

WORLD AGENDA

DECEMBER 2013

1 Dec 15, United States: Deadline for many Americans to sign up for President Obama's controversial healthcare programme. Glitches on the "Obamacare" website could see millions of Americans without health insurance from January 1

4 Dec 1, Dhaka: A 77% rise in wages – from \$38 to \$68 a month – for garment workers in Bangladesh comes into effect. Protests led to the closure of 400 factories following April's collapse of the Rana Plaza complex that killed 1,100 people

5 Dec 15, Dublin: Ireland, emerging from one of the deepest recessions in the eurozone, is due to leave its three-year €85bn EU-IMF bailout

8 Dec 2, Los Angeles: *The Desolation of Smaug*, the second in *Peter Jackson's Hobbit* trilogy, has its world premiere. *Ian McKellen* will reprise his role as Gandalf

2 Dec, Manila: The relief effort in the Philippines, where Typhoon Haiyan killed thousands and left around 500,000 homeless, continues. The spread of disease, particularly cholera and typhoid, is now a huge post-disaster threat

3 Dec 8, Caracas: Venezuela's President *Nicolas Maduro's* socialist government faces a major test of its rule in municipal elections as bitter politicking rages in an economically polarised nation

6 Dec 3, Strasbourg: Allegations that Poland hosted a secret CIA jail, to detain and interrogate al-Qaeda suspects outside the jurisdiction of the U.S. legal system, will be heard by the Court of Human Rights. Warsaw denies involvement

7 Dec 15: *Orbital Sciences Corp* is poised to launch the first of eight cargo runs to the ISS under a \$1.9bn contract with NASA. It is the second U.S. firm to fly cargo to the station following the retirement of the space shuttles in 2011

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