

# Netanyahu speech will not bring peace

Says Palestinian president Abbas

REUTERS, Ramallah, West Bank

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said Israel was offering "nothing we can build on" for peace and that without progress he will seek UN recognition of Palestinian statehood in September.

He told the Palestine Liberation Organization yesterday that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's speech to the United States Congress on Tuesday "travelled far from peace," dictating solutions before negotiations even begin.

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He said he would consult Arab states at the weekend about US President Barack Obama's latest ideas for restarting the peace process and Netanyahu's negative response to them.

## Israel PM should have said 'yes' to Obama

A poll suggests

AFP, Jerusalem

The majority of Israelis believe their prime minister should have supported US President Barack Obama's outline for new peace talks with the Palestinians, according to a poll published yesterday.

The survey, published in the *Maariv* newspaper, found 10 percent of Israelis thought Benjamin Netanyahu should have "declared his support for the president's remarks with no reservations."

Another 46.8 percent said the Israeli leader should have expressed support "but with reservations," while 36.7 percent said Netanyahu should have declared his opposition to Obama's principles for the peace process.

In a key speech on Middle East policy that came just before Netanyahu flew to Washington, Obama called for negotiations to resume immediately and for the borders that existed before the 1967 Six Day War to form the basis for the talks.

But Netanyahu, in a statement issued just after that speech and in several of his own speeches while in Washington, rejected the 1967 lines as a basis for talks, calling them "indefensible."

The poll was carried out for *Maariv* by the Teleskop institute and surveyed 450 people. It had a margin of error of 4.6 percent.

## North Sudan militia heading south

AFP, Juba

Militiamen backed by the Sudanese government are heading south to the flashpoint town Abyei as satellite images show troops, tanks and helicopters deploying, the UN said yesterday.

Tens of thousands of civilians have fled the fighting, the UN force added, calling on both sides to show restraint.

UN mission spokeswoman Hua Jiang said: "Militia that appear to be Misseriya are moving southwards. Abyei town is deserted of civilians."

Thousands of Abyei residents -- mainly southern-supporting Dinka Ngok people -- have fled across the border into the south, with houses set on fire and property looted.



US President Barack Obama (R) and Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron (L) serve BBQ to military personnel during an event hosted by Samantha Cameron and First Lady Michelle Obama to honor military families from US and Britain service members and veterans at the 10 Downing Street in London yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Obama warns Gaddafi of 'no let up'

South Africa launches new 'peace' deal

REUTERS, London/tripoli

President Barack Obama warned Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi yesterday there would be 'no let up' in pressure on him to go, following a second successive night of heavy UN bombing in Tripoli.

Six loud explosions rocked Tripoli late on Tuesday within 10 minutes, following powerful strikes 24 hours earlier, including one on Gaddafi's compound that Libyan officials said killed 19 people.

Obama told a London news conference with British PM David Cameron he could not predict when Gaddafi might be forced to go.

"I absolutely agree that given the progress that has been made over the last several weeks that Gaddafi and his regime need to understand that there will not be a let-up in the pressure that we are applying."

"We have built enough momentum that as long as we sustain the course that we are on that he is ultimately going to step down," he said. "Ultimately this is going to be a slow, steady process in which we are able to wear down the regime."

Fighting between Gaddafi's forces and rebels has reached a stalemate, despite two months of Nato aerial support under a UN mandate intended to protect civilians.

Gaddafi denies his troops target civilians and says rebels are criminals, religious extremists and members of al-Qaeda.

In the second day of heavy Nato bombing of Tripoli, the alliance hit a vehicle storage bunker, a missile storage and maintenance site and a command-and-control site on the outskirts of Tripoli, a Nato official said.

Government targets around the Western rebel outpost of Misrata had also been hit.

British Foreign Secretary William Hague dismissed fears that Western states were being drawn into an Iraq-style conflict.

South African President Jacob Zuma announced he would visit Tripoli next week for talks with Gaddafi in his capacity as a member of the African Union high-level panel for the resolution of the conflict in Libya.

## PALESTINIAN STATEHOOD

# Drive at UN a 'mistake': Obama

AFP, London

US President Barack Obama termed yesterday the possible Palestinian drive for national recognition at the United Nations as a "mistake", in his most direct criticism yet of the campaign.

Obama also urged Israel and the Palestinians to make "wrenching compromise" for a peace deal after a week of acrimonious prospects of a final settlement more distant than ever.

"The only way we are going to see a Palestinian state is if Israelis and Palestinians agree on a just peace," Obama said at a joint news conference in London with British Prime Minister David Cameron.

"I strongly believe for the Palestinians to take the United Nations route rather than the path of sitting down and talking with the Israelis is a mistake."

Obama's comments came just hours after Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas slammed a speech by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and said the Palestinians would seek UN recognition if peace talks do not resume.

In a key policy speech last week Obama had called for new talks based on the armistice lines in place before the 1967 Six Day War, a call firmly rejected by Netanyahu.

Obama said he was "confident" that a peace deal was achievable eventually, but added: "It is going to require wrenching compromise by both sides."

## Pope shuts down 'club' monastery

AFP, Rome

Pope Benedict XVI has shut down a famous community in Rome that organised dances by a former nightclub dancer nun and hosted VIPs like Madonna, earning the disfavour of the Vatican.

The closure of the monastery of Santa Croce in Gerusalemme, which holds some of the Church's most prized relics, was reported by Italian dailies *La Stampa* and *Il Foglio*.

The reports said the community of Cistercian monks based at the church for more than five centuries was being transferred to other churches in Italy.

Contacted by AFP, the Vatican did not deny the reports.

The basilica had become a hub for the "Friends of Santa Croce", an aristocratic group, and had been criticised for some unorthodox practices including dances in which nuns pranced around the altar.

One of the nuns who performed at the church, a former disco dancer, can be seen in a YouTube video performing a modern dance with a crucifix.

The basilica's longtime abbot, Simone Fioraso, a flamboyant former Milan fashion designer, was already moved out of the basilica two years ago.

The ban was adopted in March by the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life following an inquiry but has not yet been made public, the reports said.

## NEWS IN brief

N Korea's Kim in Beijing to meet Hu

AFP, Beijing

North Korean leader Kim Jong-il arrived in Beijing yesterday after a tour of industrial facilities in eastern China and was to meet with Chinese President Hu Jintao, a South Korean media report said.

Kim's special train, which brought him into China last Friday for his third visit in just over a year, pulled into the Chinese capital in the morning, Yonhap news agency said.

During Kim's last visit to China in August, Hu urged the North Korean leader to undertake economic

French minister probed after sex claims

AFP, Paris

A French junior minister is targeted by a complaint lodged yesterday, a prosecutor said, while refusing to confirm that it concerned alleged sexual harassment.

Marie-Suzanne Le Queau said she was examining the complaint against civil service minister Georges Tron, mayor of the Paris suburb of Draveil, whom lawyer Gilbert Collard has accused of harassment on

Pakistan removes base commander after Taliban attack

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan yesterday removed the commander of a naval air base which took 17 hours to quell a Taliban attack that killed 10 security officials and destroyed two US-made aircraft, officials said.

"Commodore Khalid Pervez is taking over as the base commander and his predecessor Raja Tahir will be assigned new responsibilities," a navy spokesman,

Germany 'really worried' by E coli outbreak

AFP, Berlin

Germany's consumer minister expressed deep concern yesterday at an outbreak of poisoning by dangerous bacteria believed to have killed three women and left hundreds ill.

"This is really worrying," Ilse Aigner said on ARD public television. "We do not know what is the source (of the poisoning) and we cannot rule out there will be more cases."



Georges Tron

## Emerging economies slam Europe's push for IMF top job

AFP, Washington

The world's largest emerging economies on Tuesday slammed Europe's push to lock up the International Monetary Fund's top job, calling its hold on the position "obsolete."

One day after nominations opened to replace Dominique Strauss-Kahn as managing director, IMF directors from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa -- the so-called BRICS economies -- said Europe's longstanding exclusive deal to lead the IMF "undermines the legitimacy of the Fund."

They strongly objected to the aggressive push by Europeans since last week to have one of their own to replace Strauss-Kahn, who resigned last Wednesday after being arrested in New York on sexual assault allegations, which he denies.

"We are concerned with public statements made recently by high-level European officials to the effect that the position of managing director should continue to be occupied by a European," they said.

The 2008-2009 financial crisis in the United States and Europe showed the need to reform institutions like the IMF "to reflect the growing role of developing countries in the world economy," they said.

"This requires abandoning the obsolete unwritten convention that requires that the head of the IMF be necessarily from Europe."

## New tornadoes strike battered US Midwest

AFP, Joplin

This shattered town, still searching for survivors from one of the strongest tornadoes on record, was rattled early yesterday after a new storm unleashed deadly twisters in neighbouring US states.

A series of tornadoes touched down in Oklahoma late Tuesday, killing four people in a rural county and injuring another 60 across the state, according to local officials, who said the tornadoes narrowly missed the state capital.

The belt of severe weather stretched across Oklahoma, northern Texas and Kansas, where two people died when high winds hurled a tree into a van on a highway, according to the state's emergency management agency.

In Arkansas at least one person was killed early yesterday when a tornado swept through the small town of Denning, home to some 270 people, according to Tommy Jackson, a spokesman for the state's emergency management agency.

The fresh storms frightened residents in Missouri, where rescue workers in the town of Joplin are still searching for survivors and shocked residents have been digging their belongings out of the ruins of their homes.

But by early yesterday the storm appeared to have passed over the town without major incident, according to satellite imagery from the National Weather Service.

A massive mile-wide funnel cloud, with winds of up to 200 miles an hour, tore through Joplin with devastating force late Sunday, leaving 123 people dead and hundreds more missing.

Officials said the tornado ranks as the eighth deadliest in American history and the deadliest single twister to strike the United States since modern records began in 1950.

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42"	TH-L42U20	1,40,000	1,20,000
42"	TH-L42S10	1,55,000	1,20,000

Size	Model	Regular price	Offer
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42"	TH-P42C10	1,34,999	1,00,000
42"	TH-P42S10	2,10,000	1,75,000
46"	TH-P46U20	2,40,000	2,00,000
46"	TH-P46V20	2,60,000	2,20,000
50"	TH-P50X20	2,25,000	2,00,000

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