

Editor's Picks / Highlights of the week from the pages of *Hamodia* daily

SWASTIKAS PAINTED ON FIVE LOCATIONS IN BORO PARK

BY HAMODIA STAFF

BROOKLYN – Elected officials rushed on Friday to condemn a hate crime that occurred in the heart of Boro Park.

Police are looking for two men suspected of spray-painting swastikas on the walls of the Stoliner shul, three other buildings, and a parked car. The two were captured on a surveillance video.

Councilman David G. Greenfield, who represents the area, is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the individuals responsible for the attack.

“Once again, we find ourselves under attack from individuals who think nothing

of spreading hate and fear throughout the community. This is absolutely unacceptable, especially in an area that is home to so many Holocaust survivors,” Greenfield said.

Joining the chorus of condemnations were New York Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, Council Speaker Christine Quinn, Congressmen Bob Turner and Jerrold Nadler, Public Advocate Bill de Blasio, City Comptroller John Liu, Assemblyman Steven Cymbrowitz, and Councilmembers Brad Lander and Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.

Anyone with information about this crime is urged to call the NYPD's confidential tip line at 1-800-577-TIPS.



One of the buildings in Boro Park defaced by a spray-painted swastika.

JDN

EGYPT COURT ORDERS PARLIAMENT DISSOLVED

CAIRO (AP) – Judges appointed by Hosni Mubarak dissolved the Islamist-dominated parliament and ruled that Mubarak's former prime minister can stand in the presidential runoff this weekend, setting the stage for the military and remnants of the old regime to stay in power.

The rulings effectively erase the tenuous progress of the past year's troubled transition, leaving Egypt with no parliament and concentrating rule even more firmly in the hands of the military generals who took power after Mubarak's ouster. The fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood, which stands to lose the most from the rulings, called the moves a

coup and pledged to rally the street against the ruling military and former prime minister Ahmed Shafiq, the presidential candidate seen by critics as a favorite of the generals and a symbol of Mubarak's autocratic rule.

As night fell, a crowd of protesters was rapidly growing in Cairo's Tahrir Square, birthplace of the uprising that toppled Mubarak last year.

Senior Brotherhood leader and lawmaker Mohammed el-Beltagy said the rulings amounted to a “full-fledged coup.”

“This is the Egypt that Shafiq and the military council want and which I will not accept no matter how dear the price is,” he wrote on his online page.



REUTERS/Amr Abdallah Dalsh

Egyptian military police stand guard outside the Supreme Constitutional Court in Cairo last week.

SYRIAN FORCES POUND CITIES

BEIRUT (Reuters/AP) – Syrian security forces pounded opposition areas across the country yesterday and at least 79 people were killed in violence that has escalated since international observers suspended their mission, activists said.

Intense artillery fire was reported in Douma, a town 9 miles outside the capital Damascus that has for weeks been under the partial control of rebels who have joined the 15-month-old revolt against President Bashar al-Assad.

“We can't even accurately count the dead because we have so many injured

people to treat, there's no time to think about anything else,” said an activist in Douma who called himself Ziad.

“The army attacks all the time. They have tanks, missiles, mortars, and artillery. Even helicopters have fired on us. People can't escape because the army is surrounding the town.”

Samaras received a mandate from the president to form a coalition, and a New Democracy source said the party expected to clinch a deal today after Samaras met the third-placed PASOK Socialists and the small Democratic Left group.

Worst in Colorado's History



AP Photo/David Zalubowski

Smoke roils over a ridge east of Red Feather Lakes, Colo., yesterday, as a stubborn wildfire continues to burn in northern Colorado. Crews are facing powerful winds as they battle the blaze that has scorched about 86 square miles of mountainous forest land and destroyed at least 181 homes, the most in state history.

NYC BAN ON BIG SODAS COULD FACE LEGAL TEST

NEW YORK (AP) – If New York City bans big sodas, what's next? Large slices of pizza? Double-scoop ice cream cones? Tubs of popcorn? The 16-ounce strip steak?

Opponents of the proposed ban may use that slippery-slope argument along with other legal strategies to try to block the first-in-the-nation rule.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg wants to bar restaurants, food carts, delis and public entertainment venues from selling sodas and other sugary drinks in servings larger than 16 ounces, saying it is a way to fight obesity in a city that spends billions of dollars a year on weight-related health

problems.

Whether that's legal, though, is a matter of dispute and all but certain to be tested.

“We're going to look at all of our options to protect our business, our rights to do business and our rights not to be discriminated against. We won't take anything off the table,” said Steve Cahillane, a senior executive with Coca-Cola. The city Board of Health, appointed by the mayor, is expected to approve the measure after a three-month comment period. It could take effect as early as March, unless critics can get the courts or state lawmakers to step in.