery of a gas field offshore Gaza. These two discoveries came hand in hand with the renewal of negotiations with Egypt for the import of natural gas from that country to Israel.

As the benefits of natural gas (such as high energy efficiency, lower costs, cleanest burning fossil fuels) were slowly but steadily rendering it the fuel of choice around the world, so too in Israel the sudden availability of these reserves spurred a flurry of activities. The public and the private sectors, national and international entities became involved in the different phases of the natural gas chain in Israel: exploration and production, transmission and distribution, sale and marketing, legislation and licensing, and the establishment of a market place for the gas

with special focus on gas fired power generation facilities. Today, in October 2009, natural gas represents 40% of Israel's energy mix for electricity generation an extremely high proportion compared to OECD countries where the norm is often half of this or even less.

Thus, since the outset of this decade, just following the discoveries offshore, considerable advances have taken place in Israel's natural gas economy. Israel has started to emerge slowly from a totally greenfield marketplace in the natural gas sphere to one in which we have witnessed the following developments:

Signing of the first natural gas contract in 2002 from Yam Tethys's Mari field offshore Ashkelon, with first gas being supplied from the field to IEC at the beginning of 2004.

Signing of the second natural gas contract, this one with EMG, for the supplies of gas from Egypt to Israel, with first gas starting to flow to Israel in May 2008.

Discovery of the Tamar field offshore Haifa and the Dalit field offshore Hadera by the Noble / Delek / Avner / Isramco and Dor JV during the first half of 2009.

The publication in 2008 of a preliminary liquefied natural gas (LNG) tender to determine the standards, technology and siting of an LNG

regasification plant in Israel, most probably offshore, with the submission of the tender documents by contenders to the Ministry of National Infrastructure in October 2009. The basic concept of the LNG tender is to move ahead with the first stage that will include the construction of a re-gasification terminal that will have a send-out capacity of 4 bcm of gas per annum.

To date, no contract has been signed between Israel or any consumer for gas from the offshore Gaza gas field.

### OTHER MILESTONES INCLUDE:

The legislation by the Knesset of the Natural Gas Law in 2002. The objective of the law was to "create conditions for the development of the natural gas sphere in Israel via the private sector and to encourage competition in accordance with government policy in the fields of economics and energy; to regulate activity in the natural gas sphere so as to enable investments in it and to provide services at appropriate levels of quality, credibility and availability, and taking into account considerations of efficiency".

The establishment in 2002 of the Natural Gas Authority as the regulatory body of the industry to supervise license holders, approves tariffs, publish tenders and prepare licenses.

The creation of a new government company in August 2004, namely "Israel Natural Gas Lines". The company was granted a 30-year license for the construction and operation of the natural gas transmission system to transport natural gas to all high pressure gas consumers in Israel as well as to large low pressure consumers.

The construction of a large portion of the transmission system throughout the country both offshore and onshore.

The conversion in 2004 by Israel Electric Corporation of their Eshkol plant in Ashdod from fuel oil to natural gas and in 2006 of their Reading plant in Tel Aviv and the establishment of IEC's combined cycle unit at Gezer in July 2008 and Hagit in June of 2009.

The publication in December of 2007 of tenders for the construction and operation of the first two local distribution networks to supply and transmit natural gas in the Negev Region and the center of the country to low pressure natural gas consumers and the publication in October 2009 of the third tender to set up a similar distribution network in the south of the country.

Despite all these achievements in the last decade, Israel has yet to accomplish security of energy supply. This, the author believes, can only be truly accomplished through multiple suppliers providing supplies of gas from a number of different sources transmitted to the country via a plethora of transmission lines and infrastructure.

The article below is written by Gina Cohen who has been active in Israel's energy sector in general and the natural gas and electricity sectors in particular for the last dozen years. She has agreed to write a few brief articles on the country's energy sector. Gina Cohen has also published a comprehensive Hebrew-English Energy Glossary which contains thousands of terms and definitions in both English and Hebrew explaining all facets of energy and energy economy with a special focus on issues pertinent to Israel. The user can thus find in the glossary (which is free for all to use at [www.hebrewenergy.com](http://www.hebrewenergy.com)) matters relating to Israel's oil and gas exploration activities, energy related laws, tariffs of transmission systems, solar energy tenders, etc.

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By Ksenia Sveclova

# DUBIOUS PROSPERITY

Slipping latté on a porch of Sangaria - one of Ramallah's fashionable cafes, I couldn't help thinking that it was just the place to sit down and write a piece about Palestinian economics. Young, well-dressed young people kept arriving, parking their brand-new cars downstairs and sat down for a dinner or coffee, which was almost as pricy as in any other trendy place in Tel-Aviv. Well, the prosperity of Ramallah has been old news, as the city has always been a home to many foreign aid workers, journalists and diplomats. Since the end of the intidafa Ramallah has been thriving with activity, with roads being paved and elegant buildings sprouted like mushrooms. According to numerous reports in Palestinian and foreign press, this trend doesn't stop at Ramallah. Since the beginning of the year a Hirbawi Home Center, five story mall had opened its doors in Jenin, and similar projects are planned for Tulkarem and Nablus. The town of Ramallah is preparing to open a newly-built five-star hotel, the result of European investment and the ads for huge LG refrigerators incrusting with Swarovsky crystals could be found in Hebron. In the beginning of the year there was also a massive coverage of a new Palestinian city: a project under the name of Rawabi was heavily advertised as a "long awaited quality housing option for middle-class Palestinians". During the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee meeting on 22 September in New York, prime minister Salam Fayad has introduced a two year plan "Ending the occupation, Establishing a State" which sets out an ambitious plan to establish an independent state and a prosperous economy within two years. UN secretary general Ban Ki Moon praised the PA's achievements in security, economy, financing reform and planning over the past two years as "unprecedented".

On top of that, according to International Monetary Fund since the beginning of 2009 Palestinian national economy in West Bank

has registered 7 percent growth in comparison to 2% last year - a fact that can explain why the world began to think of West Bank as of center of prosperity in the region. Yet, there are also other numbers and facts to consider as well: the recent UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) report says that 2009 in fact represents an all-time low for the Palestinian economy and policy environment.

According to Dr. Muhammad Shtayyeh, Palestinian minister of trade, the rate of unemployment in West Bank is 21%, while more than 47% of the residents live in poverty. "Those who say that the situation in the West Bank is good and stable, only compare extremely bad conditions in Gaza to generally bad situation here, in the West Bank" said Shtayyeh talking to the DC.

A newly elected member of FATAH Revolutionary Council and a cabinet minister, Shtayyeh had run the PECRAR - Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction for years and has been known among his colleagues for his optimistic and constructive approach. Today, though, Shtayyeh seems to be frustrated more than anything else.

"All this growth - it's very superficial, it's not real. The new city - Rawabi - exists on paper only, very few Palestinian household can afford to shop in these new malls and the planned industrial zones in Tarqumia and Jenin are stuck, as the Israelis do not give the final permission", he says.

Shtayyeh explains that if today the PA is not a bankrupt and is able to pay salaries and pensions, it's only due to donors' money which comes from abroad. The last year Investors Conference in Bethlehem didn't produce much results in terms of investors' interest and commitment to the Palestinian economics, he says. Apparently, foreign investors - Western as well as Arab, are

keen on investing in Palestine in theory, yet reluctant to put their money on the table due to the unstable political situation in the region. "We wouldn't survive without the donor's money. This year there are even less investments from abroad than last year thus no real progress can be made. The Israeli restrictions still severely hamper trade and labor mobility and the investors are cautious of what will happen here next. You see, politics and economics are entangled together. There cannot be any economic growth without progress on the political track, and nobody is optimistic about that". According to Palestinian MAAN news agency, the PA's budget is funded until the end of October following an influx of more than \$450m from the US, Saudi Arabia, EU, Egypt and Sweden. The restrictions imposed on movement of people and goods are a key factor behind the slowdown of Palestinian economy. As Usama Kanaan, the I.M.F. chief of mission in the West Bank and Gaza, put it recently: "If the relaxation of Israeli restrictions does not continue in the remainder of the year, real G.D.P. per capita would decline further in 2009, along the same trend started in 2006." In busy downtown area of Ramallah, around the Manara square businessmen and shop owners were complaining more about cheap competition from China than about Israeli restrictions. "We are used to checkpoints and closures by now. The situation is not getting any better today, but the people are clever here, in Palestine, they can adjust to everything - it's the so called power of "somoud" - the steadfast. However, the cheap merchandize from China is killing the local production. There is no use, you just can't fight it" said Omar Ibrahim, a shop owner. Ramzi Nasser, a vendor at one of shawarma stands in Jenin says that business has been good lately, because the Israeli incursions to the city decreased sharply. "The streets are mostly safe, people come and go, they are not afraid to walk around with their families. And even if there is no much money in the pocket - they're got to it!" he says. Ramzi says that he doesn't believe in economic growth, he hasn't experienced any of its fruits. His salary almost didn't change since 2000, yet the prices of commodities are constantly on the rise here in Jenin, he says.





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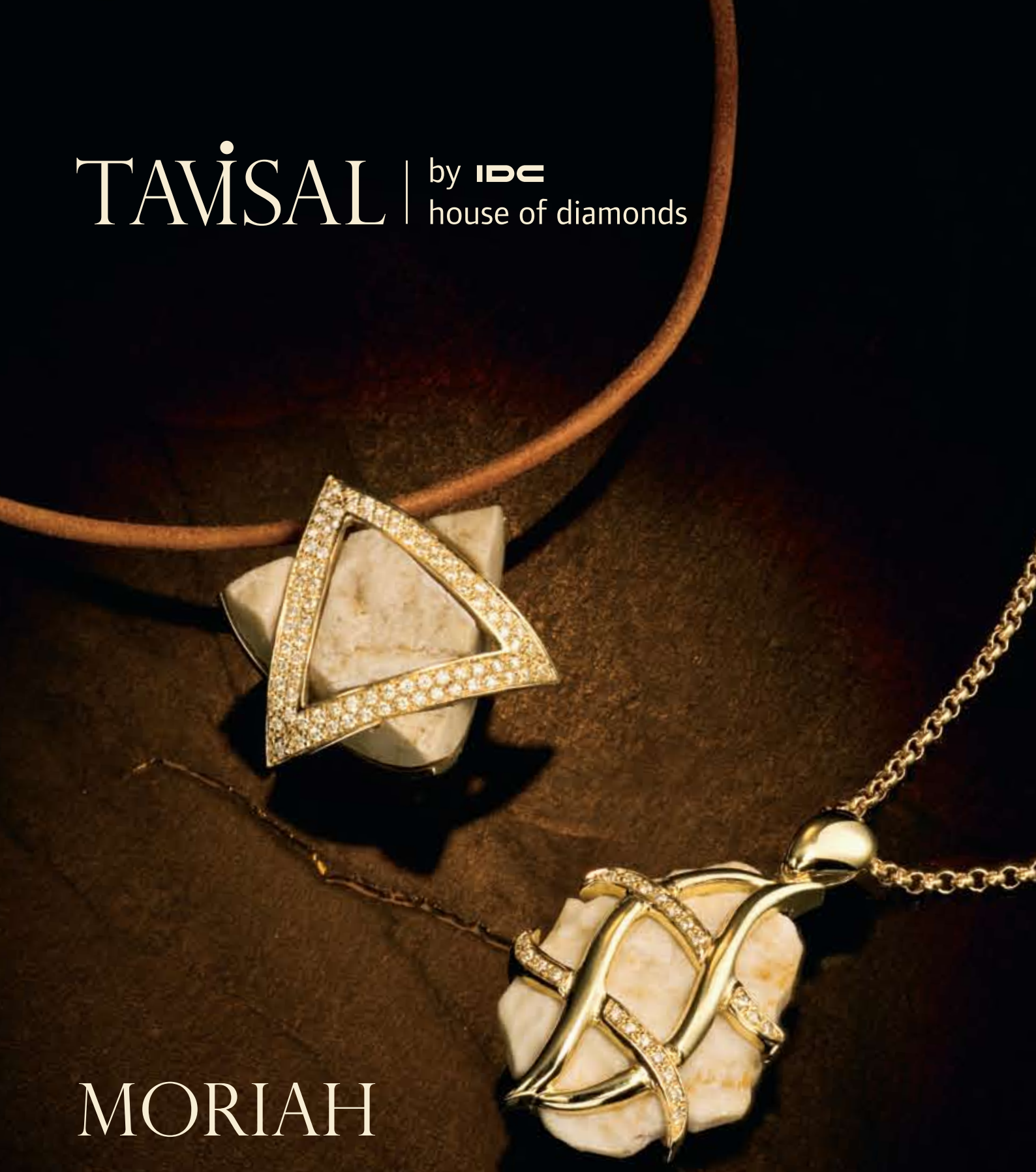
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# EARLY DETECTION OF BREAST CANCER: THE NECESSARY TESTS - ONE STEP AT A TIME

Assessing the risk for breast cancer; diagnosing breast cancer at young and older age; symptoms to be concerned about; a follow-up plan and the necessary tests

Dr. Tami Karni, senior surgeon, Lady Assia, the Breast Health Center of the Assia-Medical Group and the Breast Health Center, Assaf Harofeh Medical Center

Searching for cancer in its earliest stages in order to ensure full recovery is like searching for a needle in a haystack.

Any clue or instrument which can help us detect cancer earlier is acceptable. Breast cancer can be cured completely when diagnosed early. However, the screening for breast cancer is done on healthy women who must not be bothered with unnecessary tests. As in other areas of life, balance is important also in testing for breast cancer.

Patients approach medical professionals with a range of arguments and statements which testify for superstition or ignorance. It can be, "my neighbor had a mammogram but they did not detect the cancer"; or "mammogram emits dangerous radiation which I'm not prepared to be exposed to. How about an ultrasonic scan?"; "I heard MRI is top-notch technology but you don't give it to me because it's expensive". Let's put things into perspective and see what each test is capable of detecting.

The first test takes the least time. It poses no risk to the patient and is carried out by a specialist breast surgeon. To assess the risk for breast cancer, it is necessary to know

the consistency and composition of the individual breast. Based on the patient's risk factors and breast structure, the surgeon is responsible to designing a follow up plan with the patient. The plan defines the frequency of the tests and the instruments to be used. Physical and surgical tests look for symptoms of breast cancer or lumps as well as check the lymph glands.

A skilled surgeon can feel lumps from 1 cm or larger, depending on the size and the texture of the breast. The breast comprises of lumpy tissue structure. This is a glandular tissue capable of producing milk. Milk ducts carry the milk to the nipple through the fatty and connecting tissues. The proportions of the various tissues vary with age.

At young age, the breast is "dense". It contains many milk glands and connecting tissues. The professional term is fibro-glandular. As the woman grows older, the glandular tissue is replaced by fatty tissue and the breast becomes softer. In older age, when breast cancer is more common, it is usually easier to detect rigid lumps by feeling the soft breast.

Also, in older age, the mammogram is darker and any lump would be whiter and more easily detectable on the dark background.

Calcium sedimentation in the breast tissue is a very visible symptom and one which allows very early detection of breast cancer. However, 80% of the calcifications of the breast are not carcinogenic. 20% are the first sign of breast cancer.

Not all carcinogenic tumors show calcifications. Sometimes, the cancer shows up as lumps. If most of the breast is fat, the lump will be demonstrated in the mammogram.

Mammogram is a test carried out with X-ray radiation. The amount of radiation emitted during a mammogram is small, similar to the radiation our entire body is exposed to in a trans-Atlantic flight.

Ultrasonic imaging is instrumental when the breast is fibro-glandular because it shows if the lump is solid or a cyst with fluids. Ultrasound is not effective on breasts which contain mainly fat tissue.

Most lumps detected in a young age are not cancer and require no biopsy. If the lump is suspicious, biopsy is taken by directing an ultrasound-guided needle to the lump, taking some of the suspected tissue and having it evaluated by a pathologist with the help of a microscope.

For most women, the three tests described above are sufficient.

A small number of the women would need an MRI too. Most surgeons and radiologists know when to refer a woman to an MRI test.

**MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging)** works with the help of the magnetic properties of the body's tissue. The test involves injection of an agent into the body. This makes the test more invasive than the tests described above.

MRI is an excellent but very sensitive test. Anything suspected as cancer will be immediately detected. This advantage is also detrimental since the amount of false negatives is higher and we each finding has to be evaluated to rule out cancer. This is why MRI tests result in 3.5 times more biopsies.

The conclusion of all this is that it takes an expert to decide which test to use. Think about it like you would about a carpenter and his toolbox as compared with our amateur ways of performing tasks around the home.

No instrument can detect cancer with 100% certainty, but all of them can identify suspicious findings which may turn out to be benign.

So let the expert breast surgeon listen, check and consult with the radiologist on the best test for you so as to exploit the opportunity for early detection without bothering you with unnecessary tests. ■





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This reporter spoke to Mrs. Esther Piekarski, Pnima, Pearls & Diamonds Ltd

# THE PEARL SUMMONS UP THE INNER GLOW OF THE WOMAN

**Pearls come from the depth of the Sea, born or created, in the oyster, where they grow and develop. The Hebrew word for pearl, "penina" is symbolic, meaning "within", where it matures, collects its layers and brings forth its inner glow.** You could say the pearl summons up the inner glow of the woman. That is why it is different from any other jewelry, gold or silver, having an aspect of depth, coming from the deep sea, and like a clothed and covered woman. Divers have to collect a tremendous number of oysters just to get a small number of decent pearls. The oysters are then returned to the Sea to resume their lives. The beginning of the pearl comes from some foreign matter, such as a grain of sand, dust or dirt that gets into the oyster. The oyster tries to eject the agent, and if not successful it starts to coat the foreign body, which when it hardens becomes the pearl. The pearl has great depth, in fact it is composed of crystals, which when it comes out into the light, attracts different rays of light that gives it its luster. The longer the pearl is in the oyster and the longer the oyster is in the water, the more layers of these crystals and makes the difference between a fine pearl and a lesser quality pearl. The lesser quality pearl is in formation for a lesser period of time. People who are in a hurry to harvest the pearl remove it after only a short period of time, it could be a big pearl, but there is only a thin layer on top of a large substance put purposely into the oyster.

Around 100 years ago, the Japanese Mikimoto began the practice of opening up the oys-

ters, injecting them with a pearl shell nucleus and creating pearl farms. Before that pearls had been harvested having a more free form shape. The pearl shell must be from the same family of oyster to succeed. There are specific waters that are habitable for the pearl oysters, only in the Eastern and South Pacific. The pearl oysters need a certain atmosphere of water, the minerals, etc., for example, the salt waters around Japan. These Japanese oysters are injected with the shell nuclei and put back in the waters to produce "cultivated" pearls. Sometimes there are periods of bad produce if there are exceptionally turbulent waters or if a virus invades. There are endlessly different shapes and tones of color, like people. The different colors come from different varieties of oysters. The "mother of pearl" is the inside of the oyster shell from which the pearl gets its color, the natural way of giving color to the pearl. Around China and Hong Kong there are fresh water flows but they have been successful in producing pearls in farms. They were not successful in using a nuclei of oyster shell, but use the tissue of a different oyster. These pearls are more elongated in shape, rather than symmetrically spherical. The quality is lesser and the colors are lesser quality. They have also developed a method to dye the pearls. The pearls are brought in from Japan, China, Hong Kong, Australia, the Philippines, South Seas and Polynesian Islands (Tahiti). There are humungous oysters in the Polynesian Islands and the pearls are much larger. Each oyster shell is the size of a dinner plate. The insides of the shell are silver, gray, black, eggplant, producing fascinating pearl colors. It is hard to make pairs of these pearls, because of the variations of colors and tones. The Chinese cannot attain these sizes of pearls because they do not have oysters these sizes. So the Japanese saltwater pearls and the South Seas pearls, which are white and very large (starting at 10 mm.) are the most valuable. The Chinese pearls are improving, and beginning to develop more in luster, although usually the shape is not as round.

Pearls have been surrounded by great myths through history, such as being called "teardrops from heaven". In the Bible, pearls are

mentioned quite a few times. King Solomon gave his wife pearl necklaces, and the Torah is compared to the pearl. There is a proverb recited that compares a great woman to the pearl. Queens and royalty throughout time, up to today have loved to wear pearls. Jacqueline Kennedy always wore her 3 strands of pearls, Barbara Bush, Queen Beatrice, Princess Diana, Coco Chanel all have been known for their trademark stylized pearl necklaces. They are a "classic" look.

Size, luster and cleanliness determine the value of the pearls. The pearls are weighed and measured in millimeters, and are selected by the strand by the buyers in the locations. Wearing pearls by actresses in movies is more trendy and stylish now, so this also benefits the market in promotion. In addition it is a popular bridal jewelry. The pearls are bought in strands in the Far East and then brought back here and re-strung. A standard strand is 40 cm., and can be combined with another clasp to form an 80 cm. strand. The formation of the pearl in the Sea is sometimes allowed to go on for 5 years, producing layer upon layer of crystals.

Pearls should "breathe", not be kept in plastic bags, and protected from perfume, because they are porous, and should be re-strung and cleaned periodically. Most pearl companies have their offices in Hong Kong, so it is a central place to buy pearls from all over. A good pearl dealer must choose the pearls in person, it cannot be done over the phone. Pearls at all times should be selected in natural daylight to determine the luster, color tones, complexion, etc. Sales people should be knowledgeable about pearls in order to sell them properly. There is more availability of pearls now with increased technological advances in farming and in reaching the pearls and it is more accessible for women to own pearls. Six mm used to be the classic pearl size. Now sizes have gone up to 8 to 10 mm, because of the South Sea pearls, and 13-14 mm have become more popular. Longer strands are more popular now, about 80 cm., and 120 cm. is becoming more popular. The recent dramatic rise in gold prices have also increased the popularity of pearls.

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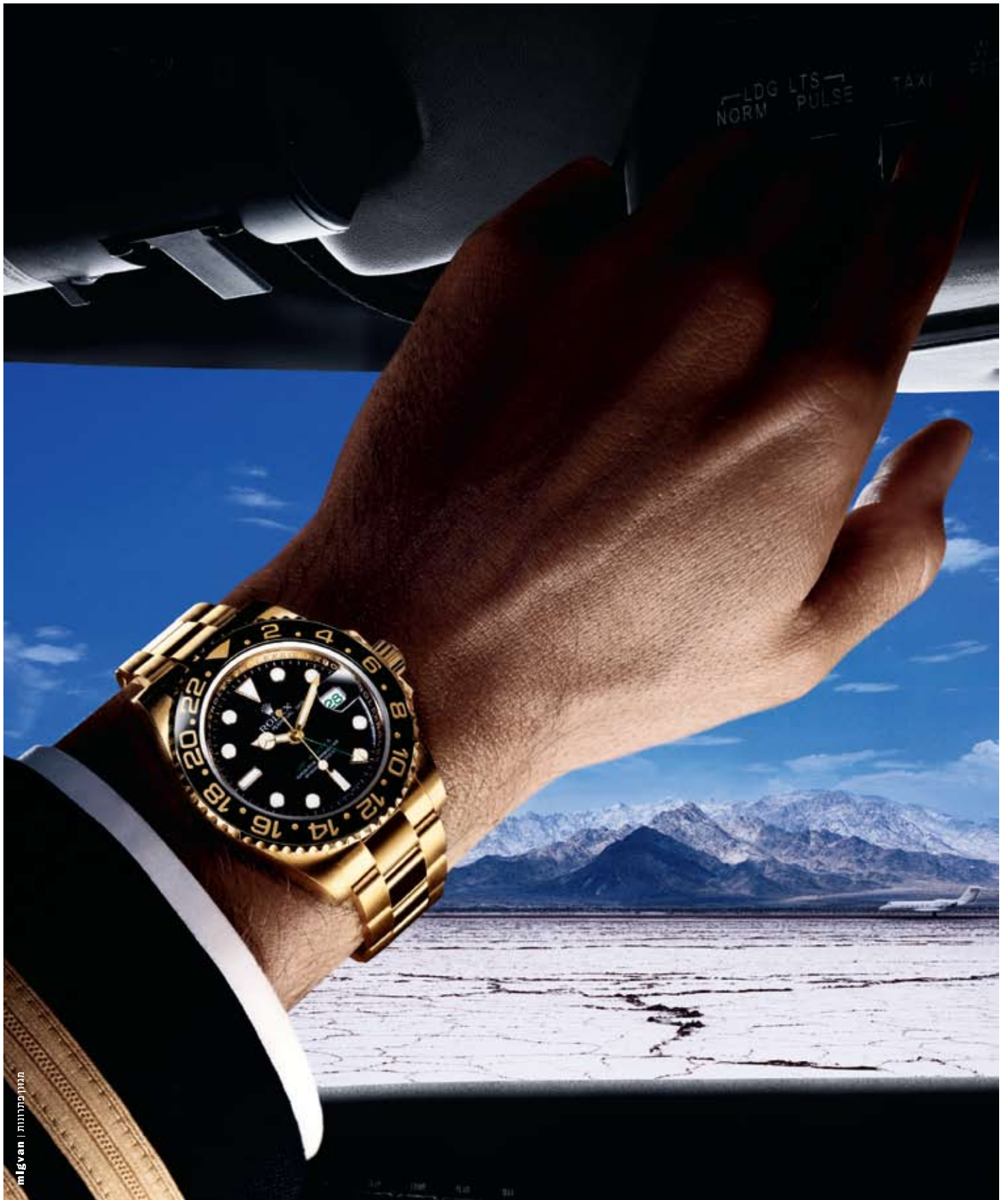
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### Angolan National Day Celebrated at the Dan Panorama Tel Aviv

Angolan Ambassador Jose Joao Manuel welcomed the diplomatic corps and other honored guests to the celebration of Angolan National Day. The event was held on Tuesday, November 10 at the Dan Panorama Tel Aviv.

Ambassador Takeuchi hosted the reception with a special screening of "La maison en petits cubes" at his Residence on November 19th, 2009.

50 guests including Mr. Arie Kutz, Chairman of the Israel-Japan Friendship Society, Mrs. Nurit Shani, Chairman of Shani Films, Mr. Yoni Goodman and Mr. David Polonsky, Directors of "Waltz with Bashir", and Mr. Eran Kolirin, Director of "Band's Visit" enjoyed the evening.

"La maison en petits cubes", or "The house of small cubes" in English, is the Academy Awards winner in the short film animated category this year created by Mr. Kenji Kondo.



Ambassador of Switzerland to Israel H.E. Mr. Walter Haffner hosted the Shufersal Swiss Chocolate presentation at his Residence on October 18, 2009. Shufersal Swiss Chocolate produced by well knowing FREY. Initiator of this cooperation was Mr. Muhmed Saadi, the President of Saadi group, Israel, importer of coffee and coffee products



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# GOLF TOURNAMENT AT GA'ASH GOLF CLUB

Eli Gitlin was the winner at the Ga'ash Golf Club's first Diplomatic Club open tournament on November 22, 2009. Gitlin scored 22 stableford points in the nine hole stableford competition, with Alon Granot, with 21 points, coming in in second place. The Ambassadors from Japan, Latvia, Myanmar and Vietnam came together with diplomatic corps members from the United States and various other countries and Ga'ash Golf Club members to form the 60 golfer field. Salomon Levi, Gordon Futeran and Karl Kolin all tied with 20 points, with Salomon placing third on the count-out. The Main Prize of a Rolex watch for a "hole-in-one" at the 9th hole was left un-won. The first place prize was a Certina Swiss watch, second place prize a weekend of pampering at the Mizpe Hayamim luxury spa and the third prize a Pilican pen. Sponsored golf shirts and towels were given to all participants upon entrance, and free test drives were given in a Land Rover.



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