

# WORLD AGENDA

FEBRUARY 2013

**1 Feb 5, Brussels:** Security in crisis-hit Mali is the focus of a meeting between the EU, the UN and the African Union. France has deployed 2,500 troops to combat Islamic extremists in control of the north of Mali

**2 Feb 15, Washington DC:** The date commentators forecast the U.S. may face an unprecedented default unless it raises its \$16.4 trillion debt ceiling. Experts fear a new recession could follow

**3 Feb 4, Milan:** The final session in the trial of former Italian prime minister **Silvio Berlusconi**, who is accused of paying for sex with a minor. A verdict is expected before national elections on February 24-25, in which the 76-year-old is a candidate

**4 Feb 17, Ecuador:** Popular President **Rafael Correa** is expected to win a third term in presidential elections. Correa, who ended years of political instability when he took power in 2007, is one of Latin America's increasingly powerful left-leaning leaders

**5 Feb 11, Viña del Mar:** Former No.1 tennis player **Rafael Nadal** makes his long awaited comeback from injury at the Chile Open. Nadal has been sidelined with knee tendinitis since Wimbledon last June

**6 Feb 10, India:** Millions of Hindus bathe in the Ganges in Allahabad to wash away their sins on the most auspicious date in the six week-long **Kumbh Mela**. The pilgrimage, expected to attract up to 100 million people, takes place every three years

**7 Feb 11, California:** The earliest date for the launch of NASA's **Landsat 8**, the eighth Earth Observation satellite to monitor land use changes in a 40-year programme. City growth, deforestation and climate change are recorded

**8 Feb 24, Hollywood:** Films up for glory at the 85th Academy Awards include **Lincoln**, with **Daniel Day-Lewis** a hot contender for best actor, **Les Misérables**, and **Zero Dark Thirty**, about the hunt for Osama bin Laden

