

# Berlusconi's highs and lows

**POLITICS:** *Silvio Berlusconi*, 72, wins third term as prime minister in 2008, heading new centre-right *People of Freedom* party which includes *Forza Italia* – party he founded in 1993



**BUSINESS:** Makes fortune during property boom in Milan in 1960s. Business empire now spans media, insurance, construction and food. He also owns *AC Milan* – Italy's most successful football club



He is one of Italy's richest men with fortune of \$6.5bn

## CRIME ALLEGATIONS:

Owner of huge media empire, laying himself open to accusations of conflict between political and business interests

Has faced at least six trials for corruption and other charges. Most cases end in acquittal or run out of time under Italy's statute of limitations. Any convictions are overturned on appeal

**HEALTH:** Fitted with pacemaker in 2007 after collapsing at party rally. Freely admits having had cosmetic surgery

## GAFFES:

Famously compared German MEP to a Nazi concentration camp guard, and hailed then

*President-elect Obama* as "young, handsome and untanned"

**Berlusconi** hosts G8 summit amid claims he paid young women to attend private parties