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Thank You

## World News -- January 2013

**Here are the key events in world news for the month of January 2013.**

- **French Troops Head to Mali (Jan. 1):** In response to a plea from the Mali government, France sends its military forces to the country to fight against extreme Islamist militants. French forces, including paratroopers, engage in combat in Mali with the Islamists militants. The exact number of French troops in Mali is unknown, but it is estimated to be between 800 and 900. French President Francois Hollande says in a statement, "French forces brought their support to Malian army units to fight against terrorist elements. This operation will last as long as is necessary." (Jan. 17): France sends reinforcements, bringing the number of French troops in Mali to 1,400. Reinforcements are needed because the militants have seized much of the country and the battleground has expanded.
- **More Than 60,000 Have Died in Syria's Civil War (Jan. 2):** The United Nations releases information that more than 60,000 people have been killed during Syria's civil war, which has been going on now for 22 months. The report exceeds previous estimates of casualties.
- **At Least 41 Engineers Are Held Hostage in Algeria (Jan. 16):** Islamist militants take about 40 foreign hostages at a remote BP site in Algeria. At least sixty armed militants attack the BP gas field. Among the engineers who are taken hostage are several British and U.S. citizens. Many fear that the hostage situation is a result of the conflict in Mali. (Jan. 17): Algerian forces raid the site where the hostages are held. According to officials in Algeria, 37 hostages are killed in the raid, including three Americans. Also in the raid, 29 kidnappers are killed and three are captured.
- **Election Shows a Slight Move Toward the Center for Israel (Jan. 22):** As polls close in Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu claims victory for what will be his third term, but the election is not the expected landslide. The overwhelming favorite, Netanyahu is followed closely by Yair Lapid, who founded Yesh Atid, a new centrist party. With 99 percent of the vote in, Likud-Beiteinu, Netanyahu's party has 31 seats, followed by 19 seats for Lapid's party. Lapid, the host of a popular Israeli television show, says in a speech after the election, "The citizens of Israel today said no to politics of fear and hatred. They said no to the possibility that we might splinter off into sectors, and groups and tribes and narrow interest groups. They said no to extremists, and they said no to antidemocratic behavior."
- **Protests Threaten Morsi Government (Jan. 25):** Violent protests erupted throughout Egypt on the second anniversary of the revolution. Demonstrators

focus their ire on the Muslim Brotherhood and President Mohammed Morsi's government, frustrated that the country is on an ideologically conservative path under the Islamists and that Morsi has failed to bolster the economy or fulfill promises to introduce broader civil liberties and social justice. Dozens of people are killed in the violence at the protests. Morsi declares a state of emergency in three large cities: Suez, Ismailia, and Port Said. (Jan. 26): The violence is particularly gruesome in Port Said after 21 people are sentenced to death for their role in the deadly brawl at a Feb. 2012 soccer match that resulted in the death of about 75 people. Defying the state of emergency and attendant curfew, rioters, who are upset with the verdict, wreak havoc throughout the city, attacking police stations, a power plant and a jail. At least 45 people die in Port Said alone. News reports indicate the victims are shot by police. Police also reportedly shoot live ammunition and tear gas at protesters in other cities, including Cairo.

- Azarenka, Djokovic Repeat as Australian Open Champions (Jan. 26–27): Victoria Azarenka from Belarus defeats Li Na of China, 4–6, 6–4, 6–3 to win her second straight Australian Open Women's Singles Championship. Serbia's Novak Djokovic beats Andy Murray of Scotland, 6-7, 7-6, 6-3, 6-2 to take the Men's Singles Championship. With the win, Djokovic becomes the first man in the 45-year-old Open era to win three consecutive singles titles at Australian Open.

### **Palestinian Authority to be Named 'State of Palestine'**

On 7 January Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas has signed a decree changing the name of the Palestinian Authority to the "State of Palestine," according to the organization's official news agency.

### **Pakistani Supreme Court Orders Arrest of Prime Minister**

On 15 January 2013 Pakistan's Supreme Court ordered the arrest of the prime minister in connection with a corruption case linked to power projects. The Supreme Court gave authorities 24 hours to arrest Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf and 16 others. This is the first in the history of Pakistan to arrest a Prime Minister. The orders of the Court came following the allegations in connection with a corruption case linked to power projects, done during his office of the Water and Power Minister.

### **Obama Signed 23 Executive Orders on Gun Safety**

On 16 January President Barack Obama announced 23 executive actions on gun control laws, making them stricter, which would come into effect immediately after his signatures. One of these measures include requiring the target shooters to keep their guns locked and also to ban military-style assault weapons, high capacity magazine as well as to make the background check mandatory. Obama announced that this was his

attempt to keep children safe, keeping in view the massacre of Newtown where 20 first grade children along with six adults were killed.

### **140 Nations Agreed On Global Mercury Limits**

On 19 January , More than 140 nations have agreed on the first legally binding treaty to curb mercury pollution. Delegates at UN discussed in Geneva approved measures to control the use of the highly toxic metal, which is widely used in chemical production and small-scale mining, in order to limit mercury emissions. The governments agreed to ban the production, export and import of a range of products containing mercury by 2020. The treaty has been discussed for four years, but it is only now that the negotiators agreed over the final version of the document. The treaty, known as the Minamata Convention on Mercury, provides controls and reductions across a range of products and processes where mercury is used, released and emitted.

### **Milos Zeman Elected as Czech Republic new President**

On 25 January A leftist candidate Milos Zeman won the Czech Republic's first presidential election decided by direct vote. Milos Zeman, a former prime minister and head of the Citizens' Rights Party, won with 54.8% of the vote. He defeated Karel Schwarzenberg, an aristocratic foreign minister with the TOP09 party, who garnered 45.2%. Zeman replaces Vaclav Klaus, who must step down after serving the maximum of two terms.

### **India – Pakistan Exchanged Nuclear Unit's Lists**

On 1 January India and Pakistan exchanged their nuclear units' lists , as it is customary since 20 years. The list which contains the names of nuclear units of two countries, are exchanged between India and Pakistan as a custom and part of an agreement which prevents them from aiming the nuclear installations of each others' nations.

### **World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report**

According to the World Economic Forum (WEF) report , India ranks lowest among the world's major economies for its preparedness to tackle global environmental risks and second-lowest for economic risks. Switzerland is best placed among the world's 10 major economies for adapting to or recovering from global economic and environmental risks. While India is ranked 9th in terms of its ability to tackle global economic risks, it comes last at 10th position for environmental risks. However, India fared relatively better at 6th position in terms of the government's risk management effectiveness. The US and China were ranked fourth and fifth respectively.

### **International Tea Producers Forum formed**

On 22 January India, along with five other tea producing countries, has formed the International Tea Producers Forum (ITPF) at Colombo. Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry D Purandesari signed the joint communique on behalf of India along with representatives of Kenya, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Rwanda and Malawi in Colombo. The ITPF will initially be an independent body but in future may get affiliated to Food & Agriculture Organisation of United Nations.

### **Fourth Meeting of ASEAN and India Tourism Ministers held in Vientiane**

The Fourth meeting of ASEAN and India Tourism Minister (4th M-ATM+ India) was held in Vientiane, Lao PDR from 21 to 23 January in conjunction with the ASEAN Tourism Forum 2013 (ATF2013). The Meeting was jointly co-chaired by H.E. Prof. Dr. Bosengkham Vongdara, Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism, Lao PDR, and H.E. Dr. K. Chiranjeevi, Minister for Tourism, Government of India. In the meeting Both the Ministers have signed the Protocol to amend the Memorandum of Understanding between ASEAN and India on Strengthening Tourism Cooperation.

### **World Economic Forum Summit Held in Davos**

The 43rd World Economic Forum Annual Meeting held from 23 – 27 January at Davos-Klosters in Switzerland. The annual forum, which has been running for over 40 years, provides a platform for decision-makers in politics, non-governmental organisations and businesses to gather and to exchange views on the world's most pressing problems. The World Economic Forum (WEF) unites international political leaders, business leaders and journalists from across the globe to discuss and shape global, regional and industrial agendas with regards to economics, health and the environment. The WEF was founded in 1971 as a non-profit organization by the German Klaus Schwab, a business professor at the University of Geneva.

### **Malala won " 2012 Tipperary International Peace Award "**

On 3 January Malala Yousafzai, the teenaged Pakistani school girl shot by a Taliban gunman last year, has been awarded the " 2012 Tipperary International Peace Award " from Ireland for her courage and determination to speak out in support of equal access to education for children. Malala is the second Pakistani to get the award. In 2007, it was given to late Benazir Bhutto.

### **Malala honored with the French " Simone de Beauvoir " Prize**

On 9 January Malala Yousafzai (15), the schoolgirl from Pakistan shot by Taliban for campaigning girls' education, received France's Simone de Beauvoir Prize for Women's Freedom in Paris. Malala's father Ziaudin Yousafzai received the honour on her behalf. The award is accompanied with 2.5 million Rupees honorarium.

### **Mamata Banerjee gets gift from PCB**

Overwhelmed by the hospitality at the Eden Gardens during India-Pakistan second ODI in Kolkata, the PCB sent the gift as a silver-coated Quran to the Cricket Association of Bengal who handed it over to the CM during a function at the Netaji Indoor in Kolkata on 10 January 2013.

### **70th Golden Globe Awards – 2013**

On January 13 The 70th Golden Globe Awards honored the best in film and television of 2012, was presented in California .

**Best Film – : Argo**

**Best Actor – : Daniel Day-Lewis (Lincoln)**

**Best Actress – : Jessica Chastain (Zero Dark Thirty)**

**Best Director - Ben Affleck (Argo)**

**Best Musical or Comedy -: Les Miserables**

**Best Foreign Language Film – : Amour**

**Best Animated Feature Film -: Brave**

### **Kohli is CEAT " International Cricketer of the Year "**

On 4 January Vice-captain of Indian Cricket team Virat Kohli was named the International Cricketer of the Year while Pakistan cricket team was named as the Best International Cricket Team in the 2011-2012 season at the CEAT cricket awards in New Delhi. Unmukt Chand, who led India to the U-19 World Cup win last year, got the inaugural Indian Youngster of the Year award. The Former Pakistan cricket captain Zaheer Abbas received the Lifetime Achievement Award.

### **Nicol David won World Series Squash Title**

On 6 January Nicol David won the World Series Squash Finals women's title after defeated England's Laura Massaro in the final at London. In the men's final, Egypt's Amr Shabana came from behind to beat England's Nick Matthew .

### **Australia Won Test Against Sri Lanka**

Australia secured a five-wicket won in the third and final Test match against Sri Lanka on 6 January at the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) .

### **Brisbane International Tennis Winners – 2013**

**Womens Single's** :Serena Williams (USA) won the WTA Brisbane International womens single's title on 5 January with a straight sets demolition of Russian Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova.

**Men's Singles** : In the Men's singles Category Andy Murray from scotland won the title after defeated Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov .

**Women's Doubles** : Sania Mirza and her partner Bethanie Mattek-Sands won the women's doubles trophy by winning against Kveta Peschke and Anna-Lena Groenefeld

**Men's Doubles** : Marcelo Melo – Tommy Robredo won the doubles title after defeated Eric Butorac – Paul Hanley .

### **Pakistan won the Three – Match Series**

On 6 January Pakistan won the three-match series by 2-1 against India. With this win over Pakistan, India lost the three matches one day series . Nasir Jamshed of Paksitan was declared as the Player of the tournament. MS Dhoni was once again chosen as the Player of the match.

### **Lionel Messi, the man of the four Golden Balls**

Lionel Messi became the first four-time winner of the FIFA Player of the Year award after shattering the world record with 91 goals last year(2012) for Barcelona and Argentina. His 91 goals topped Gerd Mueller's mark of 85 for Bayern Munich and Germany in 1972.



## Australian Open Tennis Tournament – 2013 Winners

**Womens Single's :-** Victoria Azarenka of Belarus won the Women's Singles title of the Australian Open Tennis tournament after defeated Li Na of China in the final at Melbourne on 26 January .

**Men's Singles:-** Novak Djokovic (Serbia) has won the men's singles title after defeating Andy Murray (Britain) in four sets. This is Djokovic's fourth Australian Open and over all six Grand Slam single title.

**Women's Doubles:-** Top seeds Sara Errani and Roberta Vinci won the title, defeating wild cards Ashleigh Barty and Casey Dellacqua in the final.

**Men's Doubles :** Top seeded American brothers Bob and Mike Bryan won the men's doubles title. Americans Mike and Bob Bryan won their record 13th Grand Slam doubles title, defeating the Dutch team of Robin Haase and Igor Sijsling .

## Philippines introduced 'sin tax'

A "sin tax" on cigarettes and alcohol was introduced in the Philippines on 01 January 2013, as part of a government bid to boost finances. Many stores started selling tobacco and drink at inflated prices before midnight , ahead of the official implementation of the tax hikes on January 01, hitting partygoers in the pocket. Tax on cigarettes will gradually be raised to 30 pesos (\$0.72) per pack by 2017, roughly doubling the current price to around 52 pesos. Duty on alcohol will also increase gradually until 2017, increasing the price of a bottle of beer by 23.50 pesos, with varying levels for other drinks including wine and spirits.

## World Bank's "Global Economic Prospects 2013" Report

According to the World Bank "Global Economic Prospects 2013" report , India's growth is expected to inch closer to that of China in near future, in which the economies of developing countries like India, China and Brazil are projected to be recovering and higher growth rate. The World Bank expects that by 2015, the growth rate of China would be 7.9% and that of India 7%. While the growth of the world economy growth is projected to inch up from 2.3% in 2012 to 2.4% in 2013, with the high-income countries remaining at the same level of growth of 1.3% in both 2012 and 2013, it is the emerging markets like India, China and Brazil that would show significant signs of recovery. They are expecting a recovery in India from 5.1% growth in 2012 to 6.1% growth in 2013.

## **US approved First new Tuberculosis Drug**

On 1 January The US Food and Drug administration approved a Johnson & Johnson tuberculosis drug in 40 years. This is the first new medicine to fight the deadly infection in more than four decades. The disease is rare in the US, but kills about 1.4 million people a year worldwide.

## **Spiral galaxy IC 2233**

Astronomers had captured one of the flattest galaxies known in the universe, sitting like a silver needle in the haystack of space. The NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope produced a beautiful image of the spiral galaxy IC 2233, one of the flattest galaxies. The IC 2233 is located about 40 million light-years away from Earth. This galaxy was earlier discovered by British astronomer Isaac Roberts in 1894.

## **“Immune system ‘booster’ may hit cancer”**

Japanese research where stem cells were used to clone and produce large numbers of a specialized type of white blood cell. These cells, known as cytotoxic T lymphocytes (CTLs), are produced by the immune system and are able to recognize specific markers on the surface of various tumour cells, causing them to launch an attack to kill the tumour cells. The researchers are succeeded in using stem cells to “mass-produce” CTLs in laboratory conditions.

## **Chinese Biologists Discovered Antibiotic In Panda Blood**

Chinese biologists have discovered that the blood of the endangered giant panda includes a compound called “Cathelicidin-AM” which acts as a natural antibiotic. The nature of the blood compound makes it an attractive treatment for so-called superbugs, those strains of disease that have become immune or resistant to traditional antibiotics.

## **India to make world’s largest solar telescope**

India is likely to begin construction of the world’s largest solar telescope on the foothills of the Himalayas in Ladakh to understand the fundamental processes taking place on the Sun by year-end. A 2-metre class, state-of-the-art National Large Solar Telescope (NLST), built by Bangalore-based Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), will permit Indian scientists to carry out cutting edge research aimed to study Sun’s atmosphere.

### **Internet emits 830 mt of carbon dioxide annually**

According to Researchers from the Centre for Energy-Efficient Telecommunications (CEET) and Bell Labs, Internet and other components of information communication and technology (ICT) industry annually produces more than 830 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), the main greenhouse gas, and is expected to double by 2020

### **'Lakshya' Missile Successfully Tested**

India's indigenously developed, 'Lakshya' was successfully tested on 7 January .It was launched from the Integrated Test Range – ITR, at Odisha .25 meters in length, 100 km away from the target to the missile .

### **17 billion' Earth-sized planets in Milky Way**

The Milky Way contains at least 17 billion planets the size of Earth.Astronomers using NASA's Kepler spacecraft found that about 17 percent of stars in our galaxy have a planet about the size of Earth in a close orbit.The Milky Way is known to host about 100 billion stars, meaning that about one of every six has an Earth-sized planet around it.

### **Astronomers Found " NGC 6872 " Largest known Spiral Galaxy**

A team of astronomers from the United States, Chile and Brazil has crowned it the largest-known spiral galaxy, a spectacular behemoth five times bigger than our own Milky Way, based on archival data from NASA's Galaxy Evolution Explorer (GALEX) mission.The title-holder is now NGC 6872, a barred spiral found 212 million light-years away in the southern constellation Pavo. The distance between NGC 6872's two huge spiral arms is 522,000 light-years, compared to about 100,000 light-years for the Milky Way.

### **"Largest Space structure in the Universe:Large Quasar Group**

An international team lead by astronomer Roger Clowes of the University of Central Lancashire in England discovered the largest known structure in the universe, a clump of active galactic cores that stretches 4 billion light-years from end to end.This is the largest Space structure in the Universe.This structure is known as a "Large Quasar Group(LQG)".

### **World's First Global Renewable Energy Atlas Launched**

On 13 January Abu Dhabi-based International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) launched the world's first clean energy atlas at IRENA'S General Assembly , currently offers open-access information on solar and wind power throughout the world and the creators plan to expand to other renewable energy resources over the next two

years. The atlas includes information on clean energy resources in 37 countries, including those which have no diplomatic relations with the United Arab Emirates. The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) is working in partnership with the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21) to build a qualitative and quantitative data framework for renewable energy in developing countries.

### **Ancient River Found on Mars**

On 17 January The European Space Agency scientists have revealed a 1500 km long and 7 kilometre wide river that once ran across Mars. The images which were captured by the ESA's Mars Express showed Reull Vallis, the river-like structure, which is believed to have formed when water ran from the surface of Mars in distant past. The structure which surprised the astronomers stretches for around 900 miles or 1500 km across the Martian surface and also shows various tributaries. These structures, it is believed, were formed somewhere around 3.5 billion years ago.

### **'Japan to replace Fukushima plant with world's largest wind farm'**

In the wake of the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster, Japan had decided to build the world's largest offshore wind farm to replace the crippled nuke plant. The country plans to build a total of 143 wind turbines on platforms 16 kilometres off the coast of Fukushima by 2020, which is home to the stricken Daiichi nuclear reactor that hit the headlines in March 2011 when it was damaged by a severe earthquake and tsunami. The wind farm will generate 1 gigawatt of power once completed, and is part of a national plan to increase renewable energy resources following the post-tsunami shutdown of the country's 54 nuclear reactors. The wind farm will surpass the 504 megawatts generated by the 140 turbines at the Greater Gabbard farm off the coast of Suffolk, UK – currently the world's largest farm.

### **India, US finalise Rs 3,000 crore deal for jet engines**

India and the US have finalised a Rs 3000-crore deal for supplying 99 jet engines to be used in the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft 'Tejas' being developed by the DRDO. Around two years ago, India had selected the American company General Electric over its rival European Eurojet 2000 for the LCA Mark II programme expected to be ready around 2014-15. The deal worth Rs 3,000 crore has been finalised with the US for procuring 99 engines for the LCA Tejas MkII. As per the contract, the order could be for 99 engines initially but India will have the option of ordering another 100 engines in the future.

### **Iran ‘successfully sent monkey into space’**

Iran on 28 January 2013 announced that it had successfully send a monkey to the space.It also declared that the monkey come back to the Earth successfully.The rocket called Pishgam (meaning Pioneer) reached at a height of 120 km (75 miles) for a sub-orbital flight before “returning its shipment intact”. The first country to launch the primate into space was US.

### **Strong Quake in Indonesia**

On 22nd January A strong, shallow earthquake rocked parts of western Indonesia early killed 30 persons and panicking residents and ruining homes. Several other people were injured.Indonesia’s meteorology and geophysics agency put the preliminary magnitude at 6.0 and said the inland quake caused no tsunami. It was centered southwest of the city of Banda Aceh and 10 miles (6 kilometers) beneath the earth’s crust, according to the U.S. Geological Survey..

### **233 People Killed in Brazil Night Club Fire Accident**

On 27 January The blaze in the university town of Santa Maria nightclub fire killed at least 233 people in southern Brazil .Most of those who died were suffocated by toxic fumes that rapidly filled the crowded club after sparks from pyrotechnics used by the band for visual effects set fire to soundproofing on the ceiling.

## Day to Day January 2013

Jan 1st - 13 FARC members are killed by an airstrike by the Columbian military

Jan 1st - 13 Boko Harem members are killed by Nigeria's military in Maiduguri

Jan 1st - 60 people are killed and 200 are injured after a stampede following New Year celebrations

Jan 1st - 18 people are killed and 16 wounded after a bus and mini-bus collision in Thiès, Senegal

Jan 1st - 10 people are killed and 120 are injured in a stampede in Luanda, Angola

Jan 1st - US bi-partisan deal temporarily avoids the fiscal cliff

Jan 1st - Magnus Carlsen breaks Garry Kasparov's chess FIDE rating, reaching 2,861

Jan 3rd - 27 Shiite pilgrims are killed and 60 are injured by a suicide bombing in Musayyib, Iraq

Jan 4th - 9 people are killed by a car bomb in Damascus, Syria

Jan 4th - 8 people are killed by a gunman in Kawit, the Philippines

Jan 4th - 6 people are killed a 2 are seriously injured after a snowmobile veers off a ski slope on Mt Cermis, Italy

Jan 4th - 3 people are killed after a Beechcraft BE35 crashes into a house in Florida

Jan 6th - 10 people are killed by a US drone attack in South Waziristan, Pakistan

Jan 6th - The NHL reaches an agreement to end a 113 day lockout

Jan 7th - Lionel Messi wins the FIFA Ballon d'Or for the third consecutive year

Jan 8th - 130 wildfires across Australia's east coast force thousands to evacuate their homes

Jan 8th - 2,130 prisoners held by the Syrian government are exchanged for 48 Iranians kidnapped by Syrian rebels

Jan 10th - 81 people are killed and 120 are wounded by a twin bombing in Quetta, Pakistan

Jan 11th - 46 people are killed and 12 are missing after a landslide buries a village in the Yunnan province, China

Jan 11th - 29 people are killed and 12 are injured after a bus veers off a mountain road

in Doti, Nepal

Jan 12th - A failed attempt to rescue a French hostage in Bulo Marer, Somalia, results in 18 deaths

Jan 12th - Beijing's level of air pollution is declared to be at levels that are hazardous to human health

Jan 13th - Argo wins the Golden Globe awards for best drama and best director

Jan 15th - 83 people are killed and 150 are injured in a rocket attack on Aleppo University, Syria

Jan 15th - 19 Egyptian Army recruits are killed and 120 are injured in a train accident in Giza

Jan 16th - 24 people are dead after three car bombs exploded in Idlib Governorate, Syria

Jan 16th - A four day occupation of an Algerian BP facility by Amenas militants begins, killing 48 hostages

Jan 16th - 25 people are killed after an apartment block collapses in Alexandria, Egypt

Jan 17th - 106 people are massacred by Syrian army forces in Homs

Jan 17th - 33 people are killed by a series of bombs across Iraq

Jan 17th - 4 people are killed and over 2,000 are evacuated after a massive flood hits Jakarta, Indonesia

Jan 17th - 8 people are killed in a plane crash in Chiapas, Mexico

Jan 17th - Japan unveils plans to build the world's largest wind farm near the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant

Jan 19th - 4 climbers are killed by an avalanche in Glen Coe, Scotland

Jan 19th - Calcium deposits are discovered on Mars by NASA's Curiosity Rover

Jan 19th - The 2012-2013 NHL season begins after a 119-day lockout

Jan 19th - Lance Armstrong admits to doping in all seven of his Tour de France victories

Jan 20th - Austria votes to maintain compulsory military service in a referendum

Jan 20th - The San Francisco 49ers and the Baltimore Ravens win the NFC and AFC championship games to reach Super Bowl XLVII

Jan 21st - 30 people are killed in a car bombing in Salamiyeh, Syria

Jan 21st - 41 people are injured after two trains collide in Vienna, Austria

Jan 21st - 18 people are killed and 24 are injured after a bus falls down a ravine in Yungas, Bolivia

Jan 21st - 1 person is killed and 15 are injured by a magnitude 5.9 earthquake in Indonesia

Jan 21st - Jeroen Dijsselbloem, Netherlands' Minister of Finance, becomes the President of the Euro Group

Jan 22nd - A series of Baghdad car bombings kill 17 people

Jan 23rd - 23 people are killed in a mosque suicide bombing in Tuz Khormato, Iraq

Jan 23rd - 18 people are killed in a market shooting in Damboa, Nigeria

Jan 23rd - US armed forces overturns 1994 ban on women serving in combat

Jan 24th - 17 people are killed and 34 are injured in a bus crash in Taperas, Bolivia

Jan 24th - A Japanese Coast guard ship engages a Taiwanese activist ship in the Senkaku Islands dispute

Jan 24th - Russian police kill 13 rebels in Vedeno District, Chechnya

Jan 24th - 17 people are killed and 34 are injured in a bus crash in Taperas, Bolivia

Jan 25th - Tropical cyclone Oswald makes landfall in Queensland, Australia, causing mass flooding

Jan 25th - 6 civilians and 1 police officer are shot dead and 456 people are injured during a nationwide protest against Egypt's 2011 revolution

Jan 25th - Islamist forces are driven out of Hombori by the Malian army

Jan 25th - 8 people are killed by 2 car bombs in Golan Heights, Syria

Jan 25th - 50 people are killed and 90 are injured in a prison riot in Barquisimeto, Venezuela

Jan 26th - 30 people are killed during a violent protest in Port Said, Egypt

Jan 26th - 10 people are killed and 20 are injured by a suicide bombing in Kunduz, Afghanistan

Jan 26th - The United States Sentencing Commission is hacked by Anonymous in response to the suicide of Aaron Swartz

Jan 26th - Miloš Zeman wins the Czech Republic's presidential election



Jan 26th - Victoria Azarenka defeats Li Na to win the women's singles at the 2013 Australian Open

Jan 27th - 20 police officers have been killed in a series of bomb attacks in Kandahar, Afghanistan

Jan 27th - In Port Said, Egypt, protests result in 7 people being killed and 630 are injured

Jan 27th - 11 people are killed and 32 are injured after a bus crashes down a ravine in Serta, Portugal

Jan 27th - 7 people are killed and 3 are injured after a retaining wall collapses during a football match at the Ugur Sports Facility, Turkey

Jan 27th - Novak Djokovic defeats Andy Murray to win his third consecutive men's singles title at the 2013 Australian Open

Jan 27th - Magnus Carlsen wins the 2013 Tata Steel Chess Tournament

Jan 27th - Spain defeats Denmark to win the 2013 World Men's Handball Championship

Jan 28th - 10 people are killed and 11 are injured in after a freight train collides with a bus in Heihe City, China

Jan 28th - Iran's Pishgam rocket successfully completes a return trip of sending a monkey into space

Jan 28th - 20 people are killed after a Bombardier CRJ200 airliner crashes outside Almaty, Kazakhstan

Jan 28th - John Kerry is voted to succeed Hillary Rodham Clinton as the United States Secretary of State

Jan 30th - South Korea successfully launches its rocket Naro-1 which was carrying a scientific satellite

Jan 31st - 300 people are injured in a train collision in Pretoria, South Africa

Jan 31st - 36 people are killed and 126 are injured in an explosion at Torre Ejecutiva Pemex, Mexico

## World News -- February 2013

Here are the key events in world news for the month of February 2013.

- **Suicide Bomber Hits U.S. Embassy in Turkey (Feb. 1):** Ecevit Sanli detonates a bomb near a gate at the U.S. Embassy in Ankara, [Turkey](#). Sanli dies after detonating the bomb. One Turkish guard is also killed. Didem Tuncay, a respected television journalist, is injured in the blast. Unlike the bombing at the embassy in Benghazi last September, the U.S. government immediately calls the bombing a terrorist attack. According to Turkish officials, the attack is from the Revolutionary People's Liberation Party, which has been labeled a terrorist organization by the U.S. and other nations.
- **French President Makes Triumphant Visit to Mali (Feb. 2):** French President [Francois Hollande](#) receives a huge welcome when he arrives in [Mali](#). Thousands of people come out to greet him with music and dance, chanting, "Vive la France!" During his visit, Hollande congratulates French and Malian troops on "an exceptional mission," after the troops chased Islamic extremists out of Mali's cities last month. While speaking to the troops, Hollande also admits that "the fight is not over."
- **Pope Benedict XVI Announces He Will Resign (Feb. 11):** The former Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, [Pope Benedict XVI](#) announces his retirement, becoming the first pope to do so since 1415. He will retire on February 28. He cites advancing age and a growing physical weakness as his reasons for retirement. Speaking to a small group of cardinals at the Vatican, Pope Benedict XVI says, "Before God, I have come to the certainty that my strengths, due to an advanced age, are no longer suited" for leading the Catholic Church.
- **North Korea Appears to Detonate Third Nuclear Bomb (Feb. 12):** North Korea says it has detonated a third nuclear bomb. World leaders, scientists, and intelligence officials rush to determine if the bomb is fueled by uranium or plutonium. Plutonium is used in earlier tests in 2006 and 2009, and officials say if uranium powered the bomb then it is a signal that [North Korea](#) is on its way to developing a larger and more powerful arsenal. The explosion is small compared to those detonated by China in the 1960s and the U.S. in 1945, but larger than North Korea's previous tests.
- **Pistorius Arrested for Killing Girlfriend (Feb. 14):** South African runner [Oscar Pistorius](#) is arrested on Valentine's Day after police find his girlfriend, [Reeva Steenkamp](#), dead from multiple gunshot wounds in his apartment. Early news

reports that Pistorius had mistaken his girlfriend for an intruder and accidentally shot her, but by the end of the day he is charged with murder. **(Feb. 19):** On the same day as Steenkamp's funeral, Pistorius faces charges of premeditated murder in the Magistrate Court in Pretoria, [South Africa](#). Pistorius denies murdering his girlfriend in an affidavit read by Barry Roux, his lawyer, "I fail to understand how I could be charged with murder, let alone premeditated. I had no intention to kill my girlfriend."

- **Syrian Opposition Open to Talks, Excluding al-Assad (Feb. 15):** The National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces announce that they are open to talks with members of the Syrian government in the hope of finding a political solution. However, the offer comes with conditions, mainly that [Syria's](#) president, [Bashar al-Assad](#) be excluded. The opposition also wants military leaders to be excluded from the talks. Meanwhile, heavy fighting continues in Aleppo, a city in northern Syria where rebel fighters take control of a military base.
- **Livni Joins Netanyahu's Coalition to Head Talks with Palestine (Feb. 19):** Prime Minister [Benjamin Netanyahu](#) invites former foreign minister [Tzipi Livni](#) to join his coalition and head [Israel's](#) peace talks with [Palestine](#). Livni, who formed the Hatenuah party to run against Netanyahu in last month's election, will also serve as Justice Minister. Netanyahu and Livni make the announcement at a press conference, both saying they have set aside past disagreements and rivalries to work together. "I criticized the government's management over the past four years, but since the election, we've come to understandings to put all that aside," says Livni.

### **UK, Afghan, Pakistan Leaders Hold Talks in Britain**

On 4 February The leaders of Britain, Afghanistan and Pakistan pushed for the Taliban to come to the table for peace talks to end Afghanistan's protracted conflict and gave themselves a six-month deadline to get a deal. British Prime Minister David Cameron hosted Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai and Pakistan's President Asif Zardari for trilateral talks on Afghanistan's floundering peace and reconciliation process.

### **UNICEF Syria Crisis Humanitarian Situation Report**

On 8 February According to the UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund ) Syria Crisis Humanitarian Situation Report, The vaccination effort in collaboration with the Ministry of Health is well underway, with over 53,000 children receiving measles vaccinations, over 44,000 receiving vitamin A supplements, and over 10,000 polio doses administered.

### **Pakistan to Renamed Sindh Province to 'Sind'**

On 12 February 2013, the Sindh Assembly approved a bill to rename the southern Pakistani province as Sind. The assembly approved the Sindh Laws Amendment Bill of 2012, whereby the letter "h" will be removed from the name of the province.

### **Russia Rejected U.S. Nuclear Warheads Proposals**

On 14 February Russia rejected U.S. president Barack Obama proposals, which deployed nuclear warhead delivery systems including bombers, missile launchers and nuclear submarines – a cut of about 60%. In 2010 Russia and the United States signed on "New START" agreement. The New Start treaty limits each side to no more than 800 deployed nuclear warhead delivery systems including bombers, missile launchers and nuclear submarines – a cut of about 50%.

### **Rafael Correa Re-elected for 3rd term as Ecuador's President**

On 17 February Ecuadoreans president Rafael Correa has been re-elected for a third term with more than 50 percent of votes in his favour. As per the results, Rafael Correa got 56.7 percent while his closest competitor Guillermo could secure only 23.3 percent. Correa is a socialist leader who was first elected in 2006 December and he was sworn in on 15 January 2007 as the 56th president of Ecuador. Correa was re-elected to a second term in 2009.

### **Pakistan Hands Over Strategic Gwadar Port To China**

On 18 February Pakistan and China signed an agreement to hand over control of the strategic Gwadar port on the Arabian Sea to a Chinese company. Under the agreement for transfer of concession rights, the deep sea port will remain the property of Pakistan while the Chinese company will share profits from its operation. China Overseas Port Holdings Limited will fully assume responsibility for Gwadar port in Balochistan province.

### **Israel's Netanyahu Announced Coalition Deal with Tzipi Livni**

On 19 Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu has announced a coalition deal with former Foreign Minister and the rival centrist Hatnua Party Chairwomen Tzipi Livni, at Jerusalem. Under the deal agreement, Livni will serve as the new Justice Minister and will oversee the peace efforts with the Palestinians. Tzipi Livni is an Israeli Politician and the first woman to be the leader of opposition in Israel. She is the leader of the new centrist party, Hatnuah. She served Israel as its Foreign Minister from 2006 to 2009.

### **Russia and Brazil Signed on Defence Cooperation Agreements**

On 20 February Russia and Brazil signed a Defence, Energy and Agricultural agreements .Brazil agreed to negotiate the purchase of Russian anti-aircraft missile batteries on the condition that Russia transfer the technology to Brazilian defense companies without restrictions.The agreements are signed by Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev and Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff .

### **Nicos Anastasiades Elected as Cyprus New President**

On 24 February the centre-right DISY (the Democratic Rally) party leader Nicos Anastasiades, has won the presidential elections of Cyprus with 57.5 percent votes.Nicos Anastasiades had a very easy going victory over Communist-backed Stavros Malas who secured 42.5 percent votes in the election.

### **Raul Castro re-elected for Second Term as Cuba's President**

On 25 February Raul Castro has been re-elected as Cuba's president officially to his last five-year term.The National Assembly of People's Power approved, in the capital Havana, Army General Raul Castro Ruz as president of the Council of State, and elected Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez, as its first vice president.Raul Castro became interim president when his brother, revolution icon Fidel, took ill in 2006. He then formally became president in 2008.

### **Special Purpose Vehicle Formed for TAPI Pipeline Project**

On 7 February The Union Cabinet gave its approval for formation of the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) Pipeline Project and to permit GAIL India Ltd. to join the SPV. The four countries involved in the TAPI Gas pipeline project, signed an Inter-Governmental Agreement along with a Gas Pipeline Framework Agreement (GPFA).Turkmenistan and Pakistan agreed to the formation of TAPI Ltd. The 1,680 km pipeline will carry 90 million metric standard cubic metres a day (mmscmd) of gas, and is scheduled to become operational in 2018.

### **Malala Yousafzai nominated for Nobel Peace Prize**

Malala Yousafzai, who was shoot by the Talibans against the girl education was nominated for this year's Nobel Peace Prize, as the deadline expired on 01 February 2013. French, Canadian and Norwegian MPs have all separately nominated Malala.This year's award will be announced in early October, but speculation was already underway as the deadline for nominations ran out on 1 February .

### **Paul Hansen Won “2012 World Press Photo “ Award**

On 15 February Swedish photographer Paul Hansen has won the “2012 World Press Photo award” with a picture of two Palestinian children killed in an Israeli missile strike being carried to their funeral. The picture shows a group of men marching the dead bodies through a narrow street in Gaza City. World Press Photo, one of photojournalism’s most prestigious contests, issued awards in nine categories to 54 photographers of 32 nationalities.

### **63rd Berlin Film Festival Awards**

The awarding ceremony of the 63rd Berlinale ended on 16 February in Berlin. Romanian film “Child’s Pose” won the Golden Bear, the top jury prize awarded to the best film in the Berlin International Film Festival.

Best Film :- Child’s Pose ( Romania )

Best Actor :- Nazif Mujic in “Life of an Iron Picker” (Bosnia/France/Slovenia)

Best Actress :- Paulina Garcia in “Gloria” (Chile/Spain)

Best Director :- David Gordon Green for “Prince Avalanche” (US)

Best ScreenPlay :- Jafar Panahi for “Parde” (Closed Curtain) Iran.

### **Oscars Awards-2013**

85th Oscar awards presentation ceremony held in Los Angeles on 25 February 2013. In this ceremony Life of Pi cinema got a 4 Oscar awards.

Best Picture: Argo

Best Actor: Daniel Day-Lewis (Lincoln)

Best Actress: Jennifer Lawrence (Silver Linings Playbook)

Best Supporting Actor: Christoph Waltz (Django Unchained)

Best Supporting Actress: Anne Hathaway (Les Misérables)

Best Directing: Ang Lee (Life of Pi)

Best Adapted Screenplay: Chris Terrio (Argo)

Best Original Screenplay: Quentin Tarantino (Django Unchained)

Best Documentary Feature: Searching for Sugar Man

Best Original Song: "Skyfall" from Skyfall, music and lyrics by Adele Adkins and Paul Epworth

Best Original Score: Life of Pi

Best Animated Feature: Brave

Best Cinematography: Life of Pi

Best Costume Design: Anna Karenina

Best Documentary Short Subject: Innocente

Best Film Editing: Argo

Best Foreign Language Film: Amour (Austria)

Best Makeup and Hairstyling: Les Misérables

Best Production Design: Lincoln

Best Short Film (Animated): Paperman

Best Short Film (Live Action): Curfew

Best Sound Editing: Skyfall (TIE), Zero Dark Thirty (TIE),

Best Sound Mixing: Les Misérables

Best Visual Effects: Life of Pi

### **Graeme Smith Captains his 100th Test**

On 4 February South African test cricket team captain Graeme Smith has created a unique record by leading the side in 100th test. As the South African captain Graeme Smith stepped on the field against Pakistan, he became the only captain in the world to have led the team in 100 test matches. Earlier, the record for captaining in most number of test matches was held by former Australian skipper Allan Border. Allan Border led the Australian test cricket team in 93 test matches. Sourav Ganguly holds the record of

captaining Indian test team in most number of test matches. Sourav played as skipper in 49 test matches. Now, Graeme Smith is the only cricketer to play as captain in 100 test matches.

### **India Won Record 46 Medals in Special Olympics**

On 6 February India's differently-abled athletes returned with the largest haul of medals in the 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games at Pyeong Chang, South Korea. The Indians won 46 medals – 13 gold, 17 silver and 16 bronze – from among mentally-challenged 2200 athletes from over 120 nations in the Games. India doubled its medal tally from the World Winter Games 2009. The Games are being competed in eight sports.

### **Wrestling Dropped From 2020 Olympic Games List**

On 12 February the International Olympic Committee (IOC) leaders dropped wrestling from the 2020 Olympic Games. Wrestling will be included at the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. The IOC board acted after reviewing the 26 sports on the current Olympic program. Eliminating one sport allows the IOC to add a new sport to the program later this year. Wrestling will now join seven other sports in applying for inclusion in 2020. The others are a combined bid from baseball and softball, karate, squash, roller sports, sport climbing, wakeboarding and wushu. They will be vying for a single opening in 2020. The last sports removed from the Olympics were baseball and softball, voted out by the IOC in 2005 and off the program since the 2008 Beijing Games. Golf and Rugby will be joining the program at the 2016 Games in Rio de Janeiro.

### **Victoria Azarenka won Qatar Open Tennis Title**

On 18 February Defending champion Victoria Azarenka from Belarus defeated Serena Williams (America) to win the Qatar Open tennis title in the final at Doha.

### **Sania Mirza won Dubai Tennis Championship Title**

On 23 February India's Sania Mirza and her American partner Bethanie-Mattek Sands won the Dubai Tennis Championship title. The Indo-American duo defeated the second seeded Russian-Slovenian combination of Nadia Petrova and Katarina Srebotnik. Sania bagged her second Doubles title of the season.



### **Iran launches new fighter jet**

Iran had unveiled a new home-made combat aircraft on 02 February 2013. Iran announced that this is the most sophisticated aircraft in the world. The name of this aircraft was Qaher F313 (Dominant F313). Qaher F313 was designed using the Advanced Electro-Aviation System.

### **World's Largest Prime Number Discovered with 17,425,170 digits**

Researchers from the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg discovered the largest prime number of the world, contains 17 million digits. This is the 48th Mersenne prime found so far. However, there are certain rare kinds of prime numbers called Mersenne primes which have the form  $2^p - 1$ , where  $p$  denotes a prime number. The new largest prime is  $2^{57885161} - 1$ .

### **First Complete Bionic Man Unveiled in U.K**

On 7 February, the world's first complete 'Bionic Man' named "Rex" was unveiled at London's Science Museum. The bionic man was created using 1 million US dollar limbs as well as organs. Rex has a human face with brown eyes and a height of 6.5 feet. It was designed jointly with assistance from 18 universities and companies.

### **North Korea conducted third nuclear test**

On 12 February 2013, North Korea "successfully" conducted a third underground nuclear test with the violation of United Nations sanctions. In the past, North Korea two times conducted nuclear tests, but this is most powerful than those tests. North Korea announced that a miniaturised nuclear device had been detonated successfully at the test site. The test was reported to have taken place at a test site in the North Hamgyeong province, where the Punggye-ri nuclear complex that conducted tests in 2006 and 2009 is located.

### **Asteroid " 2012 DA14 " Passed Very Near To Earth**

The small Asteroid named " 2012 DA14 " with an estimated diameter of 50 meters (160 ft) and an estimated mass of 190,000 metric tons passed within about 3.5 Earth radii of the Earth's surface on February 15. During its 2013 close passage, the asteroid passed 27,700 km (17,200 mi) from the surface of Earth. Scientists at NASA estimated that an asteroid the size of 2012 DA14 flies this close to Earth about once every 40 years. A 2012 DA14-size asteroid impacts Earth once every 1,200 years, on average.

## **PSLV-C20 Successfully Launched 'SARAL' and 6 Other Satellites**

On 25 February ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) from the Satish Dawan Space centre at SPSR Nellore in Sriharikota , launched the Indo-French satellite "SARAL" along with six commercial payloads from Austria, Britain, Canada and Denmark into a 785-km polar sunsynchronous orbit. It was the 23rd mission of PSLV, which has an impeccable record of 21 consecutive successful flights.

About SARAL:- – The Saral mission results from the common interest of both ISRO and CNES in studying the ocean from space. For instance, it can provide information on seasonal forecasting, study on animal migration, locating 'buoys' and fishing vessels, collecting environmental data such as ocean temperature profiles and currents.

Besides Saral, the PSLV-C20 has put into orbit two micro-satellites UniBRITE and BRITE (both from Austria), AAUSAT3 from Denmark and STRaND from UK. It also carried one micro-satellite (NEOSSat) and one mini-satellite (SAPPHIRE) from Canada. With a lift-off mass of 407 kg, Saral is the 56th satellite to be launched by PSLV. The six commercial payloads from abroad together have a lift-off mass of 259.5 kg. PSLV-C20 is the ninth PSLV in 'core alone' configuration (without solid strap-on motors).

## **China's Table Tennis Legend Zhuang Zedong Died**

On 10 February the china's table tennis legend , Zhuang Zedong died in Beijing .Zhuang Zedong is a three-time world table tennis champion.Zhuang Zedong remained a crucial figure in ping-pong diplomacy of 1971 and is popularly also called the Architect of Ping-Pong Diplomacy. Pingpong diplomacy means exchange of the table tennis (ping-pong) players between China and US

## **American Philosopher and Legal Scholar Dworkin Died**

Ronald Dworkin a renowned American philosopher and a Constitutional Law expert died on 14 February at London .He wrote books named A Matter of Principle, Law's Empire and Justice for Hedgehogs.

## **Queen Elizabeth II named Britain's Most Powerful**

According to the BBC power list of Britain's most influential women, Queen Elizabeth II has been named the most powerful woman in Britain, while two Indian-origin women also found a place in the list of UK's 100 most powerful women. Two Indian-origin women who featured among the 100 most powerful British women were Kolkata-born Pinki Lilani, founder of the Asian Women of Achievement Awards in the UK, and human rights champion and director of Liberty Shami Chakrabarti.

### **World's oldest woman is Misao Ookawa**

Misao Ookawa, the oldest woman in the world receives a Guinness World Records certificate in Osaka, Japan, on 27 February 2013. She will be ready to celebrate its 115th birth anniversary on 5 March 2013. The oldest man in the world, Jiroemon Kimura (115) also belongs to Japan.

### **Strong 6.6 Magnitude Quake Hits Solomon Islands**

On 6 February a strong 6.6-magnitude tremor struck the Solomon Islands, the latest in a series of aftershocks from a powerful earthquake that triggered a tsunami. The quake hit 36 kilometres south-southwest of Lata, the main town on the remote island of Ndende. At least six people were confirmed dead and some 3,000 left homeless but the national disaster management office has been struggling to get a clear picture of the scale of destruction on the island, more than 600 kilometres from the capital Honiara. The Solomons are part of the "Ring of Fire", a zone of tectonic activity around the Pacific that is subject to frequent earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

### **Snow Storm "Nemo" Hits US and Canada**

On 8 February seven people have been killed in the United States and Canada as the massive blizzard Winter Storm Nemo dumped nearly two feet of snow in New England and knocked out power to more than a half a million homes. Throughout the Northeast, more than 600,000 homes and businesses lost electricity. Airlines cancelled more than 5,300 flights today, and New York City's three major airports and Boston's Logan Airport closed.

### **Huge Meteorite Hits The Russia**

On 15 February a huge meteor hit the Russia, injuring more than 1000 people, many hurt by broken glass, and causing explosions. Fragments of the meteor fell in a thinly populated area of the Chelyabinsk region. The meteorite, which weighed about 10 metric tons and may have been made of iron, entered Earth's atmosphere and broke apart 30-50 km (19-31 miles) above ground. The meteorite explosion, a very rare spectacle, also unleashed a sonic boom. The energy released when it entered the Earth's atmosphere was equivalent to a few kilotonnes, the power of a small atomic weapon exploding.

## Day to Day February 2013

Feb 1st - 21 people are killed and 30 are wounded by a market suicide bombing in Hangu, Pakistan

Feb 1st - Zenit-3SL, a Ukrainian-Russian carrier rocket, fails 40 seconds after liftoff and crashes into the Pacific Ocean

Feb 2nd - 23 people are killed and 8 are injured after militants attacked an army base in the Lakki Marwat District, Pakistan

Feb 2nd - Shinzō Abe, Japan's Prime Minister, vows to defend the Senkaku Islands "at all cost."

Feb 3rd - 33 people are killed by a suicide bombing by an explosive-packed truck in Kirkuk, Iraq

Feb 4th - 20 people are killed after an apartment building was struck by a rocket in Aleppo, Syria

Feb 4th - Europol announces it will investigate over 680 football matches alleged to involve match fixing

Feb 5th - UK House of Commons votes in favour of same-sex marriage

Feb 6th - A magnitude 8.0 earthquake occurs Off the Solomon Islands coast causing the death of nine people

Feb 7th - Azerbaijan launches its first satellite, Azerspace-1

Feb 8th - 16 people are killed and 27 are wounded by a market bombing in Kalaya, Pakistan

Feb 8th - 100, 000 people march to demand justice for the atrocities of the Bangladesh Liberation War in Dhaka

Feb 10th - 5 people are killed by a falling life boat from the MS Thomson Majesty in the Canary islands

Feb 10th - 36 people are killed and 39 are injured in a stampede at a train station in Allahabad, India

Feb 11th - Pope Benedict XVI announces his resignation from February 28, the first pope to resign since 1415



Feb 12th - North Korea confirms it has successfully tested a nuclear device that could be weaponized

Feb 13th - 16 Muslim insurgents are killed in an attack on a Narathiwat military base, Thailand

Feb 14th - The Large Hadron Collider (LHC), the world's largest and highest-energy particle accelerator, will be switched off for two years for upgrading

Feb 15th - Over 1,200 people are injured after a meteor breaks up over Chelyabinsk, Russia

Feb 15th - 2012 DA14, an asteroid with a 50m diameter, comes within 27,700km from Earth

Feb 16th - 84 people are killed and 190 are injured after a market bombing in Hazara Town, Pakistan

Feb 16th - Lionel Messi scores his 14th consecutive goal in La Liga and his 300th goal in 365 appearances for Barcelona

Feb 17th - Australia defeat the West Indies to win the women's 2013 Cricket World Cup

Feb 20th - Estonia becomes the first country to establish a national system of fast chargers for electric cars

Feb 20th - Kepler-37b, the smallest known exoplanet, is discovered

Feb 21st - 83 people are killed and 250 are injured in a series of bombing attacks in Damascus, Syria

Feb 21st - 21 people are killed and 54 are injured in a bombing in Hyderabad, India

Feb 22nd - The UK's credit rating is downgraded from AAA to AA1 by Moody's Investors Service

Feb 23rd - 51 people are killed and 62 are injured in conflict between rival tribes in Darfur, Sudan

Feb 23rd - The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn – Part 2 wins worst picture at the 33rd Golden Raspberry Awards

Feb 25th - Italy Common Good, a centre left alliance, wins the Italian general election



Feb 25th - Cuban President Raul Castro announces he will not seek another term in 2018

Feb 26th - A flexible battery capable of being charged wirelessly and folded and stretched is developed

Feb 26th - A hot air balloon crashes in Luxor, Egypt, killing 19 tourists

Feb 26th - A rocket launched from the Gaza strip into Israel ends the ceasefire since November 2012

Feb 27th - 17 Afghan militia are killed by Taliban insurgents in an attack in the Andar District

Feb 27th - Pope Benedict XVI presents his farewell address to Vatican City

Feb 28th - The brains of two rats have been successfully connected so that they share information

## World News -- March 2013

Here are the key events in world news for the month of March 2013.

- **Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez Dies (Mar. 5):** After 14 years at the helm of [Venezuela](#), [Hugo Chavez](#) succumbs to cancer. Elections must be held within 30 days. Maduro will serve as interim president and will run in the election, likely against Henrique Capriles Radonski, who lost to Chavez in October's election.
- **UN Passes More Sanctions Against North Korea (Mar. 8):** In response to the North Korea's nuclear test last month, the UN Security Council unanimously passes another round of strict sanctions against [North Korea](#). In a first, [China](#) is involved in drafting the sanctions. The sanctions come shortly after the [U.S.](#) and South Korea begin annual military drills near the north-south border. Reacting to the sanctions and the exercises, [President Kim Jong-un](#) promises to launch "a pre-emptive nuclear strike" against the U.S. and [South Korea](#) and says he has voided the 1953 armistice that ended the war between North and South Korea. Kim's threats are mostly dismissed as bluster, but are nevertheless the most menacing in years by any leader. He continues his bellicose tone throughout March and shuts down not only Red Cross hotlines between North and South Korea, but also military hotlines. At a rare plenary meeting of the Central Committee, Kim says North Korea will continue to develop its nuclear weapons program despite sanctions, saying the weapons ""are neither a political bargaining chip nor a thing for economic dealings."**(Mar. 29):** The U.S. responds to the growing threat from North Korea by continuing the military drills with South Korea, deploying F-22 stealth fighter jets and B-2 and B-52 bombers to the region in a show of its military strength. The U.S. also increases the number of ground-based ballistic missile interceptors in California and Alaska.
- **Cardinals Choose Argentina's Jorge Mario Bergoglio to succeed Benedict as Pope (Mar. 13):** Cardinal [Jorge Mario Bergoglio](#) of [Argentina](#) is elected as the new pope, succeeding [Benedict XVI](#). Bergoglio, 76, becomes the Catholic Church's 266th pontiff. He is the first pope from [Latin America](#), where 480 million Catholics live. Bergoglio receives the required two-thirds of the vote after just two days of the conclave. Accepting his election, Bergoglio chooses the name Francis.
- **Xi Jinping Becomes President of China (Mar. 14):** Xi Jinping assumes the presidency of [China](#). Of the 2,956 delegates, only one votes against Xi. Three delegates abstain. Li Yuanchao is named vice president. Assuming the presidency completes the transition of power to Xi. This final step puts him in charge of all three centers of power in China.

- **Obama Negotiates Reconciliation between Israel and Turkey (Mar. 22):** President Obama visits [Israel](#) and helps negotiate a reconciliation with [Turkey](#). During Obama's visit, Prime Minister [Benjamin Netanyahu](#) expresses sincere regret to Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Turkey's prime minister, for the commando raid in 2010 on a Turkish ship that killed nine people. Israel also offers compensation for the incident. Erdogan accepts Israel's apology. After the apology, both countries announce that they will reinstate ambassadors and completely restore diplomatic relations. President Obama supports the apology in this statement, "the United States deeply values our relationships with both Turkey and Israel, and we attach great importance to the restoration of positive relations between them, in order to advance regional peace and security." The press in Israel greets Obama's visit with enthusiasm. Multiple newspapers use the phrase he said in Hebrew during his visit, "You are not alone," as a headline.
- **Cyprus Bailout Sparks Outrage and Protests (Mar. 24):** The [European Union](#) (EU) and [International Monetary Fund](#) (IMF) offer a \$13 billion bailout to Cyprus. The EU and IMF also requests that [Cyprus](#) raise \$7.5 billion by taxing all bank deposits. Deposits over 100,000 euros will face a rate of 9.9%, while deposits less than that will be taxed 6.75%. The proposal sparks protests in Cyprus and outrage in [Russia](#)-many wealthy Russians put their money in Cyprus banks, which are not heavily regulated. Parliament rejects the bail-out, and the threat of Cyprus being ousted from the euro zone looms large.
- **Italy Overturns Amanda Knox Acquittal (Mar. 26):** A new trial is ordered by the Court of Cassation, [Italy's](#) highest court, for [Amanda Knox](#), the exchange student from the U.S. who was accused of murdering Meredith Kercher, her 21-year-old roommate in 2007. The ruling means the case will be reheard, this time by a new appeals court in Florence. The new trial will be later this year or in 2014. Currently attending the University of Washington in [Seattle](#), Knox releases a statement through a spokesman and calls the ruling "painful."

### UN Imposed New Sanctions on North Korea

On 7 March The UN Security Council approved a new regimen of sanctions against North Korea for conducting an underground nuclear test recently, imposing penalties on North Korean banking, travel and trade in a unanimous vote that reflected the country's increased international isolation. The resolution, which was drafted by the United States and China, was passed in a speedy vote hours after North Korea threatened for the first time to launch a pre-emptive nuclear strike against the United States and South Korea.



### **Obama Signed ‘ Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act 2013 ‘**

On 8 March the US President, Barack Obama signed the reauthorization of the ‘Violence Against Women Act 2013’ on the eve of International Women’s Day. The Violence Against Women Act was first passed in 1994. Reauthorised since then, the new Act offers support to the organisations which serve to the victims of domestic violence.

### **Uhuru Kenyatta Won Kenya Presidential Election**

On 9 March In Kenya, Deputy Prime Minister Kenyatta has won presidential election with a slim margin of 50.03 percent of votes. He defeated his rival Raila Odinga.

### **Japan & Ten EU Countries Exempted from US ‘Iran Sanctions Act’**

On 13 March The US has renewed the exemptions for Japan and ten European Union countries from tough American sanctions imposed on nations buying oil from Iran. The third six-monthly exemption to Japan, under the Iran Sanctions Act. The 10 European Union countries, Belgium, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, and the UK, have also qualified for a renewal of the exemption from sanctions because they have not purchased Iranian oil since July , 2012.

### **Pakistan Parliament Completes Full 5 Year Term**

On 16 March Pakistan’s Parliament has made history by becoming the first National Assembly in the country’s history to complete a full term of five years, with the conclusion of the House’s 50th session, setting the stage for the holding of elections. Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari announced that general elections would be held on 11 May 2013.

### **Cyprus Gets New Bailout Deal**

Cyprus secured a 10 billion (\$16.2 billion) bailout from its international creditors on 24 March 2013. Eurozone finance ministers had also approved a new bailout plan for Cyprus, putting an end to uncertainties over the fate of the Mediterranean island country in the euro area. The new bailout program includes deep restructuring of the country’s two biggest banks, Bank of Cyprus and Popular Bank of Cyprus. Under the new agreement, all bank deposits under •100,000 will be secured and guaranteed by the state.

### **South Africa, China Sign Deals To Boost Cooperation**

On 26 March South African President Jacob Zuma and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping met in Pretoria ahead of the fifth BRICS Summit. The two leaders signed a number of agreements, focusing on trade, tourism, education and social cooperation. The two sides agreed on future collaboration on research and development initiatives, manufacturing, marketing and the construction of cross-border infrastructure throughout the continent.

### **North Korea Declares 'State of War' with South Korea**

On 29 March North Korea declared that it had formally entered a "state of war" with South Korea. The announcement was made in a joint statement attributed to all government bodies and institutions. The two Koreas have thus technically remained at war for decades.

### **Iran and Pakistan Launched Gas Pipeline Project**

On 11 March Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and his Pakistani counterpart Asif Ali Zardari was officially inaugurated the final construction phase of the multi-billion-dollar Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project. The 1,244-mile pipeline would each day transport more than 750 million cubic feet of natural gas to Pakistan from Iran's South Pars gas field in the Persian Gulf. This Project was started from Chabahar city in Iran to Karachi in Pakistan with \$7.5 Billion. Initially they have an idea to extend this project to New Delhi in India but India was dropped from this project in 2009.

### **24th Arab League Summit Held in Doha**

The 24th summit was held in Doha (Qatar) from 21 to 26 March 2013. A total of 15 heads of state of Arab countries attended the summit. The Arab League currently consist of 21 countries, after Syria was suspended from the league due to excessive violence during the Arab Spring. However, the Syrian opposition umbrella organization, the Syrian National Coalition, will attend this year's summit and will be offered a seat formerly occupied by Damascus. The Arab League summit called for an international conference in the framework of the United Nations for Syria's reconstruction. The Qatari leader meanwhile proposed a mini- Arab summit, led by Egypt and leaders of Fatah and Hamas, in Cairo as soon as possible to achieve Palestinian national reconciliation. He also called for Arab countries to establish a fund of 1 billion U.S.dollars to support the Palestinians, pledging that his country will offer a quarter of the amount. The Arab League was formed in 1945.

### **5th BRICS Summit Held in Durban**

The 5th BRICS Summit was held in Durban, South Africa from 26 to 27 March 2013. The summit an international relations conference attended by the head of states or heads of government of the five member states Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Theme of the summit was , “BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Development, Integration and Industrialisation”. BRICS Leaders President of Brazil Dilma Rousseff , Russian president Vladimir Putin, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singhm, Chinese president Ji Jinping, South Africa’s president Jacob Zuma also discussed swap arrangements among the national currencies as well as reserve pooling. BRICS nations have decided to establish a new development bank to finance infrastructure projects and to create a USD 100 bn contingency fund to tackle any financial crisis in emerging economies, in what is seen as a major win for India’s campaign to reform global financial architecture. BRICS Summit took place in South Africa for the first time. BRICS, originally “BRIC” before the inclusion of South Africa in 2010, is the title of an association of emerging national economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS).

### **Duty Free Dubai Tennis Championship-2013**

Men’s Singles: On 2 March Serbian Novak Djokovic won the ATP Dubai Open Tennis Men’s singles title after defeated the Czech Republican Tomas Berdych in the final at Dubai .

Women’s Singles : This title was won by Petra Kvitova (Czech Republic). In final she defeated the Sara Errani(Italy).

### **ATP Mexican Open 2013 Tennis Tournament Winners**

Men’s Singles: Rafael Nadal won ATP Mexican Open 2013 Tennis Title after he defeated the top seed and defending champion David Ferrer on 2 March 2013 in the final. This is the 38th clay court title of Nadal.

Women’s singles : In the women’s singles Italy’s Sara Errani won the title after defeated Carla Suarez-Navarro (Spain) in the final.

### **Services Won Santosh Trophy Title**

On 3 March Services team won the final of the 67th Santosh Trophy in Kochi at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium by beating hosts Kerala .The Man of the Match title was clinched by Services striker Lalian Mawia. The Services team bagged their third Santosh Trophy title

### **All England Open Badminton Championship Winners**

Women's Single's : On 10 March Tine Baun (Denmark) won the women's singles title after defeated Ratchanok Intanon of Thailand in the All England Open Badminton Championship at Birmingham.

Men's Singles : Chen Long won the singles title after defeating Lee Chong Wei of Malaysia at Men's singles final.

### **Laureus World Sports Awards 2013**

"On 11 March Laureus World Sports Awards 2013 were organised in Rio de Janeiro. The Prestigious awards were claimed by sports stars- Jessica Ennis, Usain Bolt , Andy Murray and Sebastian Coe.

The List of the Awardees :- Laureus 'World Sportsman of the Year ' -Usain Bolt Laureus 'World Sportswoman of the Year ' – Jessica Ennis Laureus 'World Team of the Year' – European Ryder Cup Team Laureus 'World Breakthrough of the Year' – Andy Murray Laureus ' World Comeback of the Year' – Feliz Sanchez Laureus 'World Action Sportsperson of the Year' – Felix Baumgartner Laureus ' World Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability' – Daniel Dias

### **Ukrainian Women Won World Chess Championship**

On 13 March Women's chess team of Ukraine won the World Chess Team Championship. The second place went to team from China, and the third to the Russian , Fifth place to India.

### **Australia Won Azlan Shah Trophy**

On 17 March Australia, the World Champions won the Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Tournament title for the seventh time after defeated Malaysia in the final.

### **Swiss Open Badminton 2013 Winners**

Men's Singles :- On 18 March Wang Zhengming from china won the Swiss Open Badminton Men's singles title after defeated Du Pengyu in the final at basel.

Women's Singles:- In the Women's singles Wang Shixian from china got the title after defeating Ratchanok Inthanon (Thailand) in the final.

### **Spinning Black Hole Observed for the First Time**

The Spinning black holes are first identified by Paranal Observatory astronomers in Chile. The enormous black hole at the center of the spiral galaxy NGC 1365 is spinning about 84 percent as fast as Einstein's general theory of relativity allows it to, researchers determined. NGC 1365, located about 56 million light-years from Earth.

### **Pinaka' Rockets Successfully Test-Fired**

On 1 March Indigenously developed 'Pinaka' rockets were successfully test-fired by Indian army from a multi-barrel rocket launcher (MBRL) by an armament establishment from a base at Chandipur-on-sea, about 15 km from Balasore. 'Pinaka' is an area weapon system with a range of 40 km. 'Pinaka' system can fire a salvo of 12 rockets in 44 seconds, adding that the battery of six launchers can neutralise at a time a target area of 3.9 sq km.

### **Large Meteorite Found in Antarctica**

On 1 March the international group of researchers has discovered the 18-kg meteorite in eastern Antarctica, the largest found in that area in 25 years.

### **Astronomer Measured Exact Distance to Our Closest Neighbouring Galaxy**

On 7 March Astronomers have for the first time accurately measured the distance to one of the Milky Way's neighbouring galaxy and it is just 163,000 light-years away.

### **Japan Pioneers Gas Extraction From Seafloor Methane Hydrate**

On 12 March Japan has become the first country in the world to extract natural gas from frozen methane hydrate successfully off the central coast. According to the Japanese study, it was estimated that around 1.1tn cubic metres of methane hydrate existed in the offshore deposits. This is equal to the gas consumption of Japan in more than 10 years.

### **World's Largest Telescope Inaugurated in Chile**

On 13 March The world's largest radio telescope has been inaugurated in Chile on a mountain high above the Atacama Desert, wielding unprecedented power to peer into the remotest regions of the universe. The ceremony attended by President Sebastian Pinera and other dignitaries. The ALMA space observatory consists of 66 antennae creating a telescope array 16 kilometres in diameter.

### **UAE Inaugurated World's Largest CSP Solar Power Plant**

On 17 March United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan inaugurated the 100-megawatt solar plant "Shams 1" in the desert of Abu Dhabi, the world's largest concentrated solar power plant in operation. Covering an area of 2.5 square km, the 600-million-U.S. dollars project incorporates the latest in parabolic trough technology and features more than 258,000 mirrors mounted on 768 tracking parabolic trough collectors, capable of delivering green electricity to 20,000 homes.

### **Big Bang Radiation Map Unveiled**

On 21 March The European Space Agency (ESA) has unveiled the most detailed map yet of relic radiation from the Big Bang, revealing new data it hopes will shed light on the creation and expansion of our Universe. The map results suggest the universe is expanding more slowly than scientists thought, and is 13.8 billion years old, 100 million years older than previous estimates.

### **Venezuelan President Chavez Died**

On 5 March Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez died at Caracas. Hugo Chavez was the President of Venezuela from 1999 till his death in 2013. He served as the President of Venezuela for three times. A coup attempt was made in Venezuela in April 2002 to overthrow Hugo Chavez from his office.

### **Salman Rushdie Named in Al-Qaida's 'Most-Wanted List**

Indian-origin British author Salman Rushdie had been named in the 'most-wanted list of Islam critics to kill' released by al-Qaida in the new issue of its English online magazine. A fatwa was issued against Rushdie by Iran's late leader Ayatollah Khomeini in 1989 over passages in his book *The Satanic Verses*.

### **Maldives Ex-President Nasheed Arrested**

On March 5, Former Maldives President Mohamed Nasheed had been arrested, to face charges of abuse of power during his tenure, after he failed to appear for a hearing and evaded two arrest warrants. He is charged with illegally ordering the arrest of a senior judge, a move that led to his fall from power in 2012.

### **Czech Senate Accuses President Vaclav Klaus of High Treason**

On 5 March Czech President Vaclav Klaus dismissed a decision by lawmakers to press high treason charges against him as politically motivated. The Senate's actions were prompted by an amnesty granted by President Klaus, which will free over 6,000 prisoners.

inmates and halt the prosecution of prominent business executives and officials charged with asset stripping, bribes and fraud.

### **Strong Earthquake in Taiwan**

On 27 March a strong earthquake struck central Taiwan , killing at one person and injuring 19 as it damaged buildings on the quake-prone island.The Central Weather Bureau said the magnitude-6.1 earthquake was felt throughout the island.The U.S. Geological Survey placed the magnitude at 6.0.Nantou is a rural county about 250 kilometres south of Taipei.

## **Day to Day March 2013**

Mar 3rd - 45 people are killed by a bomb blast in Karachi, Pakistan

Mar 3rd - A 2 year old US girl becomes the first child born with HIV to be cured

Mar 4th - The Papal Conclave begins to select the successor of Pope Benedict XVI

Mar 5th - Mexican Vice-President Nicolás Maduro assumes the presidency after the death of Hugo Chavez

Mar 5th - Willcom announces the world's smallest mobile phone, weighing 32 grams

Mar 6th - Syrian rebels capture Ar-Raqqah, their first major city

Mar 6th - Microsoft is fined €561 by the Euro Commission for not providing alternative web browsers

Mar 7th - Hilary Mantel is awarded the 2013 David Cohen Prize for literature

Mar 7th - UN Security Council approves further North Korean sanctions for its nuclear testing

Mar 8th - North Korea terminates all peace pacts with South Korea

Mar 9th - Asteroid 2013 ET comes within 960,000 metres from the Earth's surface

Mar 11th - European Union bans the sale of cosmetics that have been tested on animals

Mar 11th - North Korea cuts the phone line with South Korea, breaching the 1953 armistice

Mar 11th - Falkland Islands' sovereignty referendum: 99.8% choose to remain an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom

Mar 12th - JOGMEC becomes the first to successfully extract methane hydrate from seabed deposits

Mar 12th - The 2013 Papal conclave begins with no elected new Pope on the first day

Mar 13th - The European Parliament rejects a European Union budget for the first time

Mar 13th - North Korea shreds the Korean Armistice agreement

Mar 14th - Xi Jinping is named as the new President of the People's Republic of China

Mar 16th - 24 Pakistani Army soldiers are killed after their bus falls down a ravine in Rawalpindi

Mar 17th - Pope Francis delivers his first Angelus prayer and blessing

Mar 19th - NASA's Mars rover Curiosity discovers further evidence of water-bearing minerals

Mar 20th - Pierre Deligne wins the 2013 Abel Prize in mathematics

Mar 21st - 12 people are killed and 30 are injured by a car bombing in Peshawar, Pakistan

Mar 21st - A barter dispute loses control and results in 10 people being killed, 20 injured, and 4 mosques being burnt to the ground in Myanmar

Mar 21st - The European Space Agency reveals new data that indicates that the universe is 13.82 billion years old

Mar 23rd - The US Senate approves its first budget in four years by a margin of 50–49

Mar 24th - 17 soldiers are killed by a suicide bomber at a military checkpoint in North Waziristan, Pakistan

Mar 25th - Golfer, Tiger Woods returns to his world number one ranking





Mar 28th - Pope Francis becomes the first Pope to wash the feet of women in the Maundy Thursday service

Mar 29th - 10 people are killed and 31 are injured by a blast outside the US consulate in Pakistan

Mar 29th - UN regulation of international arms trade is blocked by North Korea, Iran, and Syria

Mar 30th - North Korea declares it is at a state of war with South Korea

Mar 30th - Uhuru Kenyatta is declared the rightful winner of the Kenyan presidential election by the Supreme Court

Mar 31st - 2 people die from bird flu (type H7N9) in China

## World News -- April 2013

Here are the key events in world news for the month of April 2013.

- **North Korea's Kim Jong-un Defies Warnings (Apr. 1):** Despite stiffer sanctions from the UN, [Kim Jong-un](#) announces plans to expand North Korea's nuclear weapons and strengthen the country's economy. His plans defy warnings from the United States that [North Korea](#) needs to abandon its nuclear weapons arsenal. Kim prohibits South Korean workers from entering the Kaesong industrial park, which is run jointly by the two countries and is located in North Korea. **(Apr. 3):** At a rare plenary meeting of the Central Committee, Kim says North Korea will continue to develop its nuclear weapons program despite sanctions and restart the mothballed nuclear facility in Yongbyon. **(Apr. 4):** The U.S. announces it is deploying a missile defense system to Guam as a precautionary move. The deployment is two years ahead of schedule. **(Apr. 5):** [South Korea](#) reports that North Korea now has a missile within range of its coast, but the missile cannot reach the United States.
- **Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad Resigns (Apr. 13):** Prime Minister [Salam Fayyad](#) resigns in [Palestine](#) amid infighting among the top echelon of the Palestinian Authority and popular discontent. Fayyad is credited with cracking down on corruption in the [West Bank](#), improving infrastructure, and boosting the economy, which resulted in an increase in international aid. It is unclear how Fayyad's resignation would affect the reconciliation of Fatah and Hamas.
- **Special Election Held to Replace Chavez (Apr. 14):** A special presidential election is held to pick [Hugo Chavez](#)'s successor in [Venezuela](#). Nicolás Maduro wins by a slim margin. Maduro receives 50.8 percent of the vote. Henrique Capriles Radonski, who recently lost to Chavez in the October 2012 election, is close behind with 49 percent. **(Apr. 19):** Maduro assumes office. Meanwhile, the opposition questions the constitutionality of his election. In naming his cabinet, Maduro keeps Elias Jaua on as foreign minister and Diego Molero as defense minister. Jaua and Molero served in the same roles under Chavez.
- **Syria Faces Chemical Weapon Allegations (Apr. 18):** Diplomats from both [Britain](#) and [France](#) report to the United Nations that there is credible information that the government in [Syria](#) has used chemical weapons recently in its civil war. According to both diplomats, the Syrian government has used chemical weapons multiple times since December 2012. Officials from [Israel](#) also say they have evidence that the Syrian government has used chemical weapons. [President Obama](#) has said that the use of chemical weapons by Syria's government could lead to a military response by the [United States](#). The U.S. is currently looking into the various claims.

- **France Becomes 14th Nation to Approve Same-Sex Marriage (Apr. 23):** The lower house in France's National Assembly votes 331 to 225 in favor of same-sex marriage. The legislation is expected to be approved by the Constitutional Council and signed into law by [President François Hollande](#). The vote makes [France](#) the 14th nation in the world to pass legislation for same-sex marriage. [Uruguay](#) and [New Zealand](#) have also both recently passed same-sex marriage legislation.

### **China, Russia, Pakistan discuss Afghanistan situation**

Officials from China, Russia and Pakistan on 3 April 2013 held talks on the issue of coordination between their positions on Afghanistan. The officials from three nations backed the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) that is grouping to play a great role in Afghanistan after the withdrawal of NATO Forces in 2014. These talks were held to enhance coordination. The talks followed a similar meeting India, China and Russia held in Moscow recently, reflecting the delicate balancing act — and increasingly complicated regional dynamics — as different countries look to push their interests in the lead up to 2014.

### **Malaysia PM Dissolves Parliament**

On 3 April Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak has dissolved the Parliament ahead of a general election. This dissolution will pave the way for the 13th general election. The elections have to be held before June 2. The Barisan Nasional coalition that has ruled Malaysia since independence in 1957 is expected to face a stiff challenge in the polls from the opposition three-party Pakatan Rakyat (People's Pact).

### **Tammam Salam named as Lebanon new Prime Minister**

On 6 April well-known Sunni lawmaker Tammam Salam has been named Lebanon's new prime minister, after receiving overwhelming parliamentary support. His appointment comes after previous prime minister Najib Mikati resigned and effectively brought down his Hezbollah-dominated government.

### **China, Australia Signed Direct Currency Exchange Agreement**

On 10 China and Australia have signed a currency swap agreement in a bid to promote bilateral trade and investment. The agreement makes the Australian dollar the third major currency to directly trade in China's mainland foreign exchange market, after the US dollar and the Japanese yen. Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard discussed bilateral security issues with China's President Hu Jintao.

### **China Pledges \$548 million Aid To Cambodia**

On 10 April China has pledged \$548 million in aid to Cambodia for infrastructure and irrigation systems. Agreements covering \$500 million in soft loans and \$48 million in grants were signed during Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen .

### **Nepal Peace Process Ends**

On 13 April Nepal's much delayed peace process with end of the decade long civil war has finally reached conclusion. Though the peace process had started on 2006, the Special Committee was formed in 2008 to oversee the army integration process. The last meeting of the cross-party Special Committee decided to accept application of 47 Maoist combatants to quit the Nepal Army training.

### **Nicolas Maduro Wins Venezuelan Presidential Election**

Nicolas Maduro, Socialist Party member who became Hugo Chavez's protege, was declared the winner of Venezuela's presidential election on 14 April 2013. Maduro secured 50.8% of votes while opposition candidate Henrique Capriles Radonski won 49.0%. Maduro got 3 lakhs votes of majority than Henrique.

### **New Zealand Approved Gay-Marriage Bill**

On 17 April New Zealand's parliament has approved the bill to legalise same-sex marriage. New Zealand has become the first country in the Asia-Pacific region to do so. No other country in the Asia-Pacific region allows gay marriage. Cheers and applause ring out in parliament building after 77 of 121 members vote to allow gay couples to wed. New Zealand is now the 13th country to legalise gay marriage.

### **U.S Senate Rejects Gun Control Bill**

On 18 April The US Senate has rejected a strong gun control bill. US Senators supported the measure with just 54-46 votes , falling short of the 60 votes required to pass the amendment. The legislation was considered the best hope for gun control sought by President Obama in the wake of the mass shooting at Newtown Elementary School last year. Among them, a vote to ban assault weapons was rejected by 40 votes to 60, while a measure to limit the size of gun clips received just 46 votes in its favor.

### **US House of Representatives Passed CISPA**

On 18 April The US House of Representatives has passed the controversial Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protect Act (CISPA). The aim of CISPA is to fight with the cyber threats, by enabling the law enforcers to get access to the web data. This is the second time Cispa has been passed by the House. Senators threw out the first draft, saying it

did not do enough to protect privacy. Senators had earlier rejected the first draft of this bill on the grounds that it wasn't providing enough for protecting the privacy.

### **Napolitano Re-elected as Italy's President**

On 21 April Italy's Parliament re-elected Giorgio Napolitano as the Italy's President for second 7-year term .Giorgio Napolitano will be the first Italian president to be re-elected to serve a second term.He got 738 votes, far more than the 504 needed for victory.More than 1,000 national and regional lawmakers had convened to elect the next Italian president, with the overwhelming majority of them ultimately backing Napolitano.The People of Freedom party of former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi got second place in Italy elections.He is the first President of Italy to have been a member of the Italian Communist Party and the first to be elected to a second term as President.Giorgio Napolitano is the 11th President of the Italian Republic since 2006.

### **Horacio Cartes Elected as Paraguay's new President**

On 22 April Businessman Horacio Cartes of the Colorado Party has been declared Paraguay's new president.The electoral board announced that Cartes had 46.1 percent of the vote and his main rival Senator Efraim Alegre of the ruling Liberal Party 36.9 percent.The conservative Colorados held Paraguay's presidency for 60 years until leftist former Catholic bishop Fernando Lugo was elected in 2008.

### **French Parliament Approved Gay Marriage Law**

On 23 April France parliament approved a new law to allow gay marriage. Parliament passed the bill by 331 votes for and 225 against.France has become the 14th country to allow gay marriage..

### **UK Approved Caste Discrimination Bill**

On 25 April Britain has outlawed caste discrimination, after the House of Lords voted for legal protection to be given to the most vulnerable, mainly in the Indian and Sikh communities.The UK now looks set to become the first country in Europe to outlaw discrimination based on caste.

### **Cuba and Venezuela Signed 51 Cooperation Projects**

On 28 April Cuba and Venezuela have signed at Havana accords for 51 joint projects worth two billion U.S. dollars.At the close of 13th Cuba-Venezuela Intergovernmental Meeting , Cuban President Raul Castro and Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro announced the deals for projects in such areas as education, health, sports, cultur, food production, construction, transport, communications, energy and support of social missions.Havana and Caracas agreed to jointly invest two billion dollars to develop

these projects and also signed a memorandum to establish a bilateral medium- and long-term economic agenda. The investment also covers joint ventures in vital and strategic economic areas in both countries.

### **Pakistan court bans Musharraf from contesting polls for life**

A four-judge bench of the Peshawar high court headed by chief justice Dost Muhammad Khan imposed the life ban while dismissing Musharraf's appeal challenging the rejection of his nomination papers for May 11 general election. The lifetime ban was imposed because Musharraf had abrogated the Constitution twice and detained judges during the 2007 emergency.

### **Serena Williams Won Family Circle Cup Tennis Title**

On 7 April The top-ranked Serena Williams (USA) won the Family Circle Cup Tennis title after defeated Jelena Jankovic (Serbia) in the final at Charleston (South Carolina). Williams successfully defended her title by claiming her third overall Charleston crown. She earned her 49th career singles title.

### **Pakistan bans two umpires over spot-fixing**

Pakistan cricket authorities on 13 April 2013 banned two umpires. The allegations against the umpires first came up after a television sting operation last year. The PCB set up an inquiry committee led by PCB Chairman Zaka Ashraf soon after and passed on its findings to the board's integrity committee to determine the punishments. Nadeem Ghauri, the Pakistan umpire, has been handed a four-year ban by the PCB after its integrity committee found him guilty of being willing to accept money for favourable umpiring decisions. His colleague Anis Siddiqi was banned for three years.

### **Chris Gayle Hits Cricket's Fastest-ever Century in IPL Match**

On 23 April Chris Gayle, the West Indies opener, hit the fastest ever century in the history of cricket by reaching 100 in merely 30 balls during Royal Challengers Bangalore-Pune Warriors IPL match. Gayle scored a total run of 175 runs in merely 66 balls, which included 17 sixes and 13 boundaries. It is important to note that this is the most number of runs scored in any T20 innings. This was also his fourth century in the IPL career.

### **Rafael Nadal Won Barcelona Open Tennis Title**

On 28 April Rafael Nadal from Spain won the Barcelona Open Tennis title for the eighth time. In the final at Barcelona, Nadal defeated Nicolas Almagro from Spain. It was Nadal's 54th career title and fourth this year.

### **Maria Sharapova Won Porsche Tennis Grand Prix Title**

On 28 April Maria Sharapova from Russia won Porsche Tennis Grand Prix Title. She defeated China's Li Na in the final at Porsche Arena in Stuttgart, Germany. It was her 16th consecutive clay court title. **WTO cuts 2013 global trade growth forecast to 3.3%**

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) on 10 April 2013 cut its forecast for global trade growth in 2013 to 3.3 percent, from the previous prediction of 4.5 percent.

### **World's first solar plane to fly across US**

A first of its kind ultra-lightweight plane powered completely by the sun is set to fly coast-to-coast this spring. The Solar Impulse plane will stop in Dallas city in Texas during its historic cross-country journey that begins on May 1. The plane, which requires zero fuel and relies solely on solar panels and battery power, would be the world's first plane powered purely by solar energy.

### **Obama Announced \$100 Million "Brain Initiative" Project**

On 2 April US President Barack Obama has announced the "BRAIN Initiative" a \$100 million brain-mapping project. The BRAIN initiative will attempt to find ways to treat Alzheimer's disease and strokes while also aiding in job growth.

### **Carbon aerogel world's lightest material**

Chinese scientists have developed the world's lightest substance — carbon aerogel — with a density only one sixth of that of the air. Scientists at Zhejiang University produced the solid material which has a density of only 0.16 mg/cubic centimetre, breaking the previous record of the world's lightest material held by graphite aerogel. The graphite aerogel was developed by German scientists last year with a density of 0.18 mg/cubic centimetre.

### **Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer Detected Evidence of Dark Matter**

On 3 April NASA scientists announced the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer (AMS) placed on the International Space Station (ISS) may have detected the elusive dark matter. The scientists made the announcement after they observed an excess of positrons in the Cosmic Ray Flux, which can be the reason of the presence of elusive dark matter.

### **100 billion Earth-like planets in our galaxy**

Scientists have proposed a new method for finding Earth-like planets in our Milky Way galaxy and they anticipate that their number may be up to a whopping 100 billion. The

strategy devised by researchers at The University of Auckland uses a technique called gravitational microlensing, currently used by a Japan-New Zealand collaboration called MOA (Microlensing Observations in Astrophysics) at New Zealand's Mt John Observatory.

### **German Shipyard Launches World's Largest Private Yacht**

On 5 April A German shipyard has launched "Azzam", the world's largest private yacht at 590-feet long, which also happens to be among the fastest vessels, costing a whopping USD 609 million. The luxury private vessel 'Azzam' – with a beam 68-feet high – overshadows previous longest superyacht, The Eclipse, by 57-feet. Designed by Nauta Yachts in Italy and constructed by German company Lurssen Yachts, Azzam is almost two football fields long and rivals the size of some cruise ships. It took four years to complete the superyacht from concept to construction. With 94,000 horsepower generated from two gas turbines and two diesel engines, the Azzam can reach speeds of over 55.5kph, which makes it one of the fastest yachts in the world.

### **New Camera System That Can Captured Images From 1 km Away**

In the month of April the team of researchers from Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh , developed a New Laser powered Camera System that can take image of any object from a distance of about one kilometer by creating high-resolution 3D images. The technique on which the camera is based is called 'Time-of-Flight (ToF)' navigation systems for autonomous vehicles. In this principle of photography, to capture the image of the far away object, a laser beam is bounced on the object and measure the time that is taken by the beam of light to be back to the detector.

### **NASA Approved "TESS" Project**

NASA has approved a The Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS), a \$200 million mission to search for Earth-size planets orbiting the nearby stars. Led by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with seed funding from Google, TESS was one of 11 proposals selected for NASA funding in September 2011, down from the original 22 submitted in February of that year. TESS, along with the Neutron star Interior Composition ExploreR (NICER), had been selected for launch in 2017.

The project will come into full swing within the next four years.



## **Pakistan Tests Nuclear-Capable Hatf-IV Missile**

Pakistan successfully test-fired the nuclear-capable Hatf-IV ballistic missile on 10 April 2013. The missile has a range of 900 km and it can also hit targets in India. Hatf- IV ballistic missile is also called Shaheen-1.

## **Test-tube baby pioneer dies**

British scientist Robert Edwards, 87, who won the Nobel Prize for his pioneering work in in vitro fertilisation, leading to the birth of the first test- tube baby, died in London on 10 April 2013. He born in Yarkfire in North England on 27 September 1925. Robert Edwards and Patrick Steptoe both proceeded to achieve in-vitro fertilisation (IVF), resulting in the birth of Louise Brown, the first “test-tube baby”, on 25 July 1978..

## **Egypt PM sentenced to one-year jail**

On April 17, Egypt’s Misdemeanor Dokki Court sentenced Prime Minister Hesham Qandil to one year in prison and ordered his removal from job, accusing him of failing to implement a verdict to return a privatised company to the state.

## **pakistan former president musharraf arrested**

The Islamabad High Court on 18 April 2013 ordered Musharraf’s arrest for detaining senior judges when he imposed emergency rule in 2007. So, Pakistani police arrested Musharraf on 19 April 2013.

## **8 killed as bomb targets Syria’s prime minister**

Syrian Prime Minister Wael al-Halki survived a bomb attack on his convoy in Damascus on 29 April 2013. 8 members (including PM’s car driver and Personal security) are killed in the blast.

## **7.1 Magnitude Earthquake Hits Indonesia**

A powerful 7.1 magnitude earthquake hit the Papua province in Indonesia on 06 April 2013. But there was no damage or injuries. It occurred in a north east to Capital of Papua province, about 75 kilometers (46 miles) in depth.

### **A Powerful earthquake in Iran**

On April 9, A powerful earthquake was struck close to Iran's only nuclear power station, killing at least 37 people and injuring 850 as it destroyed homes and devastated two small villages. Its epicentre was 89 km south-east of the port of Bushehr. The magnitude of the earthquake on Richter scale is 6.3.

### **Strong earthquake hits Japan**

A strong earthquake estimated at magnitude 6.3 struck the western Japan, on 13 April 2013. In this event 23 people were injured in that 7 are serious. The earthquake was centered on Awaji Island, just south of Kobe, at a depth of 15 kilometres. The quake was in the area where a magnitude-7.2 temblor killed more than 6,400 people in 1995.

### **Musharraf disqualified from parliamentary polls**

Courts in Pakistan have disqualified former president Pervez Musharraf for contesting parliamentary elections for suspending the constitution and imposing emergency in 2007 during his rule.

### **Earthquake of Magnitude 7.8 Jolted Iran and Pakistan**

Earthquake that measured 7.8 on the Richter scale struck on 16 April 2013 in Iran killed more than 40 people leaving behind several injured. Epicenter of the quake was near Pakistan-Iran Border in the southeastern city of Khash. The tremors of the quake were felt across India, Middle East and Pakistan.

### **Fertiliser plant explosion in the US**

On April 18, massive explosion at a fertilizer plant in the Town of West, in Central Texas. It is 120km far from Dallas town in the Texas state. In this explosion 15 were died and 200 people were injured

## Day to Day April 2013

Apr 2nd - 7 people are killed in an attack on a power plant in Peshawar, Pakistan

Apr 2nd - Eurozone unemployment reaches a high of 12%

Apr 2nd - 4 more critical cases of bird flu (H7N9) are reported in China

Apr 2nd - The UN General Assembly approves the first Arms Trade Treaty

Apr 2nd - Uruguay passes legislation to legalize same-sex marriage

Apr 3rd - 46 people are killed and 100 are injured by a court-house suicide bombing in Farah, Afghanistan

Apr 3rd - 50 people are killed by flooding across Argentina

Apr 3rd - 24 people are killed after a bus plunges off a cliff in Papa Ne

Apr 4th - 74 people are killed after an illegally constructed building collapses in Thane, India

Apr 8th - 163 people are killed and 50,000 are displaced after tribal violence erupts in Darfur, Sudan

Apr 9th - 37 people are killed and 850 are injured after a magnitude 6.1 earthquake strikes Iran

Apr 9th - The French Senate approves a bill for same-sex marriage

Apr 10th - Japan and Taiwan sign an agreement on fishing rights around the Senkaku Islands

Apr 11th - Fossilized dinosaur eggs with embryos are discovered in China

Apr 13th - 8 people are killed after a bomb explodes on a bus in Peshawar, Pakistan

Apr 16th - 37 people are killed by a 7.8 magnitude earthquake in Khash country, Iran

Apr 17th - North Korea blocks a South Korean supply delegation from the Kaesong joint industrial zone

Apr 17th - Same-sex marriage is legalized in New Zealand

Apr 18th - Two earth-like planets are discovered orbiting the star, Kepler-62

Apr 21st - Horacio Cartes is elected President of Paraguay

Apr 21st - Sebastian Vettel wins the 2013 Formula One Bahrain Grand Prix

Apr 23rd - 21 people are killed during violent unrest in Xinjiang, China

Apr 23rd - A 1% flash crash hits the US stock market after a news agency was hacked and claimed injury to President Obama

Apr 23rd - The French National Assembly passes an amended bill legalizing same-sex marriage

Apr 23rd - West Indian cricketer, Chris Gayle, smashes the fastest century in history (30 balls)

Apr 24th - 256 people are killed and 1,000 are injured after a building collapses Savar Upazila, Bangladesh

Apr 26th - 30 people are killed after a bus crashes following a Taliban attack in southern Afghanistan

Apr 27th - 10 people are killed and 25 are injured after a bomb attack in Karachi, Pakistan

Apr 28th - 8 people are killed and dozens are injured after Taliban attacks on election candidates in Pakistan

Apr 30th - Willem-Alexander becomes the first male Monarch of Netherlands in 123 years

Apr 30th - Hannah Warren, who was born without a trachea, at 2, becomes the youngest patient to receive a stem cell bioengineered organ

## World News -- May 2013

Here are the key events in world news for the month of May 2013.

- **Israel Takes Responsibility for Airstrikes in Syria (May 5):** [Israel](#) makes two airstrikes on Damascus. The first happens on Friday, May 3, and the second two days later. Israeli officials maintain that the airstrikes are not meant as a way for Israel to become involved in [Syria's](#) ongoing civil war. Instead, the strikes focus on military warehouses in an effort to prevent [Hezbollah](#) from getting more weapons. Hezbollah is a Lebanese Shiite militia group with strong ties to [Iran](#).
- **Soldier Killed on London Street (May 22):** Two men approach and murder a uniformed soldier on the street in London. The men are armed with knives and a meat cleaver. After they kill the soldier, police shoot and arrest them. The [United Kingdom](#) treats the incident as an act of terror.
- **Civil War in Syria Spills over into Lebanon (May 25):** Hezbollah and Syrian forces bomb the rebel-controlled town of Al-Qusayr, Homs. Dozens are killed. **(May 26):** Multiple rockets strike Beirut, mainly hitting Shiite suburbs, which are also strongholds of Hezbollah. **(May 27):** The ban against arming the Syrian rebels is lifted by the European Union. **(May 28):** U.S. Senator [John McCain](#) travels to Syria and meets with rebels in a show of support. With them, he discusses the possible future involvement of the U.S. in Syria's civil war.
- **Huge Turnout for Anti-Gay Marriage Rally in France (May 26):** An estimated 150,000 people protest gay marriage during a rally in Paris, [France](#). At least 100 people are arrested. An additional 50 people are arrested before the rally begins.
- **Anti-Government Protests Spread Throughout Turkey (May 31):** A sit-in protesting government plans to raze Istanbul's Gezi Park in Taksim Square to build a shopping mall grow into enormous anti-government demonstrations after police begin spraying protesters with tear gas and water cannons. The demonstrations spread to dozens of cities throughout [Turkey](#).

May 1st - Insurgents kill 6 people in Pattani, Thailand

May 1st - 15 people are killed by multiple bomb attacks across Iraq

May 1st - 16 people are killed in a flash flood in Saudi Arabia

May 1st - A digital camera is created that can mimic insect compound eyes

May 2nd - 14 members of the Sons of Iraq are killed in attacks in Fallujah, Iraq

May 2nd - 100 people are killed by the Syrian Army in a raid on al-Bayda, Baniyas

May 2nd - 60 miners are killed after a gold mine collapses in Jebel Amir, North Darfur,

## Sudan

May 2nd - Rhode Island becomes the tenth US state to legalize same-sex marriage

May 3rd - Aorun zhaoi, a Theropod dinosaur, dating from 161 million years ago, is discovered in China

May 4th - 5 US soldiers are killed by a bomb in Kandahar, Afghanistan

May 4th - 77 people are killed by the Syrian Army in Baniyas

May 4th - Harper Lee files a lawsuit against a literary agent over the copyright of To Kill a Mockingbird

May 4th - 39 people are killed at a funeral in Wukari, Nigeria

May 4th - Floyd Mayweather defeats Robert Guerrero to retain his WBC Welterweight title

May 4th - Juventus F.C. win their 29th Serie A football title

May 5th - 10 people are killed in a church attack in Njilan, Nigeria

May 5th - 5 people are killed after a limousine catches fire in Hayward, California

May 6th - 10 people are killed and 26 people are injured after a wave of attacks across Iraq

May 6th - 13 people are killed in clashes with Bangladeshi police in Dhaka

May 6th - 15 people are killed and 50 are injured after a bomb detonates at a political rally in Pakistan

May 6th - Wal-Mart becomes the largest company by revenue on the Fortune 500 list

May 6th - The US Senate passes a bill enabling taxing of online sales

May 7th - 55 people are killed by a Boko Haram attack in Nigeria

May 7th - The Dow Jones Industrial average and S&P 500 set record highs

May 7th - 4 people are killed after the Mayon Volcano erupts in the Philippines

May 7th - 20 people are killed and 36 are injured after a gas tanker explodes in Ecatepec de Morelos, Mexico

May 7th - 8 people are killed and a dozen are injured after bear attacks in Orissa, India

May 7th - Jolly Nero, an Italian cargo ship, crashes into the port of Genoa, killing seven people

May 7th - Delaware becomes the 11th US State to legalize same-sex marriage

## World News -- June 2013

Here are the key events in world news for the month of June 2013.

- **Anti-Government Protests in Turkey Call for Erdogan's Resignation (June 1):** Police withdraw from Istanbul's Gezi Park in Taksim Square and let the occupation continue. Protesters criticize [Turkey's](#) Prime Minister Erdogan for being authoritarian and call for his resignation. Erdogan initially dismisses the protesters as "thugs," but agrees to meet with representatives of the many groups of demonstrators. **(June 11):** Police storm the park, again spraying protesters with tear gas and water, and force protesters out of the area. The protests are compared to the [Occupy movement](#) that took hold in the U.S. in September 2011. Erdogan has been popular since taking office in 2003, leading an economic recovery, expanding the middle class, and weakening the influence of the military. At the same time, his critics accuse him of being heavy-handed and allowing his religious views to influence his leadership.
- **Reports of Chemical Weapon Use in Syria Continues (June 4):** A human rights team working for the United Nations reports that there are "reasonable grounds" to believe that government forces in [Syria](#) have used chemical weapons. French foreign minister Laurent Fabius reports that [sarin](#), a nerve gas, has been used on multiple occasions. **(June 5):** Syrian rebels pull out of the town of Al-Qusayr, a former strategic stronghold for them. The Syrian Army regains control of the town. [Iran's](#) government, in an official statement, congratulates the Syrian army for recapturing Al-Qusayr.
- **Serena Williams and Rafael Nadal Win French Open (June 8):** [Serena Williams](#) beats last year's champion, [Maria Sharapova](#), 6-4, 6-4, to win her second French Open women's championship. It is exactly eleven years to the day that Serena beat her older sister [Venus](#) to win her first French Open in 2002. **(June 9):** [Rafael Nadal](#) beat fellow Spaniard David Ferrer, 6-3, 6-2, 6-3, to take the men's crown for a record eighth time. The men's championship is interrupted by two anti-gay marriage protesters. One of them runs on the court with a flare. The incident is reminiscent of the 1993 on court stabbing of [Monica Seles](#) in Germany.