

## Egypt, Israel discuss ME peace efforts

AFP, Cairo

Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak yesterday discussed US-backed efforts to revive Middle East peace with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak during a visit to Cairo.

The two discussed "efforts to revive the peace process in the Middle East, the situation in the Palestinian territories and efforts by Egypt to kickstart serious negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides," the official MENA news agency reported.

Barak was to leave Cairo after further meetings with intelligence chief Omar Suleiman, Egypt's chief mediator between Israel and the Islamist Hamas, and with Defence Minister Hussein Tantawi, an Israeli official told AFP.

Egypt has been mediating between rival Palestinian factions Fatah and Hamas as well as between Hamas and Israel on a possible deal to end the Gaza blockade and free Gilad Shalit, an Israeli soldier captured by Gaza militants including Hamas almost three years ago.

The pan-Arab daily Asharq Al-Awsat on Saturday quoted Israeli sources as saying that "a new development has led to tangible progress... the most important issue to be discussed is the prisoner exchange."

"Hamas realises that (Benjamin) Netanyahu's government will not accept anything that (his predecessor Ehud) Olmert's government did not accept," the paper quoted Israeli political sources as saying.

## Australian premier rejects calls to quit

AP, Canberra

Australia's Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and his treasurer are rejecting opposition calls to resign over their relationship with a car dealer which commentators say has created the 19-month-old government's biggest political crisis.

Opposition Leader Malcolm Turnbull said Saturday that Rudd and Treasurer Wayne Swan repeatedly misled Parliament this month when they denied Rudd's friend, car dealer John Grant, had been given special attention when he applied for a government loan to cope with the global credit crunch.

Turnbull said Rudd and Swan had no choice but to resign.

Swan said yesterday he would not.

Rudd maintains that he did not mislead Parliament and said Saturday that Swan had "acted entirely appropriately."

The accusation that the government does favors for its political friends is damaging for Rudd, who is halfway through his first three-year term. The controversy will likely dominate Parliament when it resumes Monday for a final week before a six-week break.

Turnbull cited an e-mail published in News Corp. newspapers in Australia on Saturday that was purportedly a request by a Rudd staffer in February for Treasury officials to give priority to Grant's credit request.

But the government claims the e-mail is a forgery created by Turnbull's Liberal Party and has called in police to conduct a fraud investigation. Turnbull has denied his party faked the e-mail.



PHOTO: AFP  
Picture R shows supporters of Iran's presidential candidate Mir Hossein Mousavi throwing stones at riot police during a demonstration in Tehran on Saturday. A screen grab (Picture top) taken yesterday from a video posted on YouTube, allegedly shows Iranian men trying to help a wounded woman named "Neda" after getting shot in the chest during a protest in Tehran on Saturday.



### NEWS ANALYSIS

## Iran's election showdown now a crisis of legitimacy

AFP, Washington

Blood and chaos or not, it will no longer be business as usual after this weekend's showdown between Iran's 30-year-old Islamic regime and its challengers marching in the country's main cities.

Iran observers say a crisis of legitimacy is shaking the foundations of the theocratic system that Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini erected after the country's 1979 revolution, and the consequences are likely to be as far-reaching as they are unpredictable.

Although the immediate flashpoint is President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's disputed victory in presidential elections, analysts say the real struggle now is over the authority of Iran's supreme leader, Ali Khamenei.

On Friday Khamenei stepped to the forefront of the crisis, warning of "blood, violence and chaos" if the mass protests that have filled the streets of Tehran and other Iranian cities do not end.

"The crisis at the moment

is no longer just about who the next president is. It's about which is more important in shaping events on earth: God's law or the constitution," said Robin Wright, a journalist and expert on Iran at the Woodrow Wilson Center here.

Tight restrictions on media coverage has obscured developments in Iran. But witnesses said thousands of protesters returned to the streets on Saturday amid clashes with pro-regime militiamen.

In Washington, US President Barack Obama called on the Iranian government to "stop all violent and unjust actions against its own people," the White House said.

Ahmadinejad's main rival for the presidency, Mir Hossein Mousavi, has refused to back off, reaffirming his call for a new election in a letter to the Council of Guardians, which oversaw the vote.

Fissures also have opened within the ruling elites, including widespread reports that former president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the head of a body with the authority to

remove the supreme leader, was assembling a coalition of grand ayatollahs against Khamenei.

Mousavi, a conservative former prime minister and Khomeini protege, is himself an unlikely leader of a protest movement.

"Previously sacred red lines in Iran are now being challenged," said Karim Sadapour, an authority on Iran, in an interview posted on the website of the Council on Foreign Relations.

"People are now beginning to openly question the institution of the Velayat-e Faqih, or the rule of the jurist, which is the Khomeinist system of governance that was implemented in 1979.

"It is unprecedented that people would begin to openly challenge Khamenei's legitimacy as supreme leader, and indeed question the legitimacy of the institution of the supreme leader," he said.

Under the Velayat-e Faqih, the supreme leader's authority to rule Iran comes from God. The only body that can challenge his work is the

Assembly of Experts, which is headed by Rafsanjani, now a powerful opponent of Khamenei.

Khamenei, who served two four year terms as president, became supreme leader in 1989 despite questions about his clerical qualifications.

But he has since amassed immense power over the security forces and other key decision-making institutions - the Guardian Council, the presidency, the parliament and the Revolutionary Guards.

"Khamenei has in many ways become a modern day Shah, with a turban instead of

a crown. But I believe he mis-calculated. This election, or I should say this 'selection,' was an insult to people's intelligence," said Sadapour.

Few analysts would predict the outcome of a violent confrontation between the opposition and the regime, with some noting that during the 1979 revolution protests grew with each crackdown by the shah's security forces.

Much will depend on which forces the regime relies on, and, how they are used, wrote Michael Eisenstadt of the Washington Institute for Near East Studies.

## Bodies found in Iraq are of Brit hostages

AFP, London

The two bodies handed over to British authorities in Iraq are those of British hostages seized two years ago, government sources said yesterday.

The identities of the bodies were not released, but forensic tests confirmed that neither of them is Peter Moore, one of five men held captive since 2007, the sources said.

The families of the victims have been informed, they said.

The source added: "A formal announcement will be made later."

Moore, who is an IT consultant, and his four British bodyguards were kidnapped from the Iraqi finance ministry in Baghdad on May 29, 2007.

The bodies of the two men were handed over to British diplomats by Iraqi authorities in Baghdad on Friday.

## Insurgents kill six police in Baghdad

AFP, Baghdad

Insurgents have shot dead six Iraqi policemen in an attack and subsequent clashes in a west Baghdad neighbourhood, police and government officials said yesterday.

Four policemen were shot dead by gunmen while on patrol on Saturday in the predominantly Sunni Arab district of Jamiya, while another two were killed in clashes between insurgents and security forces on Sunday.

## CAT ACCA

After S.S.C or H.S.C to become a World Class Chartered Certified Accountant

### Admission Going On!

Regular ACCA & CAT Batch no-35, Class Starts : 23rd June'09

ACCA Weekend Batch - Class Starts : 19th June'09

Special ACCA Weekend Batch-Friday & Saturday

ACCA Regular Batch-Day Shift & Evening Shift

CAT करने का अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा

Brookes University द्वारा B.Sc (Hons) in Applied Accounting की प्राप्ति की जाती है।

## B.Sc (Hons)

in Applied Accounting, Oxford Brookes University

CAT करने का अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा

Graduation/2 A Level or Equivalent लेने के लिए एक अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा

Dec-09-09 में द्वारा दिए गए अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा

एक अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा दिए गए अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा

एक अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा दिए गए अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा

एक अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा दिए गए अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा

एक अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा दिए गए अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा

एक अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा दिए गए अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा

एक अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा दिए गए अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा

एक अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा दिए गए अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा

एक अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा दिए गए अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा

एक अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा दिए गए अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा

एक अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा दिए गए अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा

एक अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा दिए गए अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा

एक अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा दिए गए अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा

एक अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा दिए गए अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा

एक अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा दिए गए अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा

एक अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा दिए गए अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा

एक अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा दिए गए अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा

एक अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा दिए गए अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा

एक अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा दिए गए अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा

एक अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा दिए गए अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा

एक अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा दिए गए अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा

एक अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा दिए गए अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा

एक अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा दिए गए अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा

एक अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा दिए गए अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा

एक अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा दिए गए अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा

एक अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा दिए गए अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा

एक अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा दिए गए अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा

एक अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा दिए गए अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा

एक अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा दिए गए अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा

एक अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा दिए गए अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा

एक अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा दिए गए अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा

एक अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा दिए गए अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा

एक अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा दिए गए अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा

एक अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा दिए गए अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा

एक अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा दिए गए अनुकूल शिक्षण सेवा द्वारा

एक