

WORLD AGENDA

APRIL 2010

1 April 11, Khartoum: **President Omar Hassan al-Bashir** is running for re-election in Sudan's first multi-party presidential and legislative elections for 24 years. Five years after a peace deal to end decades of civil war was signed, simmering tensions have escalated as the poll in Africa's biggest country approaches



2 Apr 12-13, Washington: **President Obama**

hosts a 43-nation summit to discuss the prevention of nuclear weapons proliferation. Hopes are rising that the U.S. and Russia will sign a replacement for the 1991 **START** treaty before the summit, with both sides signalling that a breakthrough in their long-stalled talks is near

3 Apr 5, Los Angeles: Hearings begin in the case of **Conrad Murray** (below), the physician charged with the involuntary manslaughter of **Michael Jackson**. Murray has pleaded not guilty

4 Apr 12, Florida: A possible date for the inaugural flight of **SpaceX's Falcon 9** rocket, built to provide cargo shipments – and possibly astronauts – to the **International Space Station** under a \$1.6bn contract with NASA

5 Apr 29, Kabul: Afghan President **Hamid Karzai** hosts a "peace jirga" – or large assembly – to which he is expected

to invite all the militant groups, including the Taliban. The West hopes that the negotiations, combined with greater force, will encourage insurgents to strike a peace deal

6 Apr 13-15, Mexico: **Michelle Obama** makes her first solo international trip as U.S. First Lady. She will visit Mexico City, focusing on education and economic advancement

7 Apr 8, Italy: One of Christendom's most sacred relics, the **Shroud of Turin**, will go on display to the public for the first time since it underwent major restoration in 2002. **Pope Benedict XVI** will visit the exhibition, at Turin's cathedral, on May 2

9 April, Baghdad: Iraq invites foreign bids for the construction of a \$6 billion port south of Basra connecting the Gulf with northern Europe. The project is part of a drive to kick-start Iraq's economy following the recent signing of major oil contracts

8 Apr 8, United States: **Tiger Woods**

returns to professional golf for the first time since he admitted to multiple extra-marital affairs. The world number one, who lost millions of dollars in sponsorship, resumes his career at the **Masters** tournament in Augusta, Georgia