

WORLD AGENDA

DECEMBER 2011

1 Dec 1-2, Yangon and Naypyidaw: **Hillary Clinton** visits Myanmar, the first U.S. Secretary of State to do so in more than 50 years. The visit, which is expected to include a meeting with Burma's de facto opposition leader **Aung San Suu Kyi**, follows the end of five decades of military rule and the country's recent release of political prisoners

2 Dec 31, Baghdad: Deadline for the withdrawal of all 30,000 U.S. troops from Iraq.

The nine-year war cost the United States \$1 trillion and 4,500 lives – while at least 100,000 and Iraqis died in the conflict

3 Dec 16, Fort Meade, Maryland: U.S. Army analyst **Bradley Manning** is due to face a military court over charges of distributing government secrets which he allegedly leaked to the anti-secrecy website **WikiLeaks**. The conditions of Manning's confinement since his arrest in May have been widely criticised

4 December, Amsterdam: The **Deetman Commission** publishes its final report on

sex abuse in the Roman Catholic Church in the Netherlands, one of the countries worst affected by the scandal that spanned Europe and the United States. Nearly 2,000 Dutch people made allegations

5 Dec 4, Zagreb: Croatia's conservative **HDZ** party which, under **Franjo Tudjman**, won the country independence from Yugoslavia in 1991 and has dominated ever since, looks set to be ousted. Polls put the centre-left **Alliance for Change** far ahead amid weak economic growth

6 Dec 5, London: A new album by **Amy Winehouse**, **Lioness: Hidden Treasures**, is released posthumously using tracks the 27-year-old left unfinished when she died of alcohol poisoning in July

7 December, Geneva: Physicists begin to upgrade the **Large Hadron Collider**, the 27km circular tunnel that produces hundreds of millions of particle collisions a second, to one producing 10 times as many. The project aims to replicate the beginnings of the universe

8 Dec 3, New York: **Elizabeth Taylor's** \$30 million jewellery collection, one of the foremost in the world, is auctioned. Among nearly 300 pieces is a \$3.5m diamond ring given to the late actress by **Richard Burton**