

WORLD AGENDA

MAY 2012



2 May 21, Chicago: A NATO summit will attempt to demonstrate long-term commitment to Afghanistan amid fears the country will face renewed civil war after 2014 when most foreign combat troops pull out. The cost of maintaining security is estimated at \$4bn



5 May 6, Athens: Parties opposing austerity are forecast to make big gains in snap elections called by Greece's technocrat prime minister, **Lucas Papademos**. The poll is the first since the debt crisis exploded in 2009 leading to drastic spending cuts and violent protests

6 May 27, Netherlands: **Haile Gebrselassie**, one of the greatest distance runners in history, competes in his last ever 10,000m track race, in Hengelo. The 39-year-old Ethiopian, known as the Emperor, won Olympic gold twice and the World Championships four times

7 May 2, New York: **Edvard Munch's The Scream** is expected to fetch up to \$80m at auction at Sotheby's. The image is one of only four versions by the Norwegian artist and the only one privately owned

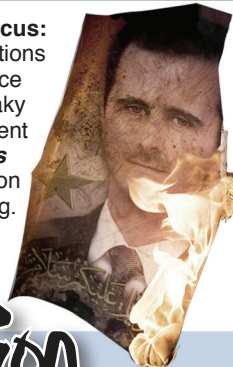


1 May 6, Paris: Will Nicolas Sarkozy become the first one-term French president in 30 years? Can François Hollande become the country's first socialist leader since 1995? France goes to the polls in the French presidential runoff to decide



3 May 23, Cairo: Egypt holds its first presidential election since **Hosni Mubarak's** downfall in February 2011. The country's military rulers say they back a transition to democracy, while the increasingly influential Muslim Brotherhood accuses the army of wanting to cling to power

4 May 7, Damascus: Parliamentary elections are due to take place in Syria amid a shaky ceasefire in President **Bashar al-Assad's** armed crackdown on a 15-month uprising. Opponents of his rule say the move is a cynical ploy



EUROVISION
SONG CONTEST
BAKU 2012

8 May 26, Baku: Azerbaijan's human rights record comes under scrutiny as it hosts the 57th **Eurovision Song Contest**. The former Soviet republic is accused of razing homes and evicting residents to free up space for the event, and of silencing its critics

