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### **The Brief**

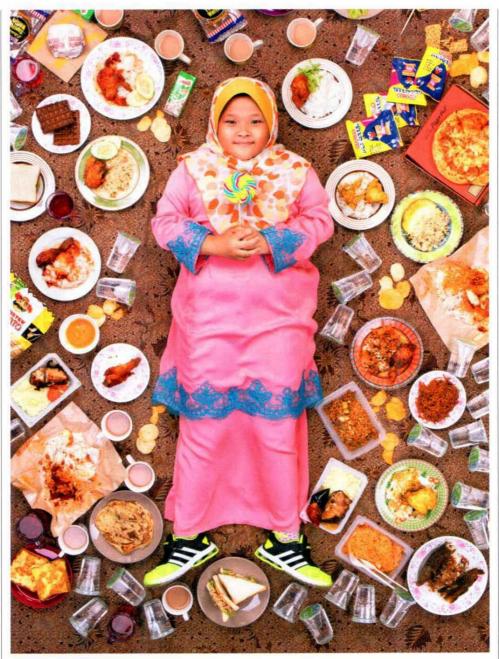
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## ☐ The Optimists

The future is bright, according to TIME's first-ever guest editor, Bill Gates. In this special report, the Microsoft founder and philanthropist curates data and insights from leaders in many fields to show the upside of what's ahead

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Siti Khaliesah Nataliea Muhamad Khairizal, 9, Kuala Lumpur, surrounded by a week's worth of food

Photograph by Gregg Segal

ON THE COVER: Photograph by Olaf Blecker for TIME

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**DONALD TRUMP, U.S.** President, responding to North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un's claim that he has a nuclear button on his office desk

1,950

Number of false or misleading claims that President Trump has made in 347 days in office



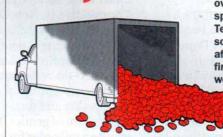
## \$19.6 million

Amount of money, in lottery winnings, that could be doled out to South Carolinians after a computer glitch caused store computers to accidentally print too many winning tickets

## 'What is Gangster's Paradise Lost?'

NICK SPICHER, Jeopardy! contestant, mispronouncing rapper Coolio's similar-sounding song "Gangsta's Paradise," an error that cost him \$3,200 after responding to the clue "A song by Coolio from Dangerous Minds goes back in time to become a 1667 John Milton classic"

40,000 Am pour avo over spil



Amount, in pounds, of avocados that an overturned truck spilled onto a Texas interstate south of Dallas after catching fire; no injuries were reported

Book clubs
David Bowie's
son launched an
online book club
featuring his late
father's favorite
novels



Bookstores
The U.S. chain
Book World is
closing after nearly
42 years in
business

# 'EVERYONE SHOULD WANT TO REPAY THEIR PARENTS FOR RAISING THEM ONCE THEY'VE GROWN OLD.'

Wu CHIH-HANG, 30-year-old Taipei dentist, agreeing with the ruling of Taiwan's highest court that another dentist must pay \$1 million to his mother, who paid for his dental-school education on the basis of a written agreement that his earnings would support her

## 'DO NOT EXTINGUISH THE HOPE IN THEIR HEARTS.'

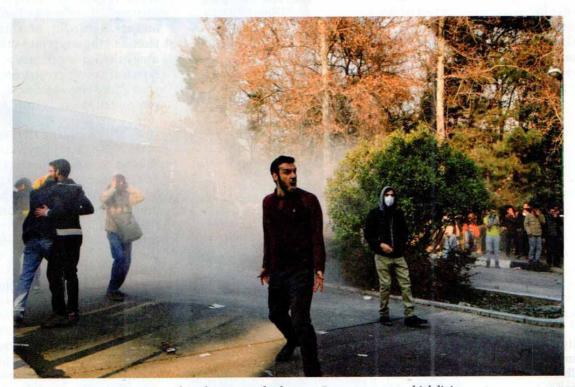
POPE FRANCIS, calling on world leaders to do more to help refugees in his New Year's address

## 'This is nothing.'

HASSAN ROUHANI, Iranian President, speaking to lawmakers amid violent antigovernment protests that erupted on Dec. 28 and left more than 20 dead

## TheBrief

'SO FAR THE NEW PROTESTS HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY SMALL, BUT THEY HAVE GROWN IN NUMBER.' -NEXT PAGE



Demonstrators took to the streets of Tehran on Dec. 30 to protest high living costs

WORLD

## The Iran protests expose a deep fault line in the Islamic Republic

By Karl Vick

HISTORY IS LITTERED WITH THE charred remains of fires lit for a discreet purpose, only to burn out of control.
One may be immolating Iran now.

In the country's 2017 presidential election, conservatives calculated that the best way to unseat moderate Hassan Rouhani was to point out to Iranians how poor they were. The idea was to sandbag Rouhani for failing to deliver the windfall that was expected when economic sanctions ended with the suspension of Iran's nuclear program, a deal the President had championed for four years.

It turned out that Iranians measure their suffering in decades. In Iran, all hard times have their roots in a dysfunctional economy that has been in place since the 1979 Islamic revolution. The system benefits the country's clerical elite and leaves ordinary people seething with the bitterness that has been pouring into the streets since Dec. 28.

The very first demonstration, in the northeastern shrine city of Mashhad, may have been arranged by hardliners intent on punishing Rouhani in his (handily won) second term. But subsequent uprisings appeared to spread organically, encouraged by social media and a feeling of nothing left to lose. "What we are seeing now is the result of a sort of distrust between the state and the people," says Amir Mohebbian, a conservative political analyst in Tehran. "Politicians and statesmen, instead of trying to solve the problems of the populaces, are continually busy aggrandizing issues and blaming the other side for it."