Programme Information Highlights
May 2019

Happening this month...

**Wednesday May 1**
*Tokyo, Japan - Accession of new Emperor*
Crown Prince Naruhito becomes Emperor after his father Emperor
Akihito abdicated yesterday. It is the first time an emperor has stepped
down since 1817.

**Wednesday May 1 – Thursday 2**
*Yom HaShoah - Holocaust Remembrance Day*
This annual day of remembrance is observed by Jewish communities
worldwide. It begins at sundown on May 1 and ends on the evening of
May 2.

**Saturday May 4 - Monday May 6**
*Thailand, Bangkok – Accession of new King*
King Maha Vajiralongkorn will hold his official coronation ceremony. He’s
held the position of king since his father King Bhumibol Adulyadej’s
death in 2016. Vajiralongkorn will be officially crowned on Saturday,
before a celebration procession on Sunday, followed by a meeting with
public and foreign dignitaries on Monday.

**Sunday May 5 – Tuesday May 7**
*Sofia and Rakovski, Bulgaria & Skopje, Macedonia*
Pope Francis pays a three-day visit to Bulgaria and Macedonia.

**Wednesday May 8**
*South Africa*
General elections being held to elect a new National Assembly and
new provincial legislatures in each province. Incumbent President Cyril
Ramaphosa will lead the ruling African National Congress, attempting to
retain majority status and a full term in office as president.

**Sunday May 12**
*Lithuania*
People cast their vote in the country’s general election. The current
president, Dalia Grybauskaite, will not be one of the ten candidates
running as she has served the maximum two terms allowed under the
constitution.

**Tuesday May 14 – Saturday May 25**
*Cannes, France – 72nd Cannes Film Festival*
Mexican Director Alejandro González Iñárritu will be president of the jury.

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Thursday May 16th – Sunday May 19th
Farmingdale, New York - US PGA Championship
The golf championship moves to May for the first time, as part of a revised PGA Tour schedule. It previously took place in August. Brooks Koepka was last year’s winner.

Saturday May 18th
Tel Aviv, Israel - Eurovision Song Contest
Pop music competition is hosted by last year’s winners.

Monday May 20th
Pietermaritzburg High Court, South Africa
Former President of South Africa Jacob Zuma appears in court to face charges of fraud, corruption and racketeering. His last hearing took place on November 30th.

Monday May 20th – Tuesday May 28th
Geneva, Switzerland - 72nd World Health Assembly
Annual meeting of members of the World Health Organization. It will focus on a specific health agenda prepared by the Executive Board.

Tuesday May 21st
Buenos Aires, Argentina
Former President Cristina Fernandez is set to go on trial in a public works corruption case. It is one of several corruption trials she faces.

Wednesday May 22nd
UK – Brexit, EU withdrawal
If UK politicians approve the EU withdrawal agreement, this is a possible date for UK’s departure from the bloc.

Sunday May 26th – Tuesday May 28th
Tokyo, Japan
US President Donald Trump is set to visit Japan to meet the country’s new emperor. He will then return to the country in June for a G20 gathering.

Friday May 31st – Sunday June 2nd
Bucharest, Romania
Pope Francis visits Romania. It’s hoped his trip will help thaw Catholic-Orthodox relations in the country.

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