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GRAPEVINE

A hard night's day

• By GREER FAY CASHMAN

■ THE MUNICIPALITY of Plonsk in Poland, the birthplace of Israel's founding prime minister David Ben-Gurion, is putting up a museum in his memory. The people in Plonsk are very proud of the fact that this great 20th-century politician and statesman was one of its native sons. The Ben-Gurion Museum was designed by architect Ze'ev Baran, who also serves as Poland's honorary consul in Jerusalem. Baran is involved with Poland on many different levels. Most recently, he organized a meeting between Poland's President Bronislaw Komorowski and a delegation of Central European rabbis headed by Gershon Mendel Garelick of Milan. Komorowski received the delegation at the Presidential Palace and told its members that in communist times, when the Jews of Poland wanted to distribute matzot, they were advertised in grocery stores as dietetic wafers. Only after the fall of the communist regime were matzot displayed for what they really were. Komorowski surprised his guests, who included Poland's Chief Rabbi Michael Shudrich and Rabbi Shalom Ber Stambler, Chabad emissary in Warsaw, when he said that he regarded Baran as a brother. During the Holocaust, Baran and his mother had been hidden from the Nazis by Komorowski's family, and the two families have maintained contact ever since.