

WORLD AGENDA

SEPTEMBER 2010

1 Sep 2, Washington: Israelis and Palestinians begin direct talks for the first time in 20 months, three weeks ahead of the end of a moratorium on Jewish settlement building in the West Bank. Negotiators aim to complete an accord in a year

2 Sep 15, Iceland: Aviation and aerospace experts gather in **Keflavik** to coordinate the global response to future volcanic eruptions. Airlines lost more than \$1.7 billion after flights were grounded in April and May when Iceland's **Eyjafjallajökull volcano** spewed ash clouds around Europe

3 Mid-Sep, Italy: Prime Minister **Silvio Berlusconi** is expected to call a confidence vote and resign if he loses. A split in the centre-right coalition sapped power from the PM after lower house speaker **Gianfranco Fini** formed a breakaway faction in August

7 Sep 18, Afghanistan: Parliamentary elections take place amid the worst violence the country has seen since U.S.-backed forces ousted the Taliban in 2001. **At least three candidates have been killed while dozens have been barred from standing because of their links to militias**

4 Sep 10, Brussels: EU foreign affairs chief **Catherine Ashton** urges states to back trade concessions for Pakistan, hit by its worst ever floods in August. **The call comes amid concerns for the unpopular government, a U.S. ally in the war against Islamist militancy**

8 Early Sep, Yellow Sea: The U.S. military and South Korea conduct joint anti-submarine warfare exercises in a show of strength to North Korea amid rising tensions in the region. The North is accused of sinking the South Korean warship **Cheonan**, killing 46, in March

5 Sep 2, London: The memoirs of former British Prime Minister **Tony Blair** are published. A website promoting the book says **The Journey** includes "frank, unflinching" detail of his time in office

6 Sep 13-18, Abuja: West African states hold emergency discussions on whether to send troops into **Guinea Bissau**. The tiny nation – prone to coups and revolts – has become a hub for millions of dollars of Latin American cocaine bound for Europe