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Hillary Clinton and Mohammed Kamel Amr announce that Israel and Hamas had agreed to a ceasefire

## ISRAEL AND HAMAS AGREE CEASEFIRE

At nine o’clock in the evening of November 21, a ceasefire came into effect in the Gaza Strip. The truce ended seven days of attacks by the Israeli air force and navy on Gaza and the firing of rockets into Israel by Hamas. Hamas is a Palestinian political organization that controls the Gaza Strip. It also has a military wing, or group of armed fighters.

The president of Egypt, Mohamed Morsi, helped to arrange the truce. Hillary Clinton, the U.S.’s secretary of state, assisted. Mohammed Kamel Amr, a senior Egyptian government minister, and Mrs. Clinton made the ceasefire announcement, in Cairo, the capital of Egypt. Ban Ki-moon, the leader, or secretary-general, of the United Nations (U.N.) also traveled to Cairo to take part in the ceasefire talks.

In the days before, Barack Obama, the president of the U.S., made several

telephone calls to Mr. Morsi and Benjamin Netanyahu, the prime minister of Israel. During these calls he tried to persuade Mr. Netanyahu to agree to a ceasefire. He also encouraged Mr. Morsi to speak with the leaders of Hamas.

The problems between the Palestinians and the Israelis go back over 60 years. In 1948, with help from the U.S. and the U.N., the state of Israel was set up in a region of the Middle East called Palestine. The new state was to be a homeland for Jewish people. Many Jews living in Europe, who had lost their homes and members of their families and suffered persecution during the Second World War (1939 – 1945), moved there.

However, this meant that many Palestinians were forced to leave their homelands and move to refugee camps in nearby countries. This caused arguments. Several wars broke out between

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Israel and nearby Arab countries that support the Palestinians.

In 1994, after peace talks were held between the Palestinians and the Israelis, the Palestinian Authority (PA) was formed. It allowed Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank to govern themselves. Yet the PA is not officially a separate country and its formation did not solve the problem. Since 1994, violence has frequently broken out between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian militant fighters.

About eight million people live in Israel. For such a small population the country has a large military force. Every young man and woman must spend time doing military training. When their training is over they become [reservists](#). This means that they can be ordered to rejoin the military at any time.

The U.S. helps Israel. It provides it with both money and some military equipment. Most Arab countries support the Palestinians. In addition, Iran has been supplying Hamas' military wing with certain weapons. These include some of the rockets that Hamas has been firing into Israel.

The two main Palestinian political groups are Hamas and Fatah. They rarely agree with each other. Now Hamas controls the Gaza Strip and Fatah runs the West Bank, so the PA is divided. In the past Fatah has agreed to talk with Israel to try to find a peaceful solution. Yet Hamas refuses to recognize Israel's right to exist and won't take part in any peace talks.

Some people believe that the only way to solve the problems between the Palestinians and the Israelis is what's known as the "two state solution". This would mean a separate state, or country, would be

set up for the Palestinian people. Yet to do this both sides would have to agree where the borders between them would be. Many people think that there would be so many arguments about the borders that a two state solution is unlikely to happen.

Hamas' political leaders were elected to run the PA in 2006. Since then there have been many outbreaks of violence between Hamas and Israel. The last major one began at the end of 2008. Known as the Gaza War it lasted for three weeks.



Since the Gaza War, Hamas' military wing has frequently fired rockets at Israeli towns close to the border. Hamas claims that these rocket attacks are in retaliation for Israeli airstrikes on Gaza. However, Israel insists that it carries out the air strikes to stop Hamas from firing its rockets.

The latest violence began on November 14. Then, an Israeli plane fired a rocket at a car in the Gaza Strip. The two men inside were killed. One was the commander of Hamas' military wing in Gaza. This is what's known as a targeted [assassination](#).

Hamas then began firing more rockets into Israel. Some of these were aimed at towns close to the border. Yet since the Gaza War

Hamas has managed to get large numbers of longer-range rockets called Fajr-5. For the first time these rockets, which are made in Iran, were able to reach the cities of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. However, many of the Fajr-5 rockets were shot down, or intercepted, before they landed. Israel managed to do this as, with help from the U.S., it has developed a new anti-missile system called Iron Dome.

Israel increased the number of airstrikes on Gaza. Some of its navy ships, off the coast of Gaza, also fired rockets. Israel claimed that all these attacks were specially planned to hit Hamas' bases, rocket launchers and communication equipment. It said that it wanted to avoid killing innocent civilians in Gaza. Soon after the violence began Israel ordered thousands of its reservists to report for duty. Many thought that this meant that the Israeli army was planning to invade Gaza.

During the fighting, two Israeli soldiers and four civilians were killed. In Gaza there were at least 150 deaths. It's thought that about 50 of those killed were members of Hamas' military wing. Many others on both sides were injured.

As part of the ceasefire arrangement Israel and Hamas agreed to stop all attacks on each other. Israel also agreed not to carry out any further targeted assassinations. Yet it insisted that if it discovered that more Iranian made rockets were being transported to Gaza it had a right to destroy them.

Most people welcomed the ceasefire news. Yet all agree that it has not solved the problem. They say that until a way is found whereby Israelis and Palestinians can live in peace, more violence is likely to break out in the future. ■

## 400 HUNDRED YEAR OLD MURDER MYSTERY SOLVED

Scientists and historians from Denmark have recently completed a two-year investigation into a possible 400 year-old murder. They say that their work shows that Tycho Brahe is unlikely to have been poisoned.

Tycho Brahe (1546 – 1601) was a famous Danish astronomer. He was born in an area of Denmark that is now part of Sweden. He was interested in taking measurements of the movements of the planets. He also discovered a supernova, a star that has exploded. Tycho Brahe was known as “the man with the golden nose”. This is because during a duel, after a disagreement with another man, part of his nose was cut off. Later he wore a false nose. It was said that he used gold and silver to make it.

In 1599, Tycho Brahe had an argument with the Danish king. The king disliked the astronomer because he had become close to the king’s mother. Tycho Brahe then went to live in the city of Prague, where Emperor Rudolph the Second welcomed him. At the time the emperor ruled the Holy Roman Empire, which included most of what is now central Europe.

After Tycho Brahe died he was buried in a church in the center of Prague (now the capital of the Czech Republic). About 100 years ago his tomb was opened. When this was done a few hairs were taken from his beard. When tests were done on these in the 1990s they were discovered to contain mercury. Because of this discovery many people began to suspect that Tycho Brahe had been poisoned.

Historians said that one clue to the astronomer’s death was a recently discovered diary. A distant cousin, called Eric Brahe, wrote it.

The diary shows that he traveled to Prague in 1601. He met up with Tycho Brahe and the two became good friends. Yet in the same year, at the age of 54, Tycho Brahe died.



Tycho Brahe

Some suspected that the Danish king sent Eric Brahe to poison his distant cousin with mercury. Others believed that Johannes Kepler poisoned Tycho Brahe. As a young man Kepler worked for Tycho Brahe in Prague. Later he too became a famous astronomer. He was the first person to work out exactly how the planets travel around the Sun. Those who suspected Kepler suggested he murdered Tycho Brahe to get hold of his measurements of the planets, which included the recordings of over 1,000 new stars. These measurements were very valuable, as they had taken Tycho Brahe many years to record.

Two years ago, a team from Denmark and the Czech Republic reopened Tycho Brahe’s tomb. They then took samples of bone and hair. The scientists now say that after many tests they have been unable to find any traces of poison in his body. The mercury in his beard was not unusual. The amount, the scientists said, was no more than what would be found in the beard of anyone alive today.

The scientists also made another announcement. They said that Tycho Brahe’s false nose was made from **brass** and not gold and silver. ▣

## FACTORY FIRE IN BANGLADESH

An official day of mourning was held in Bangladesh on November 27. Flags on government buildings were flown at half-staff. Most of the countries many clothing, or garment, factories closed. The day of mourning was held to remember those who had been killed in a serious fire three days before.

The garment factory that caught fire was in a village close to Dhaka, the country’s capital city. It’s thought that the fire may even have been started deliberately. It took firefighters around 17 hours to put the flames out. At least 110 of the factory workers died. Most were

## NEWSCAST

**MIDDLE OF ROAD HOUSE** — Two families living in a large town in China now have an unusual view from the apartment block in which they live. Officials in the town decided to build a new four-lane road to the railway station. To do this several apartment blocks had to be knocked down. In return for agreeing to move the people living in the apartments were given money, or compensation. Yet the two families insisted that the money was not enough. They have refused to move. Eventually the officials decided to build the road anyway. Therefore their block is now right in the middle of a wide road. When the new road opens thousands of cars will pass on both sides of their block every day.

women. Many more were injured as they jumped from high windows.

There are around 4,000 clothing factories in Bangladesh. The country is the world's second-largest exporter of garments, after China. Around three million people work in clothing factories. About 80% of all Bangladesh's exports, or items that are sold to other countries, are garments. It's estimated that the total value of all the clothes that are exported each year is \$20 billion.



*Garment factory in Bangladesh*

The last large fire in a garment factory in Bangladesh was six years ago. Yet smaller ones are not uncommon. Some say that the owners of many factories in the country ignore safety laws to save money.

There were reports that some fire exits in the factory were locked. Others said that stairs leading out of the building could not be used because they had been blocked. One person who got out of the building said that managers had told people to go back to work after the fire alarm sounded. Fire extinguishers were not used. This was because workers either did not know how to operate them or that the fire extinguishers did not work.

When the factory was built it had three floors. However, the owners had added several more stories without getting permission to do so.

The day after the fire many garment factory workers took part in a demonstration. They said that the government should make sure that

factory owners obey the laws. They demanded that those that did not should be arrested and punished.

Some people in other countries blame the shops and companies that arrange for the clothes they sell to be made in Bangladesh. They say that these businesses should make sure that the bosses of the factories, which make their clothing, obey the laws about fire safety. One large organization in the U.S. has already said that it would no longer work with one Bangladeshi company. It said that the Bangladeshi company had arranged for some of its clothes to be made at the factory that caught fire without its permission.

An investigation will now be held to try to find out what happened and why so many people died. A government official said that any people who were found to have caused the fire as well as those who ignored fire safety laws would be arrested. ■

## NATIONAL STRIKE IN ARGENTINA

A national 24-hour strike was held in Argentina on November 21. Those taking part said that they were angry about how Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, the country's president, and her government are running the country.

The strike followed a large demonstration in Buenos Aires, the capital city, which took place on November 8. Then tens of thousands of people came out on the streets. They said that they were complaining about high inflation and the increase in the number of crimes. Inflation is when the price of many important things, such as food and fuel, goes up but the value of the currency, or money, used by a country goes down.

On the day of the strike, many trains and busses did not run. Therefore, most of the streets in Buenos Aires and other cities were empty. Flights from many of the main airports were also canceled.

Ms. Fernández de Kirchner was first elected as Argentina's president in 2007. In Argentina elections for president are held every four years. She was reelected for another four-year term 12 months ago. Then Ms. Fernández de Kirchner was very popular. She easily won with 54% of the votes.

During Ms. Fernández de Kirchner's first four-year term Argentina's economy did very well. Yet over the last 12 months inflation has become a big problem.

The strike was organized by several large trade unions. These are organizations that represent workers in different industries. Trade union leaders often negotiate with company bosses and government departments. They try to get them to agree to improve the working conditions and pay of their members.



*Cristina Fernández de Kirchner*

Not long ago, the leaders of the largest of these trade unions supported Ms. Fernández de Kirchner. Now they are demanding that the government lower the amount of taxes people have to pay.

Many farmers also took part in the strike. Some set up roadblocks on roads leading into the larger cities.

Argentina produces a lot of food crops. It is one of the biggest growers

of wheat and maize, or corn, in the world. Argentina is also a large producer of beef cattle. Recently, many farmers have started to grow soybeans. Now the country is also one of the world's biggest growers of this crop. Most of these soybeans are sold to other countries, especially China. There, much of this is turned into soybean meal. This is then fed to cattle.

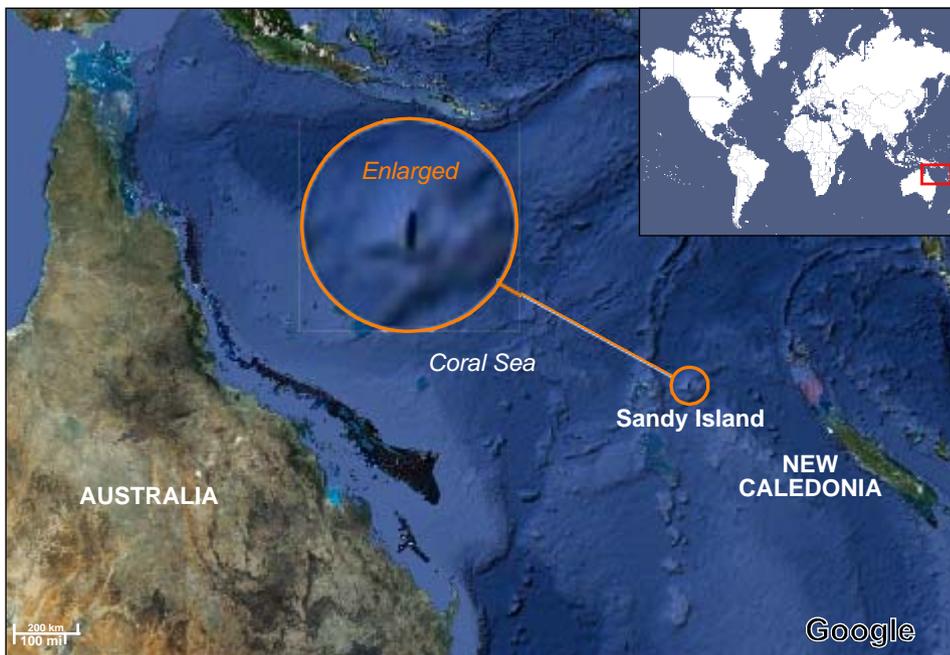
The farmers make money for Argentina by selling the crops they grow to other countries. Yet they are angry with Ms. Fernández de Kirchner and her government because of the high taxes they have to pay on crops, such as soybeans, that they sell to other countries.

The union leaders claimed that the strike was a success. Ms. Fernández de Kirchner said that all workers had a right to stop working as a protest. Yet she insisted that the strike would not make any difference to how she and her government run the country. ■

## “UNDISCOVERED” ISLAND

Scientists sailing on a research ship in the South Pacific were surprised to discover that an island marked on many maps does not exist. When they arrived at the place in the Coral Sea where the island should have been there was nothing but ocean.

The geologists, scientists who study rocks, were carrying out a study on parts, or fragments, of the Australian continental crust that is under the sea. These are rocks that form part of the continent and include shallow parts of the seabed that extend from the coasts. During ice ages, thousands of years ago, these shallow areas, called continental shelves, were dry land. They can be narrow or may extend



under the sea for many hundreds of kilometers.

On some maps an island is marked as being between New Caledonia and the Australian coast. This island also appears on Google Earth and certain weather maps. Called Sandy Island it is supposed to be about 15 miles (24 kilometers) long and three miles (4.8 kilometers) wide. The scientists wanted to check the island. This was because the marine charts kept on the ship, did not have the island on them. These charts, which are used for [navigation](#), showed that this part of the sea was very deep.

When the ship arrived at where the island should have been there was nothing but sea. The scientists then decided to sail the ship “through the island”. They said that the ship’s captain was a bit worried. Even though the island was not on the marine charts it was on his weather map. The captain thought that the island might be just below the waves and his ship would run aground. Yet this did not happen.

Why Sandy Island was marked on many maps is a mystery. It’s

possible that the error has been copied from one map to another over a long period of time. Yet nowadays many maps are made from satellite images. If the island did not exist then these images should not have included it. On some maps the island is called Sable Island and not Sandy Island. The island appears on official marine charts produced in the U.S. but not on ones made in Britain.

When sailing over the “missing” island the scientists took recordings of the depth of the seabed. These can now be used to correct the maps and charts on which the island appears. The scientists joked that by “undiscovering the island” they had “changed the world”. ■

## CHINA’S AIRCRAFT CARRIER

Chinese officials have announced that for the first time one of the country’s fighter jets had landed on its new aircraft carrier. The announcement, which was made on November 25, said that the aircraft had successfully completed what is known as an arrested landing.

As there is little room on an aircraft carrier landing fast fighter jets on them can be difficult. An arrested landing makes use of a hook at the back of the plane (called a tailhook) and a cable, which is put across the landing area. As the plane comes in to land the tailhook catches the cable, which then helps to quickly slow the aircraft down.



*Liaoning, China's first aircraft carrier*

The aircraft carrier on which the plane landed is called the *Liaoning*. This ship is the Chinese navy's first aircraft carrier. These huge ships can sail anywhere in the world and are often seen as a symbol of military power. For example, it is not unusual for the U.S. to send at least one aircraft carrier to a region where there is trouble, just in case it thinks military force will be needed.

Aircraft carriers are very expensive to build and operate. For this reason not many countries have them. The U.S., with at least 11, has the most. Other countries that use carriers, such as France, Italy, Russia, Brazil, Spain, Thailand and India, have only one or two.

China bought its aircraft carrier from Ukraine. Yet it was only the body, or hull, of the ship. The aircraft carrier, which was called the *Varyag*, had not been completed. It did not have any engines or weapons. Building work on the *Varyag* had started in 1985 when Ukraine was part of the Russian-led Soviet Union. However, in 1991 the

Soviet Union broke up and Ukraine became a separate country. In 1998, the government of Ukraine accepted an offer from China to buy the incomplete ship.

The *Varyag* was then towed to the Chinese port of Dalian. Some thought that it would be turned into a floating hotel. It was not until 2011 that China admitted that it had been working to complete the aircraft carrier. Just over one year ago the newly named *Liaoning* left Dalian for the first time. The ship returned four days later after its first successful sea trial.

Some navy experts in other countries were surprised by news of the arrested landing. This was because it was not known that Chinese engineers had managed to develop the "hook and cable" technology. The plane that landed on the carrier was a J-15. These fighter jets are made in China but are probably based on a Russian design.

Aircraft carriers can be easily used to attack or threaten other countries. Yet China insists that its aircraft carrier will be used only for peaceful purposes. However, other countries, especially those that have had disputes, or arguments, with China, say that they are worried about China's navy becoming more powerful.

China is now building two more aircraft carriers. Yet it will be many years before these are finished. ■

## EGYPT'S REVOLUTION

Thousands of people demonstrated in the streets of Cairo, the capital of Egypt, on November 27. They were protesting about a new ruling by Mohamed Morsi, the country's recently elected president.

Mr. Morsi angered many people when he announced a special [decre](#)[e](#), or order, on November 22. This decree gave him extra powers. It means that no one can challenge him and senior judges cannot question any of his decisions. Mr. Morsi explained that the decree would only last until a new constitution, or rules by which Egypt will be governed in the future, is drawn up.

Recently, there have been many changes in Egypt. Nearly two years ago Hosni Mubarak, who had been Egypt's president for 30 years, was forced to step down. This happened after tens of thousands of people demonstrated against him. They accused Mr. Mubarak and his advisers of being corrupt, or dishonest. Elections, they claimed, were fixed to make sure that the president and his supporters always won. The protesters also said that the police had too many powers and often arrested people without giving any reason. Some people now

## NEWSCAST

**BIG CATCH** — When fishing from a boat a man from Canada thought that he must have caught something big. It took him two hours to reel it in. The fish was an Atlantic bluefin tuna. The fishermen were unable to get it into the boat because it was too big. Instead a rope was tied around the fish and it was towed back to the harbor. There the tuna was lifted out of the water by a crane and taken to some scales. It weighed 1,000 pounds (455 kilograms). The fisherman now plans to sell the giant tuna to a Japanese company. In Japan tuna fish is used to make a very popular dish called sushi. The huge fish is thought to be worth Can\$31,770 (\$24,700).

describe the street demonstrations that ended Mr. Mubarak's presidency as Egypt's [revolution](#).

After Mr. Mubarak stood down, leaders of the army took over. They promised to arrange elections. The elections for a lower and upper house of parliament took place about a year ago. A group called the Muslim Brotherhood did well. An election for a new president was held last June. Mr. Morsi won it. He is also a member of the Muslim Brotherhood. This organization is both a religious and a political group. It also exists in other Arab countries. When Mr. Mubarak was in charge, the Muslim Brotherhood was banned in Egypt.



*Mohamed Morsi, president of Egypt*

Just before the presidential election a group of senior judges made a surprising announcement. It declared that the recent parliamentary elections had been unlawful. Some important rules, the judges said, were not followed correctly. The group ordered the lower house of parliament to be closed and no one is allowed to enter the building.

A committee, or group of people, has been working to draw up a new constitution. Some people are unhappy about this group. They claim that it includes too many Muslim Brotherhood supporters.

Many people in Egypt support the Muslim Brotherhood. Yet there are also many others that don't. These people worry that the new

constitution will contain many religious laws. They believe that Egypt should be a secular state. This means that religion and the way in which the country is governed would be kept separate.

Some people suspect that the group of judges, which declared that the elections for parliament were unlawful, were about to do the same thing with the constitutional committee. These judges were appointed when Mr. Mubarak was in power. This, these people say, is why Mr. Morsi issued his decree. It meant that the judges would no longer be able to make these types of rulings.

Those who are angry about Mr. Morsi's decree say that he now has more power than Mr. Mubarak had. They accuse the president of "stealing" the revolution. Yet Mr. Morsi insists that he is protecting it.

Some people worry that Egypt is now becoming dangerously divided. Those who support the Muslim Brotherhood and those who want the country to become a secular state, they say, are unlikely to ever agree with each other. ■

## EXECUTION IN INDIA

On November 21, officials in India announced that Mohammed Ajmal Amir Kasab had been executed earlier in the day. They said that Kasab was hanged and that the execution had taken place at a prison in the city of Pune.

The execution happened four years after a terrorist attack on Mumbai (formerly called Bombay), one of India's biggest cities.

Kasab was one of the ten attackers. He was the only one who was captured alive. The ten men were members of an Islamic militant

group called Lashkar-e-Taiba, which means "Army of the Righteous". It's believed that the leaders of this militant group are based in Pakistan. The attack on Mumbai almost caused a war between the two countries.



*Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, in Mumbai, where one of the terrorist attacks took place*

The attackers set off from Karachi, in Pakistan, and used small boats to get to Mumbai. They then split up into different smaller groups. Using automatic weapons and grenades these groups attacked railway stations, restaurants, hotels, a hospital and a Jewish center. The fighting lasted for three days. It finally ended when specially trained Indian soldiers managed to get inside the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel. This was where the terrorists, who had not already been killed, were hiding.

At least 166 people died in the attacks, and over 300 were injured. Those killed included several senior police commanders and about 30 people from ten other countries. Many of these people were businessmen who were staying in one of the hotels.

Kasab admitted that he was a member of Lashkar-e-Taiba. He was put on trial and found guilty of terrorism, murder and "waging war against India". In 2010, he was sentenced to death for the crimes he had committed.

India still has the death penalty. However, it is rarely used. The last execution took place about eight years ago.

The death penalty, which is also known as capital punishment, is banned in many countries. Many people believe that it is wrong to kill someone in this way. They argue that people who are guilty of very serious crimes should be kept in prison for the rest of their lives. Others disagree. They claim that the death penalty is a **deterrent** and helps to stop others from committing these types of crimes.

Today, roughly 60 countries still use the death penalty and about 100 have banned it. Others use it very rarely, or only in times of war. In the U.S. each of the country's 50 states has its own **policy** about capital punishment. Currently most still use it although at least ten have decided not to. In Europe, if a country wants to be a member of the European Union (EU) it is not allowed to use the death penalty.

The execution of Kasab was planned and done in secret. The announcement said that he was buried inside the prison. In several Indian cities, such as Mumbai, some people celebrated in the streets after they heard the news. However, local officials in several other places told people that they should not take part in any celebrations.

The attack on Mumbai four years ago still causes problems between India and Pakistan. The Indian government still insists that Pakistan has not done enough to catch the leaders of Lashkar-e-Taiba, who planned and organized the attacks. ■

## ASH DIEBACK

Ash dieback is a disease that kills ash trees. A fungus called *Chalara fraxinea* causes it. For the last 20 years the disease has been slowly

spreading across Europe. Recently, it has been found in Britain where ash is the third most common tree. Large numbers of ash trees grow in many parts of the country. Some experts now warn that, over the next few years, the fungus could kill most of them.



Ash tree

Nobody is quite sure where the disease came from. It was first recorded in Poland in 1992. However, nothing much was known about it. The fungus that causes the disease was only understood to be a new type of organism last year. Some scientists suspect that ash dieback originally came from Asia. This is because ash trees in this part of the world seem to be **immune**, or are not affected by the disease.

The fungus grows during the summer on the stalks of ash tree leaves that have fallen to the ground. Its **spores** can be carried by the wind, which is how it is thought to have spread across Europe. When an ash tree first becomes infected dark patches appear on its leaves. These patches then spread to twigs and branches. The leaves that have become discolored then start to wilt. When a large part of the tree becomes affected it dies. Larger trees may die after a few years. Yet the fungus can kill smaller ones in 12 months.

After Poland the disease was then recorded in ash trees in several

other countries such as Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia during the mid 1990s. By 2008 it had spread to more places including Germany, Switzerland, Austria and the Czech Republic. Ash dieback was first spotted in Denmark in 2002. Today around 95% of Denmark's ash trees have either died or are dying from the disease. By the beginning of this year ash trees in Belgium, France, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Romania and Russia were also seen to have the disease.

In some countries in places where there are infected trees all the ash trees have been cut down. This has been done to stop the disease from spreading even farther. Yet experts are now not sure if this is the right thing to do. A few ash trees, similar to the ones in Asia, seem to be immune to the disease. If all the ash trees in one area are cut down there is a danger that this will include those that are immune.



Ash tree leaves affected by ash dieback

In Britain it is suspected that the fungus arrived on small trees, or saplings, that had been imported from other countries. It then spread to older trees growing in the countryside.

Ash trees can grow to a height of 130 feet (40 meters) and live for many hundreds of years. In Britain many different types of lichen live on ash trees and certain birds feed on its seeds. Therefore, if most of the ash trees die other types of wild-life will be affected.

Most experts in Britain think that there is very little that can be done to stop ash dieback from spreading all over the country within the next few years. Many say that the only thing to do is to find the trees that are immune to the disease. New saplings should then be grown from seeds of these trees. These young trees would then be planted to replace the older ones as they die. ▣

## REBELS CAPTURE GOMA

The leaders of four African countries met in Kampala, the capital of Uganda, on November 24, for several days of talks. Those taking part came from Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The talks were held to try to find ways of persuading a rebel force of about 4,000 fighters to withdraw from the city of Goma. This is the largest city in the eastern part of the DRC. It is very close to the border with Rwanda. The rebel force that has recently occupied Goma is known as the March 23 Movement, or M23.

The DRC is one of Africa's largest countries. It has huge mineral resources including gold and diamonds. Nearly all the people living in the country are very poor. This is because for most of the last 35 years there has been serious fighting in the DRC. It's estimated that over five million people died in the country during a five-year war that ended in 2003. The United Nations (U.N.) finally helped to end this war, which also involved several other countries.

Since 2003 the U.N. has kept thousands of peacekeeping soldiers in the east of the country close to Goma. These U.N. peacekeepers

mostly come from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

The M23 rebels are also known as the Congolese Revolutionary Army. The rebels used to be part of the DRC's army, but they **mutinied** last April. The rebels claimed that the leaders of the DRC's army had not kept to previous agreements such as a promise to pay them more money. For the last seven months the rebels have been fighting against the DRC's army in the east of the country. During this time around 500,000 people have been forced to leave their homes.



On November 20, the rebel force made a sudden attack on Goma. As they approached, the DRC soldiers quickly withdrew. U.N. peacekeepers, close to Goma, did little to stop the rebels from occupying the city. Some say that this was the right thing to do. Yet others argued that as the peacekeepers were supposed to be supporting the DRC's army they should have stopped the rebels.

After their success in capturing Goma the rebel leaders said that they planned to take over other parts of the DRC.

The M23's occupation of Goma led to demonstrations in other cities in the DRC including Kinshasa, the capital. Those who took part said that they were angry with Joseph Kabila, the country's president, and his government. They said that the

government was too weak and it should have stopped the rebels from occupying Goma.

The U.N. and Mr. Kabila accuse Uganda and Rwanda of supporting the M23 rebels. Yet both countries deny that they have given them any help.

The U.N. and the African Union (AU) are worried that the fighting in the east of the DRC will affect many innocent people. Both organizations have said that the M23 must withdraw from Goma. They have urged Uganda, Rwanda and the DRC to speak with the rebel leaders to try to find a solution. ▣

## BLACK FRIDAY

In the U.S. most people celebrate Thanksgiving. Traditionally, this annual holiday is held on the fourth Thursday in November. Therefore, this year's Thanksgiving Day holiday was on November 22. The holiday is a time when families and friends get together to share a special Thanksgiving meal. In recent years the day following Thanksgiving has become known as Black Friday.



*Crowd outside a large shop before it opened on Black Friday*

In the U.S. Black Friday is one of the busiest shopping days of the year. As most people do not go to work on Thanksgiving Day many companies allow them to take the following Friday off as well. For many years

larger shops have decided to use this day as the official start of the Christmas shopping season.

In many countries the Christmas season is important for bigger shops. For example, in the U.S. of all the money people spend in larger shops during the year, as much as 40% is spent between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Some say that this is how Black Friday got its name. If a company is losing money the amount is often written in red. If it is making money the amount appears in black. Black Friday can therefore be the day in the year when the accounts of larger shops start to change from red to black. Others believe that the name Black Friday comes from bad traffic jams, which are caused by people driving to the shops.

To get people to visit their shops, owners often offer to sell a number of expensive items, such as televisions, for much less than they normally do. Often large crowds gather outside these shops. When the shops open their doors people run to the places where the best **bargains** are being sold. It is not unusual for problems to occur as people rush into the shops. Fights and arguments can happen. Nowadays, many police officers are on duty in large shopping malls on Black Friday.

Shops used to open at the normal time on Black Friday. However, over recent years some have been opening earlier and earlier. Last year many opened their doors at midnight on the day of Thanksgiving. This year, for the first time, some opened at nine o'clock in the evening on Thanksgiving Day. They then stayed open all night as well as the following day.

Experts say that many people in countries such as the U.S. are changing the way they shop. An increasing

number of people now say that they find it easier to shop online. This can be a problem for many shops, as it means that fewer customers are visiting them. Some even say that this is the reason larger shops are opening earlier on Thanksgiving Day. They believe that the shops do this to try to attract those who plan to do much of their Christmas shopping online. ■

## DETENTION CAMPS REOPENED

The government of Australia has recently reopened two detention, or **asylum**, camps. One of the camps is on Nauru, a small Pacific island country. The other is on Manus Island, which is part of Papua New Guinea (PNG).



*Aerial picture of Nauru*

The camps are used to hold people who have tried to enter Australia illegally. Nineteen people, from Iraq and Afghanistan, were taken to the camp on Manus Island on November 21. The camp on Nauru reopened two months ago. Since then over 350 people, mostly from Afghanistan and Sri Lanka, have been sent there.

Each year, several thousand people try to illegally travel to Australia. These people are often called asylum seekers. Many come from countries such as Iran, Iraq, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, and Indonesia. Some do it because they feel at risk in their home country. They hope that they and

their families will have a safer future in Australia. Others try because they are seeking a better life.

Some asylum seekers travel by air. When they arrive they are taken to camps while officials consider whether they have a good reason to stay in Australia. Although some are allowed to stay, many are sent back to the countries from which they came.

Those who try to get to Australia by sea, called boat people, have a dangerous journey. They often pay others large sums of money to take them by boat to the Australian coastline. The people who arrange these trips are known as people smugglers. The boats are often old and overcrowded. Some have sunk in rough seas and their passengers have drowned.

The camps on Nauru and Manus Island were first opened in 2001. In return for allowing the camps to be set up Australia paid money, or aid, to Nauru and Papua New Guinea. The camps became known as the "Pacific Solution".

The idea was that these camps would deter people from, or put them off, trying to get to Australia. If asylum seekers knew that they would be sent to a camp on a small island, which was not part of Australia, then they would not make the journey.

Government officials investigate each asylum seeker. If, because of their political or religious beliefs, they are in danger in their own country then they may be allowed to stay in Australia. If the officials think that they are not in danger then they are taken or sent back to their own countries. Yet this process can take many years.

Some Australians were unhappy with the Pacific Solution. They believed that it was a cruel way to treat

## NEWSCAST

**HONEST TAXI** — Recently, a cab driver in Singapore discovered a black paper bag on the back seat of his taxi. It was full of bank notes. He took the bag to his company's lost-and-found office where the money was counted. To everyone's surprise the total was S\$1 million (\$629,500). The bag belonged to two people from Thailand who the taxi driver had taken to a shopping center. After contacting the taxi company to report the loss the Thai couple were told to go to the lost-and-found office. When they arrived the taxi driver was waiting for them. The couple gave him a reward. The company says that it too plans to reward the taxi driver for his good service and honesty.

these people. Often those held in the camps went on hunger strike, or refused to eat any food. When Kevin Rudd was elected as the country's prime minister in 2007 he decided to shut the camps.

However, since Julia Gillard became prime minister in 2010 the number of boat people trying to get to Australia has been increasing. This was why the government has recently decided to reopen the two detention centers outside Australia. Officials say that asylum seekers will have to spend at least five years in the camps before they know whether they can move to Australia. ■

## SPIRE ADOPTION

Church officials in Milan, the second largest city in Italy, have come up with a new way of raising money. They are asking people to **adopt** one

of the many spires on the city's famous cathedral. In return for a large donation the person will have their name carved at the base of the spire.

Milan's Duomo is one of the largest cathedrals in the world. Work on building it first began in 1386. It took nearly 600 years to complete. Like many other cathedrals and large churches constructed between 1300 and 1500 it was built in the Gothic style. This period of European history is known as the Late Middle Ages.

Gothic architecture includes very high walls and ceilings as well as tall columns and spires. Many of the stones used for the building, both inside and outside, were specially carved. Gargoyles are a well-known feature of Gothic buildings. These are stone carvings of strange creatures with ugly faces. Gargoyles usually stick out from the edge of the roof. This is because they were designed to help rainwater drain away. Instead of running down the sides of the building, rainwater, which has fallen on the roof, flows through the gargoyles' mouths and away from the walls.

Medieval Gothic style buildings such as Milan's Duomo cost large amounts of money to **maintain**. The ancient stonework needs to be repaired and cleaned. Around the roof of Milan's cathedral there are 135 spires. Each is made from stone. All are **intricately** carved. Yet now many of the spires need to be repaired.

Normally, those who look after Italy's many ancient buildings receive some money from the government. This is used for repair work. However, for the last few years Italy has had serious financial problems. In the past its government has borrowed too much money and is now having difficulty repaying some of

what it owes, as well as borrowing more. Because of this the government has had to reduce, or cut, the amount of money it spends. This means that the money Milan's cathedral receives from the government is now greatly reduced.

Because of these money problems officials at Milan's Duomo have thought of a new way of raising money. They call it "adopt a spire". The minimum donation is €100,000 (\$129,650). Those who give this amount of money can have their name and the name of their family carved at the base of the spire. Their names, the officials say, will be there "forever".



Milan's Duomo

Some spires are bigger and taller than others. The names of those who give larger amounts will be carved on these. The officials hope to raise a total of €25 million (\$32.4 million). Most of this money will be used to repair the spires. So far eight have been adopted, three by people and five by companies. ■

## ANCIENT MILLIPEDE

A group of entomologists, scientists who study insects, in the U.S. have recently completed a new study of a millipede called *Illacme plenipes*. This small thread-like millipede has more legs than any other known creature in the world. The scientists'

research shows that this type of very rare millipede may have been common millions of years ago.

The name millipede comes from two Latin words meaning one thousand and foot. There are over 10,000 different types of millipede across the world. Yet, so far, none have been found to have as many as 1,000 feet. In Latin *Illacme plenipes* roughly translates as “the greatest number of feet”. This millipede holds the record for having the most legs. Females can have as many as 750. Males have fewer, or a maximum of 562.

This type of millipede was thought to be extinct. This was because it had not been seen since 1926. Then, in 2006, scientists found a few of them living under sandy soil and rocks in a small area of California, in the U.S. So far they have not been found anywhere else.



*Illacme plenipes* (Dr. Paul Marek)

It's thought that the reason millipedes have so many legs is that they help them to burrow underground. This means that they can get away from predators and find food. They live on small pieces of leaves that have decayed.

However, the scientists say that *Illacme plenipes* is different from most other millipedes. Even though they have so many legs the millipedes are only about one inch (three centimeters) long. They live around four inches (ten centimeters) underground, which is quite deep when

compared to other types. *Illacme plenipes* also has body hairs that secrete silk.

The scientists believe that this is a very ancient type of millipede. Its jaws seem to be quite different from others. Most millipedes have jaws that are able to create a chewing, or grinding, movement. This is how they eat the decaying vegetation they live on. Yet *Illacme plenipes*' jaws are fused, or fixed. The scientists think that they must feed by sucking up very tiny pieces of rotting leaves and plants.

*Illacme plenipes* also has body segments that are more similar to ancient millipedes. Their closest relatives are found far away in South Africa. No similar types of millipede have been discovered anywhere else in North America. The scientists believe that millions of years ago *Illacme plenipes* probably lived in many different places. So the few that have recently been found in California are possibly the last of their kind to exist. ■

## MAKEMAKE STUDY

An international group of astronomers, scientists who study the stars and planets, has recently completed the first study of the dwarf planet Makemake (pronounced MAH-kayMAHkay). The scientists, who made use of seven different high-powered telescopes in South America, recorded Makemake as it passed in front of a distant star.

Dwarf planets are much smaller than the eight planets in our Solar System: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. Dwarf planets are solid and roughly round-shaped. They too go around the Sun.

Perhaps the best-known dwarf planet is Pluto. It was discovered in 1930. At the time Pluto was considered to be a planet. This meant that the Solar System then had nine and not eight planets. Yet in 2006 the International Astronomical Union (IAU) decided that Pluto did not really fit the proper scientific description of a planet.



Artist's impression of Makemake

One reason for changing Pluto's status was that astronomers were discovering other similar smaller planets. Makemake, for example, was discovered in 2005. The IAU decided to call these Pluto-like planets “dwarf planets”. Therefore the number of planets in our Solar System changed again, from nine to eight.

There is one dwarf planet in the asteroid belt, which is between Mars and Jupiter. Called Ceres it is about 604 miles (972 kilometers) wide. Yet, so far, all the others that have been discovered are beyond Neptune, or the farthest planet from the Sun. Some call these dwarf planets Trans-Neptunian objects (TNOs).

Pluto is a TNO. Others are Eris, Makemake and Haumea. Eris may even be bigger than Pluto. All, except Makemake, are known to have at least one moon orbiting around them. Pluto, Makemake and Haumea are all in what's called the Kuiper belt. This is beyond

Neptune. It is similar to the asteroid belt but much wider. It too is made up of bits of rock, or rubble, that were “leftover” when the planets in our Solar System were formed billions of years ago.

So far, four other larger objects have been discovered in the Kuiper belt. Three have been given names, Sedna, Orcus and Quaoar. It is not yet known if they are big enough to be dwarf planets. Some astronomers believe that there could be hundreds more dwarf planets in the Kuiper belt.

Makemake is named after a god that was worshipped by people who lived on Easter Island a long time ago. They believed that this god was the creator of humanity.

As they are quite small and so far away from the Earth TNOs are difficult to study even with very powerful telescopes. However, one way to find

out certain things is to watch them as they pass directly in front of a distant star. This is what the group of astronomers did with Makemake. They measured how much of the star’s light was blocked as well as how quickly this “blocking” happened.

From their recordings the astronomers believe that Makemake is about 932 miles (1,500 kilometers) wide and almost round. The light recordings also suggest that Makemake does not have an atmosphere.

Astronomers will get a better understanding of dwarf planets in 2015. This is when a NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) spacecraft will fly past Pluto and its three moons, Nix, Charon and Hydra. It will then travel farther into the Kuiper belt. Called New Horizons the spacecraft was launched in 2006. ▣

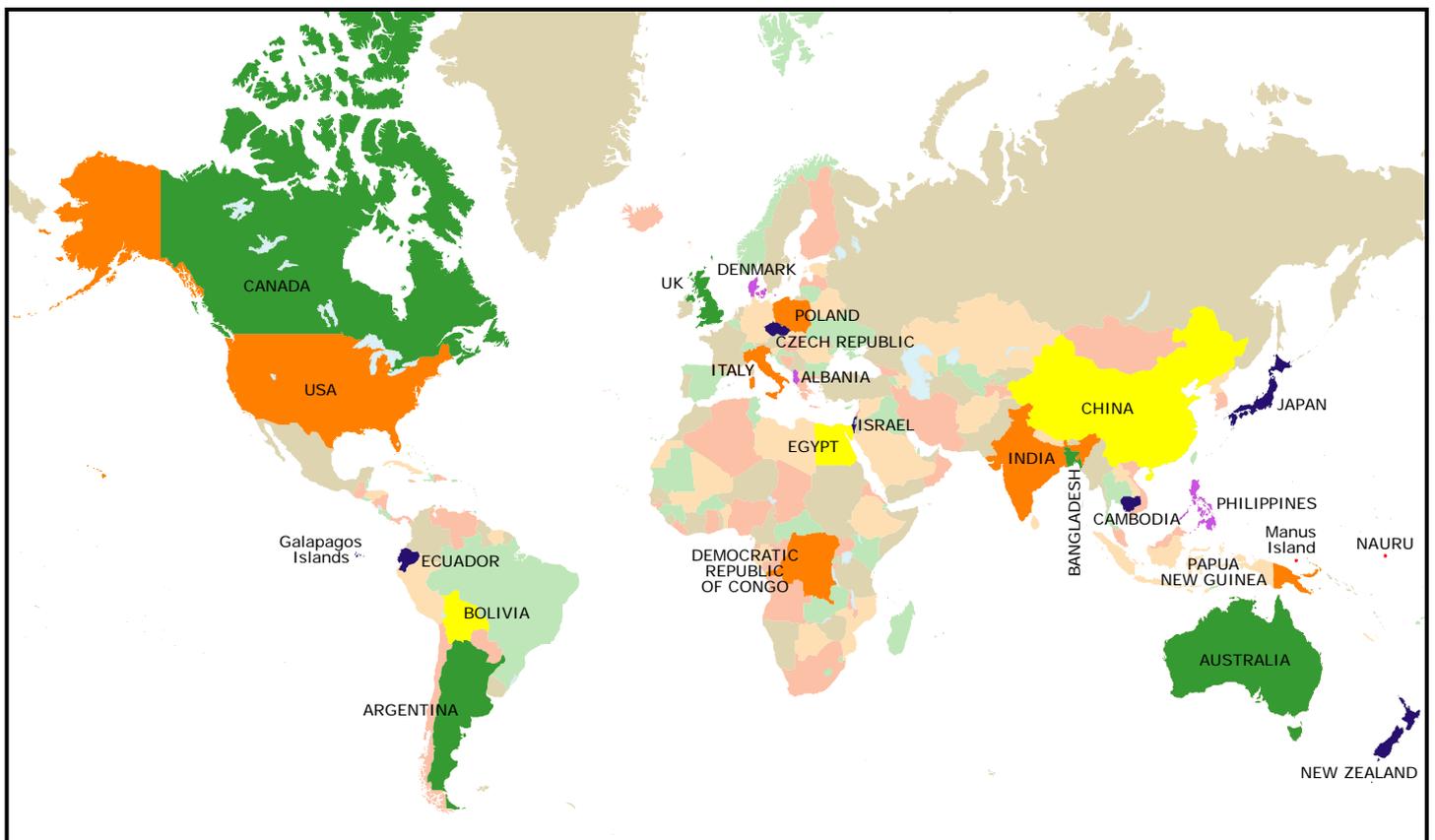
## CENSUS IN BOLIVIA

On November 21, Bolivia held a census, or population count. The country’s last census was 11 years ago.



*Evo Morales, president of Bolivia*

A census is a way of officially counting everyone who lives in a country. Many governments do them, often every ten years. Long ago censuses were done just to count the number of people. Nowadays, they are used to collect much more information. In many countries census forms now have lots of questions.



This map shows countries to which news stories refer in this issue. Visit [www.newsademic.com](http://www.newsademic.com) for more detailed world maps.

These can include questions about a person's religion, education and work. Among other things, information collected in censuses is used by governments to work out how much money it should collect in taxes and on what it should be spent.

In many countries census forms are sent out by mail. People are asked to complete the forms and return them by a certain date. However, in Bolivia people were told to stay in their homes on the day of the census. A curfew was ordered. This meant that people were not allowed to be on the streets. Around 35,000 police officers were on duty to make sure that everyone obeyed the census order.

**Canvassers** then visited every house or apartment to check on the number of people who were living there and ask them a list of questions. Over 200,000 people were needed to carry out all these visits. Many were students who had volunteered for the job. All the counting in the towns and cities was done during the day. Yet it took several more days to complete the census in the countryside.

Normally, cities in Bolivia are very crowded and noisy. On the day of the census many people said that it was odd that the cities were so empty and quiet. There were no cars or busses on the roads and all the shops and offices were closed.

This was the first census to be done since Evo Morales became the country's president in 2006. Mr. Morales is a native Indian. He is the first indigenous person to be elected as the president.

Bolivia, like many other countries in South America, used to be ruled by Spain. Today around 60% of Bolivians are native Indians. Most of the others are of mixed race. They have both Spanish and native Indian

## NEWSCAST

**OCEAN CROSSING** — A retired scientist in Britain has spent four years building a model boat. Yet this is not an ordinary model. Recently, the four foot (1.2 meter) long sailing boat set off to cross the Atlantic Ocean. The unmanned boat will have to follow a route where the best, or most favorable, winds are. If it reaches the U.S. the boat would have traveled about six thousand miles (9,660 kilometers). No unmanned boat has ever managed to cross the Atlantic Ocean before. The model sailing boat, which is called *Snoopy Sloop*, is powered by the wind. However, it can be remotely steered by a small computer, which uses solar power. The boat also has a GPS device for navigation.

ancestors. These people often call themselves "mestizo".

Traditionally, in Bolivia, mestizo people have been wealthier than native Indians. They have also had the better jobs as well as important positions in the government. Mr. Morales wants to change this. Since he has been president he has often tried to do things to help native Indian people.

Some people were surprised by one of the questions on the census form. It asked which one of around 40 different **ethnic** groups people belonged to. These groups did not include mestizo. People were told that if they did not think that they belonged to any of the ethnic groups they should put "Bolivian". Questions about ethnic groups have not been asked in previous censuses.

Some people thought that the reason mestizo was not on the form was that Mr. Morales did not want too many people saying this was their

ethnic group. He wanted as many people as possible to **identify** with an indigenous group. This, these people say, was because it would make the way in which Mr. Morales governs the country difficult if more than 50% of the population claimed to be mestizo.

The exact results of the census will not be known for some time. The population is predicted to be about 11 million. If so, it would mean that there has been an increase of nearly three million people since the last census 11 years ago. ■

## GALAPAGOS ISLANDS' RAT PROBLEM

Helicopters have recently been used to drop large amounts of rat poison on two of the Galápagos Islands. Scientists say that the large number of rats on many of the islands is a serious problem. This is because the rats are endangering the islands' native species such as giant tortoises, lizards, snakes, iguanas and hawks.



*Galápagos giant tortoise*

The Galápagos Islands are an archipelago, or group, of islands in the southern Pacific Ocean, off the west coast of South America. The Galápagos Islands, which are part of Ecuador, were designated a World Heritage Site over 30 years ago. This means that all the wildlife on the islands must be protected.

The Galápagos Islands have been isolated from the rest of the world for

a very long time. Therefore, over millions of years, many of the creatures that live on them have evolved differently from those found in other parts of the world. This means that they are now endemic to, or only found on, the Galápagos Islands. One example is the Galápagos giant tortoise.

The islands are also well known for having been visited by Charles Darwin in 1835. He was greatly interested in the creatures he found there. Darwin's drawings of these creatures and the specimens he collected on the islands helped him to write his famous book about the theory of evolution. Called *On the Origin of Species*, it was published in 1859.

The rats causing the problems on the Galápagos Islands are not native species. It's thought that they first arrived as early as the 17th century, aboard the wooden ships of European explorers (and pirates) who visited the islands. Some of the rats must have managed to get off the ships and onto the islands.

Rats on the Galápagos Islands have become what is known as an "invasive species". They eat the eggs laid by birds, tortoises and many other native creatures. The rats destroy plants on which native animals feed. They also spread bacteria, which can cause diseases among the native species.

The latest use of rat poison is part of a plan to get rid of all the rats on all the islands. It started at the beginning of 2011 when rat poison was used for the first time on two smaller islands.

The rat poison is blue in color. It has been specially made so rats will eat it but native species will not. However, just to make sure that some animals, such as iguanas, were caught and taken off the islands before the poison was dropped.

Hawks, which might eat the dead rats, were also removed.

One of the islands on which the rat poison has been used is called Pinzón. It is estimated that there are about 180 million rats on this island, or one per square foot (about 10 per square meter). Those organizing the rat poisoning say that for their plan to work every rat has to be killed. Rats breed very quickly. Therefore, if a few are left their numbers will quickly increase.

Now that the rat poison has been dropped on the two islands scientists will monitor them for the next 12 months. If the plan has worked the poison will be used on several more islands. Rats still need to be removed from at least 35 other islands. Isabela and Santa Cruz, the two islands where humans live, will be left until last. ■

## CHRISTIAN CALENDAR ERROR

Pope Benedict the Sixteenth, the leader of the Roman Catholic Church, has just published a new book. In the book, to the surprise of many people, the Pope explains that the Christian calendar is based on an error.

The book, called *Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives*, is the third in a [trilogy](#) that the Pope has written about the life of Jesus Christ. Christians believe that Jesus is the Son of God. This book is about Jesus from the time he was born until he was about 12 years old.

The Christian way of counting the years is now used by most countries even though some, such as Thailand, may have an older traditional way of doing this. For example, in Thailand it is now 2555.

This year is 2012. It means that it is 2,012 years since the birth of

Jesus. It is sometimes called the Anno Domini (which is Latin for "in the year of the Lord") era. It is also known as AD. So 1 AD is the year when Jesus was born. Dates before this are given the [designation](#) BC, which stands for "Before Christ".

However, as BC and AD are based on the traditions of one religion many people now use BCE (Before Common Era) and CE (Common Era) as an alternative. The AD system of counting years was devised, or invented, by a Christian monk called Dionysius Exiguus (or Dennis the Small) in the sixth century. Dionysius came from a place that is now in Eastern Europe but lived in Rome.



Pope Benedict the Sixteenth

Before Dionysius's AD era many people used the Diocletian era to count years. Dionysius wanted to change this because Diocletian was a Roman Emperor who [persecuted](#) Christians. For his new system Dionysius tried to work out in which year Jesus was born. This would be year 1 and all the others would follow this numbering system.

In the Bible, the holy book of the Christian religion, there are four Gospels, called Mathew, Mark, Luke and John. These tell the story of the life of Jesus. None mentions the actual date of his birth, but there are some clues. For example, it's said that he was born during the reign of King Herod and that he was baptized when Tiberius was the Roman emperor. From the dates of these rulers

many historians believe that Jesus must have been born sometime between 7 BCE and 2 BCE.

While historians have questioned the date of Jesus’s birth many people think that it was surprising for the Pope to say the same thing. In the book the Pope says that “when calculating the beginning of our calendar Dionysius Exiguus made a mistake in his calculations by several years. The actual date of Jesus’s birth was several years before”.

At first, not many people used Dionysius’s system for calculating dates. It was not until several hundred years later that it became popular.

Many people think that the AD numbering system has another mistake. This is because there is no year “zero”. So 1 BC is followed by 1 AD.

In his book the Pope also writes about the Nativity. This is the traditional story of the birth of Jesus. In the story Jesus is born in a stable. Angels, shepherds and three wise men or kings visit the newborn baby. Traditionally, it’s believed that there were oxen and donkeys in the stable at the time. However, in his book the Pope says that there were no animals, as none are mentioned in the Gospels.

The Pope’s new book is expected to be translated into at least 20 different languages and to be sold in 72 countries. ■

### ASEAN MEETING

Leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) attended a summit, or meeting, in Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, between November 15 and 20.

ASEAN has ten member countries. All are in South East Asia. The group holds frequent meetings and each member takes a turn to

organize them. As the most recent meeting was held in Phnom Penh, Hun Sen, the prime minister of Cambodia, hosted it.

ASEAN member countries	
Brunei	Myanmar
Cambodia	Philippines
Indonesia	Singapore
Laos	Thailand
Malaysia	Vietnam

During the meeting several subjects were to be discussed. These included trade between ASEAN members as well as human rights in each country. However, much of the discussions were about disputes over the ownership of certain small groups of islands in the South China Sea. China claims ownership of these islands. Yet other countries, such as Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan insist that some of the islands belong to them.

Ownership of these groups of islands is important. This is because

large amounts of oil and natural gas are believed to be under the seabed. Whoever owns the islands has the right to drill for oil in the area around them. The owners of the islands also own the fishing rights in the surrounding sea.

As part of its claim of ownership China uses a map that was made in the 1940s. The map includes nine dashes. Chinese leaders insist that the area within these nine dashes belongs to their country. A map of China with the nine dashes is now printed in new Chinese passports. This has angered other countries such as Vietnam.

During the meeting Benigno Aquino, the president of the Philippines, became angry. This was because Cambodia said that the island dispute should not be discussed with other countries that are not part of ASEAN. Earlier this year protests were held in both the Philippines and China over the argument about ownership of a small group of islands known as the Scarborough Shoal (in China they are called



Map showing the nine dashes used by China to show it owns the islands in the South China Sea

the Huangyan island). Taiwan also claims to own these islands.

After ASEAN members have met for a few days the leaders of other countries often join them. This has become known as the East Asia Summit. It consists of the ten ASEAN members plus China, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, India, South Korea, the U.S. and Russia. ASEAN members hold meetings with each of these countries' leaders. The U.S. and Russia were invited to join the East Asia Summit in 2011. Therefore, this was the first year that these two country's leaders had attended.

Afterwards, Barack Obama, the president of the U.S., said that it was important for the countries involved in the disputes about the islands to find a solution. He did not take sides, but warned that the arguments could affect other important things such as trade between all the countries. ■

## KING ZOG REBURIED

On November 18, a special ceremony was held in Tirana, the capital of Albania. Around 3,000 people attended. During the ceremony the remains of King Zog were placed in a new [mausoleum](#), which had recently been built. Two days earlier the king's remains were exhumed, or dug up, from a cemetery near Paris, the capital of France, and then flown to Albania.

The reburial of King Zog is part of Albania's 100th anniversary celebrations. For many years Albania was part of the Ottoman Empire, which was centered on modern day Turkey. It eventually declared itself to be an independent country at the end of 1912. The following year many other countries announced that they recognized Albania as an independent nation.

Ahmet Muhtar Bej Zogolli (1895 – 1961) came from a wealthy land owning family. For a time he was Albania's prime minister. In 1925, he was elected as the country's president. Four years later he announced that Albania would become a constitutional monarchy. This meant that the country would have an elected parliament and a king. He then declared that he would be the king with the official title of King Zog.



King Zog

King Zog ruled Albania for just over ten years. In 1939, military forces from Italy, which at the time was controlled by the dictator Benito Mussolini (1883 – 1945), invaded Albania. King Zog and his family, realizing that their lives were in danger, fled to Britain. He later moved to Egypt and then to France where he died in 1961.

The German army occupied Albania for a time during the Second World War (1939 – 1945). After the defeat of both Italy and Germany Albania became a communist country. For many years Enver Hoxha (1908 – 1985) controlled Albania as a communist dictator. During this time the country's leaders decided to abolish the monarchy.

In 1991, the communist Russian-led Soviet Union collapsed. Many

eastern European countries, which had been part of the Soviet Union, became independent. Each held elections for their own leaders. In 1982, Albania became a republic with an elected parliament and president. More recently it has joined NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) and has applied for membership of the European Union (EU).

King Zog had one son, Crown Prince Leka. He and his family lived in several different countries. After Albania became a republic he returned hoping to become its king. A referendum, or vote in which all adults can take part, was held to find out if the people of Albania wanted to have a royal family again. Most voted "no". Crown Prince Leka stayed in the country until he died in 2011. His son, or King Zog's grandson, now works as an adviser to Bujar Nishani, Albania's elected president.

Not everyone was happy about the return of King Zog's remains and the building of the new mausoleum. They claimed that he had been a weak leader who, as both president and king, had failed to help Albania. Yet others insist that the king is one of their country's most important historical figures. ■

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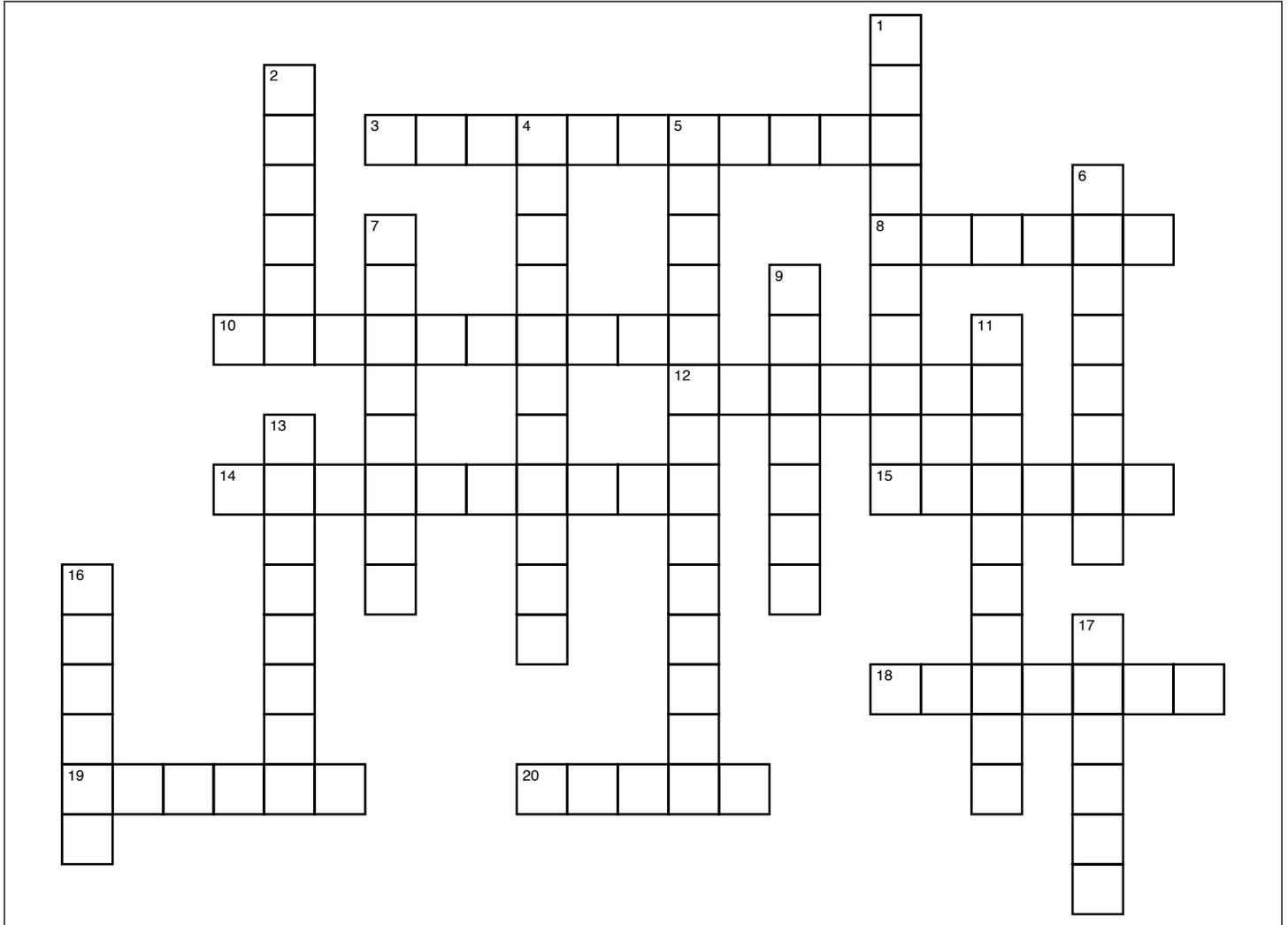
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# ISSUE 185

## GLOSSARY PUZZLE

**INSTRUCTIONS:** ① Complete the crossword. The answers are highlighted in orange in the news stories. There are 25 words highlighted and you need 20 of them to complete the crossword. ② Once you have solved the crossword go to the word search on the next page ➡



### Across

- 3 Noun** The act of giving something an official name, title or purpose
- 8 Noun** Safety and refuge given by a country to refugees from another country
- 10 Noun (Plural)** People who have done military training who can be ordered to join the armed forces if a war is likely to start
- 12 Verb** To produce and release a substance
- 14 Noun** Method by which a person, ship, car or aircraft is directed from one place to another
- 15 Noun (Plural)** Small usually single-celled reproductive bodies produced by bacteria, fungi and various plants, which develop into new individuals
- 18 Noun** A series of three books or plays written about the same characters, forming a continuous story
- 19 Adjective** Protected against a certain type of disease
- 20 Noun** A metal made from a mixture of copper and zinc

### Down

- 1 Noun (Plural)** People who visit peoples homes to try to get them to do something such as vote for a political party
- 2 Noun** An official order
- 4 Adverb** Describes making something using a lot of small parts or details arranged in a complicated way
- 5 Noun (Plural)** The killings of important people, especially for political reasons
- 6 Verb** Refused to obey orders from someone in command
- 7 Verb** To recognize or relate to something that is similar
- 9 Verb** Rotted or decomposed
- 11 Noun** The overthrow of a country's government or ruler by the people who live in the country
- 13 Verb** To keep in a good or proper condition
- 16 Adjective** Relating to a group that shares a religious, cultural or racial background
- 17 Noun** An idea or plan of a political party

# ISSUE 185

## GLOSSARY PUZZLE *CONTINUED*

**INSTRUCTIONS:** ③ Find 19 of the 20 crossword answers in the word search. Words can go vertically, horizontally, diagonally and back to front. ④ After finding the 19 words write down the 20th (or missing) word under the puzzle.

A F D D E C R E E S J U X A Q W C N  
 S R E V O L U T I O N X S S E A I O  
 S L M C U K N T P X Y F I T N E D I  
 A E U W B D V R F S F C H V Y S B T  
 S U D N M T C I J A W N A C L I K A  
 S L N F R L Q L Q N I S I R F M G N  
 I Y G Z S S A O Z C S L W X H M I G  
 N B L N M Q X G A E O B K K R U W I  
 A A W A B M L Y R P C S P D C N Y S  
 T E R V Q G A S T S I V R E S E R E  
 I Z N I F Q X E E Q N R M I H H A D  
 O N S G L I A C H R D I N N P T N G  
 N J Y A Z K Q R Z N O S A I E H F A  
 S R T T R X B E P S N P G T Z M Z S  
 S K R I A V H T T U S K S U N M M Y  
 R Q U O P Z M E K I W A H M K I Z L  
 G M D N R P F N G U A F R B C N A U  
 Y L E T A C I R T N I Y E B C N Z M

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MISSING WORD ANSWER = \_\_\_\_\_

ISSUE 184 ANSWERS

PARTICLES