

WORLD AGENDA

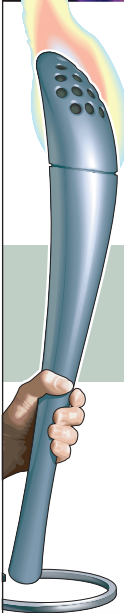
DECEMBER 2005



2 Dec 26, Asia: The first anniversary of the **Indian Ocean tsunami** – triggered by an earthquake off Indonesia's Sumatra island – which killed 250,000 people across 13 countries

3 Dec 7, Rome: The Olympic flame for the 2006 **Turin Winter Games** arrives from Greece

4 Dec 15, Iraq: After boycotting the first post-Saddam vote in January, the once-dominant **Sunni** minority are expected to turn out in large numbers for parliamentary elections



8 Dec 15-18, Hong Kong: Hopes that an outline plan for a global free trade pact will be established at a **World Trade Organisation** meeting attended by all 148 WTO members are fading. European Union refusal to open its long-protected farm markets is being blamed



1 December 8, New York: Events around the world will mark the 25th anniversary of the death of Beatle **John Lennon**. Newly released interviews with the singer's assassin, **Mark Chapman**, who remains behind bars, will be aired on television in the United States and Britain

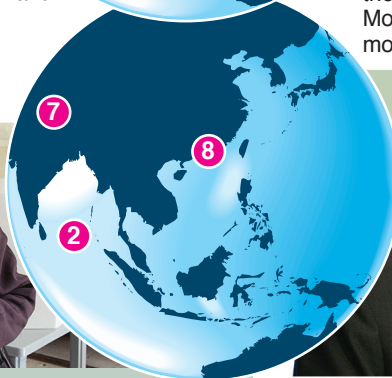


5 Dec 16, Ankara: Turkey's best known novelist, **Orhan Pamuk**, goes on trial accused of denigrating Turkish identity after backing

allegations that Ottoman Empire forces committed genocide against Armenians 90 years ago. The author of "**My Name is Red**" and "**Snow**" faces up to three years in jail



6 Mid December, Cancun: Mexico's Caribbean resorts will open for business again after being devastated by **Hurricane Wilma**, the latest in a flurry of storms to hit the area. Most hotels will reopen but it will take several more months to restore the beaches



7 Dec 3, Nepal: A three-month unilateral ceasefire by **Maoists** fighting to put an end to the absolute powers of **King Gyanendra** comes to an end. More than 12,000 people have died since the rebels took up arms in 1995

9 10 Dec 31, Cape Town/Belgrade: The end of the year marks the deadline for black citizens' land claims in South Africa and for Serbia to hand over indicted war criminal **Ratko Mladic** (pictured) to the Hague

