

WORLD AGENDA

MAY 2006

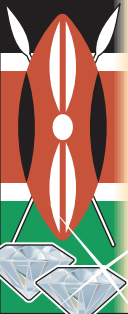
1 May 17, France: *The Da Vinci Code*, the keenly anticipated movie adaptation of *Dan Brown's* best-selling but controversial novel, will open the **59th Cannes Film Festival** before going on worldwide release on May 19

2 May, China: The **Three Gorges Dam**, the world's largest at 185m high, is expected to be completed nine months ahead of schedule. The project is seen by supporters as a symbol of China's economic change but critics predict an environmental disaster



3 May 14, Haiti: **Rene Preval**, elected president in February, will be officially sworn in to begin the enormous task of building peace and raising living standards in the poorest country in the Americas

5 May 24, Nairobi: **Kamlesh Pattni**, former director of export firm **Goldenberg International**, goes on trial in Kenya's biggest ever corruption case, involving huge payments of public money for bogus exports of gold and diamonds



4 May 20, Athens: Greece hosts the much-mocked but ever-popular **Eurovision Song Contest** as it celebrates its 50th anniversary



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Research: Lis Ribbans

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6 May 9, Geneva: Elections will be held to choose the first members of the UN's new **Human Rights Council**. The council, which replaces the much-criticised **Human Rights Commission**, is expected to begin work in June on improving the rights and freedoms of millions of people worldwide



7 May 21, Montenegro: A referendum will decide whether the republic breaks away from Serbia. The loose union of **Serbia and Montenegro** is all that survives from the federation of six republics that made up **Yugoslavia** before the wars of the 1990s



8 May 12, Rome: Italy's parliament will meet to elect a successor to President **Carlo Azeglio Ciampi**, whose term of office ends on May 18. Some had hoped that given the current political volatility, the popular 85-year-old would stay at the helm for a second term

9 May 3, New York: A portrait by **Pablo Picasso** of his mistress **Dora Maar** is expected to fetch \$50m when it is auctioned at **Sotheby's**, which would make **Dora Maar With Cat**, painted in 1941, one of the 10 most expensive paintings ever sold