

# 2013: The highs and lows of a tumultuous year



April 24: Dhaka



April 30: Amsterdam



June 9: Washington DC

**JAN 9** London Underground, the first railway of its kind in the world, celebrates its 150th anniversary



**11** French troops head to Mali at the request of the government to halt an advance by Islamist rebels

**20** U.S. President **Barack Obama** is sworn in for his second term in office, facing major challenges at home and abroad

**FEB 11** **Pope Benedict XVI** becomes the first pontiff to retire since 1415



**14** South African runner **Oscar Pistorius** is arrested after shooting dead his girlfriend, **Reeva Steenkamp**, claiming he mistook her for an intruder

**15** A meteor explodes over Chelyabinsk, in Siberia, injuring more than 1,000 people

**MAR 13** Cardinal **Jorge Mario Bergoglio** of Argentina becomes the first pope from Latin America, taking the name **Francis**



July 7: Wimbledon



July 22: London

**14** **Xi Jinping** formally becomes President of China, completing the transition of power in the country

**APR 14** **Nicolas Maduro** is elected President of Venezuela after the death of **Hugo Chavez**

**15** Two bombs explode at the Boston Marathon, killing three spectators

**24** An eight-story garment factory building collapses in Dhaka, Bangladesh, killing over 1,100 people

**30** **Crown Prince Willem-Alexander** becomes King of the Netherlands following the abdication of **Queen Beatrix**

**MAY 6** Three women abducted a decade earlier are found alive at a house in Cleveland, Ohio

**16** Football superstar **David Beckham** announces his retirement

**20** A 3km-wide Category 5 tornado tears through Moore, Oklahoma, killing 25 people including nine children

**26** The civil war in Syria spills into Lebanon as multiple rockets strike Beirut

**31** Anti-government protests spread to dozens of cities throughout Turkey, sparked by a crackdown on demonstrators in Istanbul



August 18: Cairo



August 21: Damascus



September 21: Nairobi



November 8: Tacloban

**JUN 9** Ex-CIA contractor **Edward Snowden** admits revealing details of top-secret U.S. and UK spy programmes to the press

**14** **Hassan Rouhani** is elected President of Iran, pledging to improve relations with the west

**JUL 4** Egypt's army deposes President **Mohammed Morsi** from power

**6** A runaway train carrying crude oil derailed and explodes in the Canadian town of Lac-Mégantic, killing 47 people

**7** **Andy Murray** becomes the first British player in 77 years to win the Wimbledon men's singles title

**22** **Prince George of Cambridge**, third in line to the British throne, is born



**24** An intercity express train derailed near Santiago de Compostela, Spain, killing 79

**AUG 18** Violence escalates in Egypt with over 1,000 people killed in clashes after the ousting of President Morsi

**21** Many hundreds of people die when Syrian troops target opposition-controlled suburbs of Damascus with sarin gas



**21** U.S. Private **Bradley Manning** is jailed for 35 years for leaking over 700,000 U.S. government military files to WikiLeaks

**SEP 14** The U.S. and Russia announce an agreement to enable the elimination of Syria's chemical weapons stockpile by mid-2014

**21** A four-day assault by al-Shabaab militants on the Westgate shopping mall in Nairobi, Kenya, leaves 72 people dead

**22** **Angela Merkel** wins a historic third term as Chancellor of Germany

**25** **Oracle Team USA** seals one of sport's greatest comebacks to win the America's Cup, overhauling an 8-1 deficit to beat **Team New Zealand** 9-8 in the deciding race in San Francisco Bay

**OCT 1** A standoff in Congress results in a 16-day U.S. government shutdown after lawmakers fail to agree on a budget to increase the debt limit

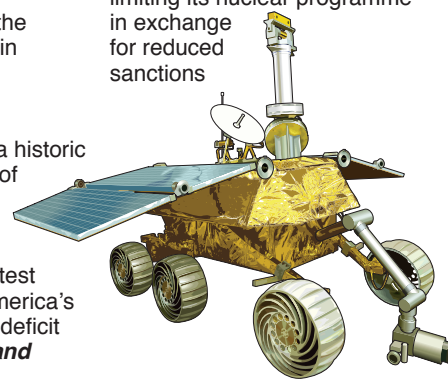
**3** Over 360 African migrants die when an overcrowded fishing boat catches fire and sinks off the Italian island of Lampedusa

**24** A tunnel linking the continents of Europe and Asia opens beneath the Bosphorus in Istanbul

**NOV 8** **Typhoon Haiyan** smashes into the central Philippines, killing at least 6,000 people

**8** The Italian Senate votes to expel ex-Prime Minister **Silvio Berlusconi** from parliament over his conviction for tax fraud

**24** Iran signs an interim agreement with the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and Germany, limiting its nuclear programme in exchange for reduced sanctions



**DEC 1** China launches its first unmanned probe to the moon

**5** **Nelson Mandela**, South Africa's first black president, dies at age 95

