

WORLD AGENDA

FEBRUARY 2017



3 Feb 15, Belgium: NATO defence ministers meet in Brussels to manage the biggest reinforcement of the Alliance since the Cold War. New U.S. Defence Secretary **James Mattis** (above), will be under scrutiny to see if he is truly NATO-friendly

4 Early February, U.S.: Israeli Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu** meets with President Trump to discuss issues including the Israeli-Palestinian issue, Syria, and the Iranian threat. Moving the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem could also be on the agenda

6 Feb, Tehran: Iran and China are likely to sign a \$3bn contract to upgrade the **Abadan** oil refinery. Iran may view the deal as a safeguard against any further U.S. sanctions imposed by the new Trump administration

1 Feb, U.S.: President **Donald Trump** is poised to make his most controversial decision to date as he picks a conservative justice for the Supreme Court to replace the late Antonin Scalia.

Democrats are still seething over the Republican-led Senate's decision to block a hearing last year for President **Barack Obama's** nominee for the lifetime post

2 Feb 11, India: Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state, elects its 403-seat assembly. Four other state polls also get underway in a test of support for Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's** gamble to abolish high-denomination banknotes

5 Feb 18, Philippines: Church leaders will stage a "Walk for Life" in Manila to oppose extra-judicial drug-related killings, which have cost over 6,200 lives since President **Rodrigo Duterte's** election in June 2016

7 Feb 7, Colombia: Peace talks begin between the government and the country's second-biggest rebel group, the 2,000-strong National Liberation Army (ELN). President **Juan Manuel Santos** sealed a peace accord with the FARC rebel group last year after decades of conflict



8 Feb 26, Los Angeles: The Oscars look certain to avoid the controversy of the last two years when no actors of colour were nominated. **Fences**, starring **Denzel Washington** and **Viola Davis**, and **Moonlight**, which has already picked up a Best Picture Golden Globe, are strongly tipped to pick up awards

