

WORLD AGENDA

FEBRUARY 2011

1 February 5, Munich: The Mideast Quartet of mediators attempt to resuscitate the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks which collapsed late last year over Israel's settlement building. The latest effort comes amid the disclosure of leaked documents purporting to show major Palestinian concessions to Israel in previous negotiations

2 Feb 18-19, Paris: Proposals for better transparency and regulation of commodities markets will dominate a G20 summit. French President *Nicolas Sarkozy* is leading calls in favour, warning that the world risks food riots and weaker growth if leaders fail to act

3 Feb 7, London: WikiLeaks founder *Julian Assange* appears in court for a full hearing on Sweden's efforts to extradite him over alleged sex crimes. The 39-year-old Australian computer expert denies claims of sexual misconduct

4 Feb 6, Juba: Full results of Southern Sudan's referendum are expected to show overwhelming support for a split from the north. A vote for secession would lead to the formation of Africa's newest nation on July 9

5 Feb 15-21, Oslo: The first formal peace talks in eight

years take place between the Philippine government and Maoist rebels. Forty years of separatist conflict in the south-east Asian republic have killed 120,000 people and displaced two million

6 Feb 18, Kampala: Uganda's *Yoweri Museveni*, once hailed as a democratic leader but now accused of authoritarianism, is expected to win a fourth presidential election. The opposition fears vote-rigging while analysts warn of increased violence during polling

7 Feb 8, Havana: Venezuela connects Cuba to a high-speed fibre optic cable in a strategically significant venture between the Latin American allies. The project undermines U.S. sanctions and vastly increases Cuba's data transmission speed

8 Feb 17, Dhaka: Will Australia win a fourth consecutive Cricket World Cup? The Bangladeshi capital has the honour of hosting the opening ceremony of the 14-nation contest, staged jointly with India and Sri Lanka