

WORLD AGENDA

FEBRUARY 2012

1 February 14, Washington: President **Barack Obama** hosts China's likely next leader, Vice President **Xi Jinping**, at the White House in a visit set to boost Xi's credentials as the man who will steer Beijing's close but quarrelsome ties with the U.S.



International Monetary Fund

2 Feb 25, Mexico City: Finance ministers from G20 countries discuss the **International Monetary Fund's** efforts to raise \$600 billion to help Europe deal with its debt crisis. The U.S. and other countries oppose the move

3 Feb 13, London: The first civil trial begins over phone hacking by **News International's** now defunct British newspaper **News of the World**. The three-week "test cases" hearing will give guidance on damages in 70 cases

4 February, Tehran: Iran's central bank has said it will file a motion to recover \$1.75 billion frozen in a U.S. bank. Tensions between the two countries are rising as Iran's economy is squeezed by sanctions from western countries over its nuclear programme

5 Feb 23, London: International delegates attempt to agree measures to tackle piracy in Somalia, a problem that cost \$135m in ransoms last year. Pirates operating from the Somali coast currently hold up to 10 ships and 200 hostages

6 Feb 11, Nigeria: Bayelsa, the southern home state of President **Goodluck Jonathan**, holds a governorship election with troops on alert as unrest escalates in the north. Hundreds have been killed in a spreading insurgency by Islamist sect **Boko Haram**

7 Feb 21, Yemen: Vice-President **Abderrabbo Mansour Hadi** is set to replace **Ali Abdullah Saleh**, who has ruled for 33 years, as President. Saleh has been granted immunity from prosecution in return for stepping down after a year of unrest

8 Feb 14, Berlin: **Meryl Streep**, widely regarded as the greatest living screen actress, receives a lifetime achievement award at the Berlin Film Festival

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