

WORLD AGENDA

MARCH 2014



4 Mar 27, Vatican: The growing gap between rich and poor is the focus of *Pope Francis* and *President Obama's* first meeting. Oxfam has revealed the world's richest 85 people control equal wealth to the poorest 3.5bn, with the super-rich mostly from the U.S.



6 Mar 16, Belgrade: *Aleksandar Vučić* is in pole position to become prime minister in Serbia's snap parliamentary election. The former ultra-nationalist turned pro-Western moderniser has been at the forefront of an anti-graft campaign

7 Mar 2, Los Angeles: The hot tip for best actress at the Oscars is *Cate Blanchett* for her role in *Blue Jasmine*, but controversy surrounds the film's writer-director *Woody Allen*. His adopted daughter has accused him of sexually abusing her at age seven

1 Mar 28, Riyadh: President *Barack Obama* travels to Saudi Arabia to meet *King Abdullah* amid tensions over U.S. policy in the Middle East. Washington's overtures to Iran and reluctance to launch airstrikes in Syria have strained relations with its main Arab ally

2 Mar 3-20, Pretoria: *Oscar Pistorius* stands trial for the 2013 Valentine's Day murder of his 29-year-old girlfriend, model *Reeva Steenkamp*. The South African Paralympic champion claims he shot her by accident after mistaking her for an intruder



3 Mar 3-28, Geneva: The U.S. tables a war crimes resolution against Sri Lanka at the UN Human Rights Council. Government forces are believed to be behind 40,000 Tamil civilian deaths in the ferocious final months of the country's 26-year civil war

5 Mar 7-16, Sochi: The *XI Paralympic Games* sees a record 47 countries competing in seven disciplines of five sports for a total of 72 medal events

8 Mar 5, Beijing: China's Ministry of Environmental Protection is set to gain radical new powers in a government shake-up. The new leadership is promising to halt the growth-at-all-cost economic model that has led to heavily polluted air triggering mounting public anger

