

WORLD AGENDA

JULY 2012

1 Jul 27, London: The *Olympic Games* sees 10,500 athletes from 205 nations taking part in 300 events in 26 sports, watched live by 8.8 million spectators. London, which hosted the Olympics in 1908 and 1948, becomes the first city to host the Games for a third time

2 Jul 1, Mexico: The PRI party, whose 71-year rule that ended in 2000 was tainted by corruption and authoritarianism, is set to regain power. Leader *Enrique Peña Nieto* is the clear frontrunner in presidential elections

3 Jul 9, Brussels: The *European Stability Mechanism* – a €500bn rescue fund designed to make it easier for troubled countries to access credit – comes into force as Greece and Spain struggle to stay in the 17-nation monetary union

4 July 9-16, Addis Ababa: The international spotlight falls on Ethiopia as it hosts *Omar al-Bashir*, the Sudanese leader wanted by the ICC for war crimes and genocide. The African Union Summit was moved from Malawi which had refused al-Bashir admission

5 Jul 3, Paris: President *François Hollande's* promise to cut France's budget deficit amid a stagnant economy takes shape at a special session of parliament. The new Socialist government is expected to announce tax increases for big business and the loss of exemptions

6 Jul 6, Paris: The *Friends of Syria* group of countries, which wants to end the rule of President *Bashar al-Assad*, holds its third meeting as international tensions rise over the shooting down of a Turkish military jet by Syria

8 Jul 8, Tokyo: Foreign donors decide how much extra aid they will give Afghanistan after NATO troops pull out in 2014. Ten years into the war, more than 90% of the country's \$17bn budget already comes from foreign donations

7 Jul 10, London: A free photographic exhibition at Somerset House documents a half-century of the *Rolling Stones'* career 50 years after their debut performance at London's Marquee Club

