

WORLD AGENDA

MARCH 2009



1 Mar 10, Lhasa: Fears of renewed unrest surround Tibet's most sensitive date in years, the 50th anniversary of its failed uprising against Chinese rule that forced the **Dalai Lama** into exile. A crackdown has begun as Beijing attempts to prevent protest

2 March, Seoul: South Korea faces a possible foreign exchange crisis as a dollar shortage deepens amid global recession. A drop in exports and fears that global lenders will refuse to roll over debt may lead to crunch point

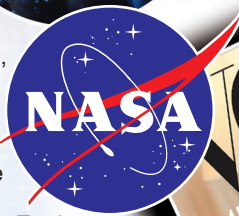


3 Mar 12, Vienna: U.S. prohibition comes under the spotlight at a UN meeting to frame international drugs policy for the next 10 years. Critics say U.S. laws achieve little in Latin America, where narcotic-related violence thrives



6 Mar 29, Global: Campaigners for **Earth Hour**, a climate change initiative to switch off lights between 8.30pm and 9.30pm, hope a billion people around the world will take part

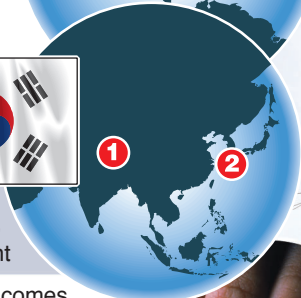
7 Mar 5, Florida: **NASA** launches **Kepler**, a telescope designed to discover planets with a similar size and orbit as Earth



8 Mar 1, Los Angeles: **Michelle Obama**, 45, is **Vogue** magazine's cover girl, marking only the second time a U.S. first lady has appeared on the front of the magazine. **Hillary Clinton** was the first, in 1998



4 Mar 6, Geneva: In a sign of thawing relations between Washington and the Kremlin, U.S. Secretary of State **Hillary Clinton** meets Russian Foreign Minister **Sergei Lavrov**. Ties between the two countries have deteriorated in the past few years



5 Mar 2, Cairo: Plans to rebuild the Gaza Strip after Israel's December invasion are unveiled at an international donors' conference. Estimates put the damage of the offensive, which killed 1,300 Palestinians, at \$2 billion

