

Obama invites Netanyahu to White House

REUTERS, Jerusalem

President Barack Obama has invited Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to the White House next week, Israeli government sources said yesterday, for an apparent fence-mending visit.

Israeli commentators portrayed the surprise talks as an attempt by Obama to counter criticism by US Jewish leaders and in Congress over what was widely seen as his cold shoulder toward Netanyahu after a public dispute over settlement policy.

Obama will host Netanyahu on Tuesday and a formal announcement was likely later in the day after White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel, on a visit to Israel for his teenage son's Bar Mitzvah, a Jewish coming-of-age ceremony, meets the prime minister, the sources said.

The trip to Washington was tagged on to a visit by Netanyahu, beginning on Thursday, to France, where he will attend a ceremony welcoming Israel to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, and to Canada.



South Korean conservative activists hold placards during an anti-North Korea rally in Seoul yesterday. South Korea vowed to punish North Korea for sinking a warship despite the hard-line regime's threat to sever all ties, as US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton lent a show of support in Seoul.

US demands world response over South Korean ship sinking Warns N Korea to stop threats

BBC ONLINE, AFP, AP, Seoul/Beijing

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton says the international community must respond in the growing crisis over the sinking of a South Korean warship.

She said there was "overwhelming" evidence that North Korea was to blame, and urged Pyongyang to halt its "policy of belligerence".

Hillary warned North Korea yesterday to halt its "provocations and policy of threats" and said the world must respond to it's sinking of a South Korean warship.

The Secretary of State, who earlier met President Lee Myung-Bak, praised his "strong and dignified speech" Monday in which he announced reprisals. The sinking requires a "strong but measured response", she said.

"We cannot turn a blind eye to belligerence and provocation," she said. "We will stand with you in this difficult hour and will stand with you always."

Hillary was speaking in South Korea at the end of an Asian tour. North Korea denies it was responsible, and has warned of retaliation if action is taken against it.

Meanwhile, China's Foreign Ministry said yesterday it was still weighing the evidence over the deadly sinking of a South Korean warship that Seoul blames on North Korea.

China is North Korea's most important ally, and allegations that Pyongyang is behind the incident have tested Beijing's ability to balance its friendly ties with the two Koreas.

It has also severely complicated Premier Wen Jiabao's upcoming visit to South Korea, where he was to attend a three-way weekend summit with his South Korean and Japanese counterparts.

Thaksin challenges arrest warrant

AFP, Bangkok

Lawyers for Thaksin Shinawatra asked a court yesterday to revoke a warrant to arrest the fugitive former Thai premier on terrorism charges in connection with recent deadly protests.

Thailand's Criminal Court Tuesday approved the warrant after the government accused Thaksin of inciting unrest and bankrolling the mass rallies by opposition "Red Shirt" protesters, many of whom seek his return to power.

"The arrest warrant was wrongly issued and based on inaccurate evidence and distorted information," Thaksin's lawyer Thanadej Puangpool told AFP.

Two dead, dozens hurt in twin blasts in Thailand

AFP, Yala

Twin bomb blasts rocked a town in Thailand's south yesterday, killing two people and wounding dozens in the latest violence of a six-year insurgency, police and hospital staff said.

The rebellion across the southern provinces by a shadowy band of separatist Islamists fighting for greater autonomy in the area bordering Malaysia has left more than 4,100 people dead.

There have been fewer attacks recently in the south because insurgents knew their cause had been overshadowed by two months of deadly anti-government protests in Bangkok, said analyst Srisompob Jitpiromya at Deep South Watch.

At least 55 people were wounded -- five seriously -- in the blasts in Yala, the main town in the province of the same name, said the provincial hospital.

The bombs were hidden on motorcycles and exploded near the business district of the town, police said, pointing the finger at Islamist militants.

"Provincial authorities had been warned of the attack beforehand, but the warning was for May 28 to 30," said Krisada Boonrach, the Yala governor.

Iraqi polls appeals rejected

REUTERS, Baghdad

Election authorities in Iraq rejected final appeals yesterday against the results of a March parliamentary election, which will now move to the Supreme Court for certification.

Iraq is still without a government more than 11 weeks after the inconclusive March 7 poll, narrowly won by the cross-sectarian Iraqiya alliance led by former Prime Minister Iyad Allawi.

An appeals authority within Iraq's Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) rejected final complaints submitted before Monday's deadline.

NUKE SWAP DEAL

Ahmadinejad urges Obama to accept

AP, Kerman

Iran's president yesterday urged Barack Obama to accept a nuclear fuel swap deal, warning the US leader will miss a historic opportunity for improved cooperation from Tehran if the offer is rejected.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad also issued a stern warning to Russia, saying Moscow's support for the US-led push for a new round of UN sanctions against Iran was contrary to the two countries' neighbourly and friendly relations.

Washington has denounced the Iranian offer brokered last week by Brazil and Turkey as a ploy by Tehran to avoid a new round of UN sanctions over its controversial nuclear program, which the West fears is geared toward nuclear weapons.

"There are people in the world who want to pit Obama against the Iranian nation and bring

him to the point of no return, where the path to his friendship with Iran will be blocked forever," Ahmadinejad said during a rally in the southern town of Kerman.

Iran proposed last week to ship much of its low-enriched uranium to Turkey in return for nuclear fuel rods needed for a Tehran medical research reactor.

The fuel swap would diminish Iran's stockpile of low-enriched uranium that can possibly be used in making atomic bombs, if the uranium is enriched to a higher, weapons-grade level.

But the proposal did not deter US, Russia, China, Britain and France the five permanent Security Council members from agreeing on a draft fourth set of sanctions against Iran for refusing to completely halt uranium enrichment, as demanded by the United Nations.

UK reveals nuke warhead levels

AFP, London

Britain's new government revealed yesterday the planned size of its nuclear weapons stockpile, saying it will not exceed 225 warheads.

In an announcement, which comes near the end of a UN non-proliferation conference in New York, it said it will retain up to 160 operationally available warheads.

"We believe that the time is now right to be more open about the weapons we hold," Foreign Secretary William Hague told parliament.

"We judge that this will assist in building a climate of trust between nuclear and non-nuclear weapons states and contribute therefore to future efforts to reduce the number of nuclear weapons worldwide."

SONY make.believe

Sony's FIFA World Cup™ Promotions

SONY make.believe



OFFICIAL FIFA PARTNER

The Ultimate Technology.. Monolithic Design | 3D World | BRAVIA Internet Video | BRAVIA Internet Widgets enriched

Buy Smart, Be Assured! 5 YEAR WARRANTY New Series BRAVIA LINE UP

Table listing various Sony Bravia TV models (BX, EX, NX, ZX, W Series) with their specifications, MRP, and promotion prices.

সত্যি অবিশ্বাস্য খবর! বিশ্বকাপ উপলক্ষে সনি এলসিডি ব্রাভিয়া টিভির দাম কমলো ৳ ৫৫,০০০ পর্যন্ত

CAUTION! Market is flooded with fake LCD TV. No official warranty or any service support, if buy from any other sources except Sony-Rangs outlets.

Technical specifications and features including Full HD 1080, Edge LED, BRAVIA ENGINE, Motionflow 200Hz, LIVE COLOUR, MPEG NOISE REDUCTION, Intelligent Picture PLUS, PRESENCE SENSOR, ENERGY SAVING SWITCH, ECO SETTINGS, Ambient Sensor, BRAVIA Internet Video, Internet Widgets, WiFi CERTIFIED, dlna, USB, BRAVIA Sync, Favourites.

SONY RANGS Outlets

List of Sony Rangs outlets across Bangladesh with addresses and phone numbers.

Sony Expo 2010 Bashundhara City Shopping Mall 26 May - 11 July

কালের বর্গ (Kaler Borg) promotion with 0% interest InstaBuys for Standard Chartered Credit Cards.