

# WORLD AGENDA

MARCH 2015



**1 Mar 17, Jerusalem:** *Benjamin Netanyahu* seeks a fourth term as prime minister when Israel goes to the polls. His right-wing party, Likud, is expected to win around 24 seats – neck-and-neck with the centre-left alliance known as the Zionist Union – in the 120-seat parliament



**3 Mar 23, Geneva:**  
A UN war crimes enquiry report on the Gaza conflict is due. Officials say publication will go ahead, though Israel's Prime Minister *Netanyahu* tried to shelve it after the chairman, *William Schabas*, resigned



**5 Mar 8, Milan:** *Silvio Berlusconi*, prime minister of Italy three times and billionaire media magnate, is freed from his community service sentence for tax fraud. The 78-year-old had a four-year jail-term commuted to four hours' work a week at an Alzheimer's centre



**7 March, Chile:** A chance to view the dawn of the universe becomes available to the public when the world's largest astronomical project opens for tours. The Alma observatory captures star and planet formations billions of light years away



Source: Kate Edgley

**2 Mar, Kiev:** The U.S. sends a battalion of troops to train Ukrainian forces fighting separatists in the east of the country. The move may provoke an escalation of Kremlin support for the rebels



**4 Mar 22, 29, France:** *Marine Le Pen's* far-right Front National is expected to take scores of seats in local elections. The anti-immigration party won control of 11 towns and over 1,200 municipal seats in last year's local ballot



**6 Mar 26, China:** Sri Lanka's President *Maithripala Sirisena* visits Beijing in an effort to reassure its biggest lender. The newly elected leader has been mending relations with the U.S. and India, strained during the previous pro-Beijing administration



**8 Mar 26, England:** *King Richard III*, who was slain in battle in 1485 and whose remains were discovered under a municipal car park in 2012, is to be reburied in Leicester Cathedral



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