

WORLD AGENDA

OCTOBER 2006

1 Oct 2, Tokyo: Japan's new prime minister **Shinzo Abe** makes his inaugural address. Challenges include repairing deteriorating relations with China and South Korea, and maintaining the country's economic recovery after a decade-long slowdown

2 Oct 8, Kashmir: The first anniversary of the 7.6 magnitude earthquake that killed nearly 75,000, injured 150,000 and left up to three million homeless in Pakistan and northern India

3 Oct 1, Addis Ababa: Ethiopia's 1,700-year-old **Axum obelisk**, returned 14 months ago after being looted by **Mussolini's** Italy, will be re-erected after the rainy season. The 24m granite funeral stela is viewed as a national treasure

4 Oct 16, Baghdad: A verdict is due on **Saddam Hussein**, accused of crimes against humanity over the killing of 148 Shias following a 1982 assassination attempt on the then Iraqi leader

5 Oct 6, Stockholm: **Fredrik Reinfeldt**, the centre-right leader who ended 12 years of Social Democrat rule in September's elections, takes office as Sweden's new prime minister

6 Oct 29, D.R. Congo: Incumbent President **Joseph Kabila** (top) and ex-rebel leader **Jean-Pierre Bemba** face a presidential run-off in the first nationwide elections since 1960 in the war-ravaged country

7 Oct 5, New York: **Star Trek's** prolific 40-year history is celebrated as an array of TV and film memorabilia goes up for auction at **Christie's**

8 Oct 22, Brazil: The most successful driver in Formula 1 history, **Michael Schumacher**, retires at the end of the Grand Prix season

9 Oct 25, Cape Canaveral: **NASA** will launch two spacecraft observatories on a two-year mission to provide the first-ever stereoscopic 3D vision of the Sun and its coronal mass ejections

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