

WORLD AGENDA

DECEMBER 2015

1 Dec 11, Washington: The issue of Syrian refugees could impede a crucial spending bill needed to keep the U.S. government from shutting down. *President Obama* plans to resettle 10,000 refugees in 2016, but many Republicans are vehemently opposed and have increased calls to strip funding for the administration's programme

2 Dec 6/13, France: Historic gains for *Marine Le Pen's* Front National in regional elections look more certain following the Nov 13 terrorist attacks in Paris. Analysts say the events, which left 130 dead, will boost support for the far-right

3 Dec 20, Madrid: Opinion polls show Prime Minister *Mariano Rajoy's* ruling conservative Popular Party is set to fall short of a majority in Spain's general election, forcing the PP and the rival Socialist Party to forge alliances with new, smaller parties



4 Dec 6, Caracas: A closely fought election campaign may unseat President *Nicolas Maduro's* Socialist Party, founded by the late *Hugo Chavez* and in power for 16 years

6 Dec 2, French Guiana: The European Space Agency launches its *LISA Pathfinder* spacecraft on a mission to detect gravitational waves, the ripples in space-time predicted by *Albert Einstein's* Theory of General Relativity



7 Dec 18, Los Angeles: The seventh *Star Wars* film, *The Force Awakens*, is released 10 years after the last installment, *Revenge of the Sith*. Set 30 years after *Return of the Jedi*, it features original stars *Harrison Ford*, *Mark Hamill* and *Carrie Fisher*

8 Dec 31, Germany: The copyright on *Adolf Hitler's Mein Kampf* expires, allowing anyone to publish and distribute it, amid growing controversy over whether the book should be available for study or buried for all time



5 Dec 16-18, London: Disciplinary charges are heard against four IAAF officials, including *Papa Massata Diack*, the son of former president *Lamine Diack*, as corruption allegations engulf international athletics' governing body. They are accused of concealing doping violations

