

news

From Brexit to Trump, 2016 had us gasping with shock

# Surprising moments of 2016



**JANUARY**

Women in Latin American countries have been advised to avoid pregnancy as birth defects believed to be related to the zika virus spark panics in the region. Thousands of babies there have been born with small heads, a condition called microcephaly, which can be deadly.



**FEBRUARY**

Scientists confirm first direct observation of gravitational waves. Sound of two black holes colliding a billion light years away fulfils last prediction of Einstein's general theory of relativity.



**MARCH**

US President Barack Obama visits Cuba and meets President Raul Castro, thawing US - Cuba relations after 54 years of enmity.

**APRIL**

The Panama Papers, 11.5 million leaked confidential documents, reveal how some of the super-rich funnel assets into secret shell companies in offshore tax havens.

**MAY**

Mr Rodrigo Duterte wins in landslide election to become President of the Philippines. He vows a relentless crackdown on crime.



**JULY »**

Solar Impulse 2 becomes first solar-powered aircraft to circumnavigate earth, its 16-month voyage concluding in Abu Dhabi.



**SEPTEMBER**

Syrian government and Russian forces launch major offensive to retake all remaining rebel-held areas of Aleppo.



**OCTOBER**

Bob Dylan becomes first songwriter to be awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature.



**« NOVEMBER**

Mr Donald Trump, Republican outsider and billionaire businessman, scores a shock election victory and is set to become the first US President never to have held public office or served in military.



**DECEMBER**

A truck ploughs into a crowded Christmas market in central Berlin, killing 12 people and injuring 48, in an apparent terror attack. ISIS has claimed responsibility.

**JUNE**

The UK votes in a referendum to leave European Union. Prime Minister David Cameron announces his resignation as Brexit sends shockwaves around the globe.



**« AUGUST**

Joseph Schooling, 21, strikes gold in 100m butterfly event in Rio de Janeiro Olympics. His record 50.39 seconds sees him beating American great Michael Phelps, a feat that ensures the date of Aug 13\* will forever be etched in Singapore's sporting history.

\* Singapore time

TNP GRAPHICS: CEL GULAPA  
Sources: AFP/Graphic News

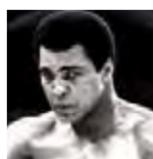
**GONE IN 2016**



David Bowie  
• Jan 10



Prince  
• Apr 21



Muhammad Ali  
• Jun 3



S R Nathan  
• Aug 22



Arnold Palmer  
• Sept 25



King Bhumibol Adulyadej  
• Oct 13



Fidel Castro  
• Nov 25



John Glenn  
• Dec 8



George Michael  
• Dec 25



Carrie Fisher  
• Dec 27