

# WORLD AGENDA

APRIL 2006

**2** **Mid-April, New York:** Construction work is scheduled to begin on the city's *Freedom Tower*, the 1,776ft-tall, 72-storey skyscraper that will be the first new building on the *World Trade Center* site since the twin towers were destroyed in the 9/11 terrorist attacks



**3** **April 30, Geneva:** Poor nations seeking access to Europe's heavily protected markets will be watching nervously as the *World Trade Organisation* reaches its deadline for agreeing a free trade deal

**4** **April 9, Peru:** More than 20 candidates are contesting presidential elections, where outgoing president *Alejandro Toledo* is so unpopular that his party is not fielding a candidate

**5** **April 7, EU:** From today any resident or organisation in the *European Union* can register a website or email address ending in *.eu*, following the launch of the internet domain name suffix last December

**6** **April 21, London:** *Queen Elizabeth II*, head of state in Britain and 15 other Commonwealth realms, celebrates her 80th birthday

**1** **April 9, Italy:** A general election will see media tycoon *Silvio Berlusconi* struggling to retain the premiership against a stiff challenge from centre-left opposition leader *Romano Prodi*, ex-president of the European Commission

**7** **April 28, Baghdad:** Iraq reaches the first anniversary of the formation of its first elected government in 50 years amid political disarray and increasing bloodshed

**8** **April 6, Kathmandu:** A general strike, organised by an alliance of major political parties, is due to be held across Nepal in a bid to force *King Gyanendra* to restore democracy

**9** **April 13, Hangzhou:** China hosts its first international conference on Buddhism since 1949, as part of *Hu Jintao's* campaign to display religious tolerance

**10** **April 9/17/23:** Three of the world's top marathons take to the streets for their gruelling annual showdown in *Paris, Boston, and London*

