

Israel's Barak holds talks with Palestinian PM

AFP, Jerusalem

Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak was holding a face-to-face meeting with Palestinian prime minister Salam Fayyad at a hotel in Jerusalem, officials on both sides said yesterday.



Palestinian prime minister Salam Fayyad (R) meets with Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak in Jerusalem yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Israel eases Gaza blockade But makes blacklist of items

BBC ONLINE

Israel has confirmed details of what goods it will allow to enter the Gaza Strip with the easing of its blockade. Consumer goods are being allowed but a "blacklist" of items including weapons and materials that could have a military use will be barred or limited.

Hillary vows support for Georgia, slams Russian 'occupation'

AFP, Tbilisi

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton reassured Georgia yesterday with a pledge of continued support and criticised Russia's "occupation" of two breakaway Georgian regions.

UK, Germany, UAE airports refuse fuel to Iran jets

AFP, Tehran

Airports in Britain, Germany and the United Arab Emirates have refused to refuel Iranian passenger planes since Washington imposed unilateral sanctions on Tehran last week, ISNA news agency said yesterday.

Thailand urged to lift emergency

BBC ONLINE

Thailand's government has been urged to lift a state of emergency and drop terrorism charges against leaders of recent anti-government protests.

Turkey threatens diplomatic break with Israel over raid

BBC ONLINE

Turkey has for the first time threatened to break diplomatic ties with Israel over its raid on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla in May.

place on all Israeli military aircraft using Turkish airspace, not just on a case-by-case basis. AIR SPACE BAN The BBC's Jonathan Head in Istanbul says that Turkey appears to be hardening its stance towards Israel, just five days after a surprise meeting between Davutoglu and Israeli Trade Minister Benjamin Ben Eliezer in Switzerland.

Somalian president appeals for help

AFP, Addis Ababa

Somali President Sharif Sheikh Ahmed pleaded for help yesterday at a regional summit, as an al-Qaeda-inspired insurgency closed in on his Mogadishu palace.

Bronislaw Komorowski leads Polish polls

BBC ONLINE

Bronislaw Komorowski, Poland's acting president, appears to be heading for victory in a close presidential election after hours of uncertainty.

Sarkozy sacrifices ministers to save key ally

AFP, Paris

By sacrificing two ministers mired in expenses scandals, French President Nicolas Sarkozy hoped to protect a bigger target, Labour Minister Eric Woerth, observers said yesterday.

one thinks are beyond reproach," she declared. The populist daily Le Parisien showed Woerth the direction of the door with a front page splash, "Two resignations to show an example".



PHOTO: AFP

(Files) A combo of file photos shows French politicians Christian Blanc (L) smoking a cigar during an electoral campaign meeting in 2002 in Paris and Alain Joyandet disembarking from his jet plane on Comoros island in 2009.

BP oil spill costs pass \$3b mark

BBC ONLINE

The oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico has so far cost BP a total of \$3.12bn (£2bn), the company has said.

Obama risks party face-off on South Korea deal

AFP, Washington

US President Barack Obama is risking a revolt within his own party as he presses ahead on a free trade agreement with South Korea, setting the stage for a showdown after November legislative elections.

Govt seeks to fix details on MRP

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director of MRP, referring to the decision of an inter-ministerial meeting at the foreign ministry.

with the envoys of Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, Libya, Iraq, Iran, Egypt, Malaysia, the Maldives and South Korea and requested them to accept both types of passports.

Asked what will happen to those who have already received MRPs that do not contain guardians' names, he said they would incorporate additional information if MRP holders have any problems.

DIFFERENT bites

Ponytail for men gets the chop in Iran

AFP, Tehran

Iran's culture ministry has given its blessing to a number of "Islamic" hairstyles for men, with ponytails failing to make the list, the ILNA news agency reported yesterday.

Cambodia preparing 'freedom parks' for rallies

AFP, Phnom Penh

Cambodia is making way for "freedom parks" across the country for people to hold demonstrations, a move local activists fear could limit rights of expression, the government said yesterday.