

# WORLD AGENDA

## JULY 2008

**1** July 13, Paris: Syrian President **Bashar al-Assad** and Israeli leader **Ehud Olmert** attend a summit to launch a new Mediterranean Union, sparking speculation that the two leaders could meet on the sidelines to progress peace talks begun in recent months

**2** July 1, London: The 150th anniversary of the presentation of **Charles Darwin's** theory, *On the Origin of Species*, to the Linnean Society. The view that the fittest would survive and evolve into new species challenged the Church's authority on the natural world

**3** July 7-9, Hokkaido: Climate change will top the agenda at the Japan-hosted G8 summit. The leading industrial nations hope to formalise an agreement to halve global emissions by 2050

**4** July, Nigeria: A summit aims to tackle sabotage of the oil industry in the **Niger Delta** that has helped push world prices to a record high

**7** July 18, Cape Town: **Nelson Mandela** turns 90. South Africa is in talks with the U.S. to have the name of the former president struck off a list of terrorists before his birthday. Mandela remains on the U.S. list more than a decade after the defeat of the apartheid regime

**8** July 21, Paris: **Carla Bruni**, the Italian-born model who married French President Sarkozy in February, releases her third album, *Comme si de rien n'était* (As if nothing had happened)

**5** July, global: Protests over soaring oil prices spread with a transporters' strike in **India** on Jul 2, and a mass demonstration in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**, on Jul 12

**6** July 4, Beijing/Taipei: Regular, direct flights across the **Taiwan Strait** are launched for the first time since 1949 when China claimed sovereignty over self-ruled Taiwan