

# WORLD AGENDA

JUNE 2009

## 2 Cairo, Jun 4:

President Obama delivers a much-anticipated speech to the Muslim world, seeking to repair ties damaged under his predecessor, **George W. Bush**. The new leader has made clear that peace in the Middle East is a top foreign policy priority

**1** Tehran, Jun 12: Iran holds presidential elections in which incumbent President **Mahmoud Ahmadinejad** battles for a second term against three prominent candidates. U.S. President **Barack Obama** has said he wants to see serious diplomatic progress with Iran by the end of the year

## 3 Beirut, Jun 7:

Militant Shia group **Hezbollah**, led by Sheikh **Hassan Nasrallah**, is poised to win parliamentary elections in volatile Lebanon. Branded a terrorist organisation by the U.S. and Israel, Hezbollah has one of the world's most powerful guerrilla armies

## 4 London, Jun 4: Right-wing minority parties

are expected to make significant gains in the European elections because of public anger at a far-reaching scandal over MPs' expenses. Leaks to a newspaper have revealed extravagant and possibly fraudulent claims

## 7 New York, Jun 7:

**Billy Elliot, The Musical**, the story of a ballet dancing boy from a coal mining town in northern England, is the frontrunner in Broadway's glitziest theatre awards. The show, based on the 2000 film, has been nominated for 15 Tonys

## 5 Mumbai:

One of India's most ambitious infrastructure projects, a \$325m eight-lane bridge, running through the sea, opens after 10 years in the making. The 5.6km **Bandra Worli Sea Link** is aimed at easing the financial capital's legendary traffic jams

## 6 Johannesburg, Jun 16: The first purpose-built stadium for 2010's

soccer World Cup opens with a rugby match between the **British and Irish Lions** and **Southern Kings**. The 48,000-seater **Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium** is one of five venues being built for next year's tournament

