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In this issue

Algeria gas plant attack
Return of wood bison
Israel's election
Australia's ancient migration
Air pollution in China
Banknotes and maple leaves
World Economic Forum
The Long March in Pakistan
Venezuelan president's absence
Flooding in Indonesia's capital
Turkey and the Kurds
Siberia's wolf hunt
Afghanistan handover plan
Dengue fever in Brazil
Kumbh Mela festival
Dreamliner grounded
World's biggest tech show
Conscription vote in Austria
Rats and reindeer on South Georgia
Glossary Crossword and Wordsearch Puzzle



A French warplane at a military base in Mali

FRANCE INTERVENES IN MALI

On January 19, Laurent Fabius, France's foreign minister, attended an emergency meeting in Abidjan, the capital of Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire). Also at the meeting were leaders from several other West African countries.

Eight days earlier French warplanes and specially trained troops had carried out a surprise military strike on a town in Mali called Konna. The French forces attacked a group of Islamic militants that had recently occupied the town.

Mr. Fabius explained that France had had to do this "very, very rapidly otherwise there would be no more Mali". He also said that West African leaders now needed to quickly join together to defeat the Islamic militant groups, which have taken over northern Mali.

Mali, like many other countries in North and West Africa, used to be a colony of France. Even though these

countries became independent nations in the early 1960s France has continued to keep military bases in some of them. The French troops and planes that attacked Konna are based in Chad, which is also a former French colony.

The trouble in Mali began in March last year. Then a group of Malian army officers forced the country's president to leave the country. They then took control of Bamako, the capital city. For several years the Malian army had been fighting against Tuareg rebels in the north of the country. The Tuareg is a [nomadic](#) tribe. Its members mainly live in northern Mali and in parts of Niger, Algeria, and Libya. The Tuareg rebels want the northern part of Mali to become a separate country.

The Tuareg took advantage of the confusion in Bamako and managed to force the army to withdraw from the north of Mali. Militant Islamic groups, such as

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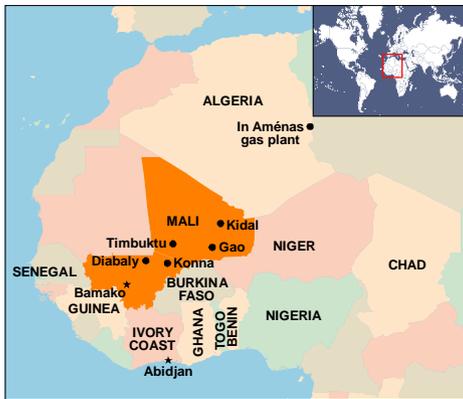
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Ansar Dine, helped them. Soon afterwards, the militant groups took over the main towns and cities in northern Mali, including Timbuktu, Gao and Kidal. The Tuareg and the Islamists seemed to have disagreed with each other, as the Tuareg now only control desert areas.

The leaders of Ansar Dine have declared that they plan to take over the whole of Mali and govern it under very strict Islamic laws. For example, all women in the towns and cities they control have been ordered to cover their faces. People accused of stealing have had their hands cut off. Ansar Dine fighters are reported to have badly damaged some of Timbuktu's ancient buildings and tombs. They have also banned people from worshipping at the tombs, as they claim that it is un-Islamic.



The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is a group of 15 countries. Mali is one of them.

After the group of army officers took control of Mali's capital last March ECOWAS leaders became alarmed at what was happening in the country. At first, they insisted that the army officers hand power back to a new president. After this was done ECOWAS began discussing ways of defeating the Islamic militants in the north of Mali. Many

ECOWAS leaders worry that if these militant groups are successful in Mali similar problems may spread to their own countries.

ECOWAS drew up a plan to send a joint military force to Mali. The United Nations (U.N.) agreed that it should do this. However, the ECOWAS force was not expected to arrive in Mali until later in the year.

On January 10, Islamic militants suddenly captured the town of Konna. Mali's president, Dioncounda Traoré, asked François Hollande, the president of France, for help. It's thought that Mr. Hollande quickly ordered an attack because the Islamic militants were about to capture an important military airport not far from Konna. If this airport had been captured it would have been difficult to fly troops and military equipment from other countries into Mali.

Since this attack French soldiers have been working with the Malian army. They have retaken several other towns such as Diabaly, which is about 250 miles (400 kilometers) from Bamako. French aircraft have also carried out air strikes on militants in Goa.

At the Abidjan meeting ECOWAS leaders agreed to send troops to Mali immediately. Others will arrive within the next few weeks.

Nigeria will send the most. Other ECOWAS countries such as Senegal, Burkina Faso, Niger, Togo, Benin, Ghana, and Guinea, are expected to send at least 500 soldiers each. Chad, even though it is not an ECOWAS member, has also agreed to provide 2,000 troops and some air force planes.

On January 16, a group of about 40 Islamic militants occupied a natural gas plant, or facility, called In Aménas, in the Algerian desert (see "Gas plant attack in Algeria" on page

three). This group is believed to have traveled from northern Mali. The militants took over the gas facility and captured most of the people who worked there. Those captured included men from at least ten different countries as well as many Algerians.

The leader of this group demanded that France withdraw its forces from Mali. If it did not do this, he said, the captured workers would be killed. The following day the Algerian army attacked the gas plant. The fighting lasted for several days. A few of the militants were captured and the others killed. Most of the workers were rescued. Yet at least 38 of the foreign workers died in the fighting.

Mr. Hollande has said that French troops will stay in Mali until the militant groups are defeated. Other countries have offered to help. Britain and the U.S. have provided large military transport planes. These have been used to fly heavy military equipment from France to Mali. Other countries, such as Belgium, Denmark, Canada and Italy have also offered to send transport planes.

All the Islamic militant groups in northern Mali are believed to be part of what's known as al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). This organization is linked with al-Qaeda, or the group that carried out the attacks on the U.S. in 2001.

At that time, al-Qaeda was based in Afghanistan where it had support from the Taliban. The U.S. and several NATO member countries have been fighting a war against al-Qaeda and the Taliban in Afghanistan for the past 11 years.

Most countries in Africa and Europe agree with what France is doing in Mali. Their leaders say that the Islamic militant groups need to be quickly defeated to stop Mali from becoming "another Afghanistan". ■

GAS PLANT ATTACK IN ALGERIA

On January 16, the leaders of many countries became concerned about news reports from Algeria. There an Islamic militant group of about 40 armed men had taken over, or seized, a large natural gas plant in the desert. The armed men captured most of the plant's workers. These included many Algerians and around 140 foreign men from at least ten different countries.

The gas plant, or facility, is called In Aménas. It is in a remote part of Algeria (see map on page two). BP (a British company), Norway's Statoil and Algeria's government-owned oil company jointly run the gas facility.

Soon after the militant group, or terrorists, seized the plant, soldiers from the Algerian army arrived and surrounded it. The terrorists said that they had placed explosives around the gas facility. They threatened to blow it up if the Algerian soldiers tried to free the workers that they were holding hostage.

The group that seized the gas plant is believed to be part of what's known as al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). Al-Qaeda is an Islamic militant terrorist group. Its leaders say that they want to end all foreign involvement and influence in Islamic countries. They believe that these countries should be governed according to very strict Islamic laws. Most Muslims disagree with what al-Qaeda wants to do.

About a week before the Algerian gas plant was attacked, French military forces had [intervened](#) in the fighting that has been taking place in Mali, a nearby country. The militant group is thought to have driven to the gas plant from a base in northern Mali. The leader of the terrorist group announced that unless France

withdrew its forces from Mali the foreign men being held hostage at the gas facility would all be killed.

On January 17, the Algerian soldiers surrounding the gas plant attacked it. The leaders of countries such as Britain, Norway and Japan were unhappy about this decision. They worried that the terrorists would start to kill all the hostages. However, later Algerian government officials explained why they had decided to attack. They claimed that the terrorist group was trying to move some of the workers. They feared that if the terrorists had managed to take some of the hostages out into the desert, or to Mali, it would be very difficult to rescue them.

The fighting around the plant lasted for several days. A few of the terrorists were captured and the others killed. Around 680 Algerian workers were freed. It's thought that 38 foreign workers died and just over 100 were rescued. Those that died were all shot by the terrorists.



In Aménas natural gas plant in Algeria

Some people criticized the Algerian army for attacking the gas plant. They suggested that it would have been better to negotiate, or talk, with the militants to try to get all the hostages freed. Yet others disagree. They believe that the Algerian army was right to attack when it did. They argue that negotiating with the hostage takers would have been difficult and might have taken many weeks or months. ■

WOOD BISON RETURN

Wildlife officials in the U.S. have announced plans to reintroduce wood bison to parts of the northern state of Alaska. Hundreds of years ago there were many wood bison in this part of North America. Yet by the beginning of the 20th century they had all disappeared.



Wood bison

The wood bison is North America's largest living land mammal. The animals are bigger than the more common Plains bison. A long time ago there were millions of Plains bison in the U.S. and Canada. However, nowadays only a few herds remain. The largest herd of around 3,500 bison is in the U.S.'s Yellowstone National Park.

Bison are notable for their woolly coats and large heads. The wood bison is taller and heavier than the Plains bison. It also has larger horns, is a darker color and has less hair on its front legs. Adult wood bison can be six feet (1.8 meters) tall and weigh 2,000 pounds (900 kilograms).

It is estimated that in the early 1800s there were about 170,000 wood bison in northwest Canada and Alaska. Yet by the late 1800s there were none left in Alaska and only a few hundred in Canada. Scientists are not sure what happened to them. It may have been because of climate change, hunting or a lack of the type of vegetation that the bison eat.

NEWSCAST

RARE NUGGET — A man using a metal detector has surprised many people in Australia. After getting a reading, near the town of Ballarat, he dug into the ground. Around two foot (0.6 meters) under the soil he uncovered a large Y-shaped gold nugget. It weighs 12 pounds (5.5 kilograms) and is estimated to be worth about A\$300,000 (\$315,500). In the mid 1800s gold was discovered in Ballarat and many miners moved to the area. Yet in recent years it was believed that all the gold had been discovered long ago. The place where the man found the gold nugget has been searched before. However, he was using a more modern and powerful detector, which could search far deeper underground.

There were worries that the wood bison would become extinct. Yet in 1957 a herd of around 200 were discovered in Alberta, in Canada. In recent years wood bison have been protected and looked after by Canadian officials. Now there are thought to be about 9,000 of them in the country.

Five years ago, about 50 of Canada's wood bison were taken to a conservation center in Alaska. This small herd has now grown to 132. Last spring nearly 40 calves were born. It is this herd that will now be released into the wild.

The bison will be flown to a specially selected part of Alaska. At first, they will be kept in a large fenced in area. This, wildlife officials say, is so they can get used to living outside of the conservation center. The wood bison will stay in this area for several months before

being released. Officials in Alaska say that they are sure that the herd will be able to survive in the wild. They also expect their numbers to continue to increase. ■

ELECTION IN ISRAEL

An election for the Knesset, or Israel's parliament, was held on January 22. Benjamin Netanyahu has been the country's prime minister for the last four years. He is expected to keep his job but this will not be confirmed for a few weeks. This is because Mr. Netanyahu now needs to make agreements with several other political parties to get their support.

Israel has a president and a prime minister. The current president is Shimon Peres. The Israeli president is head of state but has few powers. The prime minister runs the country. He or she is usually, but not always, the leader of the political party that has the most members in the Knesset.

The Knesset has 120 seats. For a government to get laws passed, more than half of the Knesset's members have to vote for them. In Israeli elections it is very unusual for one party to win over 60 of the seats in the Knesset. Therefore, one of the leading parties usually has to get the support of several other smaller parties to make sure that it has at least 61 votes. When parties support each other in this way it is called a coalition.

Mr. Netanyahu is the leader of the Likud Party. Before the election Likud made an **alliance** with another party. Therefore Mr. Netanyahu is currently the leader of the Likud-Beitenu alliance. The alliance got 31 seats. This was 11 less than their combined total at the last election four years ago. However, it was still more than any other party.

The new Yesh Atid (There is a Future) Party got 19, which was the second highest total. Another party that did well with 12 seats was the Jewish Home Party. This is an alliance of four smaller parties. Its leader is Naf-tali Bennett. He is a former soldier and a successful businessman. Mr. Bennett is expected to agree to form a coalition with Mr. Netanyahu's Likud-Beitenu alliance.



Benjamin Netanyahu, prime minister of Israel

Thirty-two different political parties took part in the election. Israel has an election system called **proportional** representation (PR). This means that the number of seats a party has in the Knesset depends on the number of people that vote for it throughout the whole country. Any party that gets at least 2% of the total votes will get at least one seat in the Knesset.

For over 60 years, there has been a conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. When the state of Israel was set up in 1948, with help from the U.S. and the United Nations (U.N.), many Palestinians lost their homes and lands. Over the years this problem has led to several wars and many outbreaks of fighting.

Some people believe that the only way this problem can be solved is what's called "the two state solution". This means that the land would be divided between Israel and a new state of Palestine. Yet there are many difficult problems to solve such as where the borders would be.

In Israel certain political parties support a two state solution. They believe that talks should be held with Palestinian leaders to arrange this. Other parties don't want a two state solution. They argue that talks with the Palestinians have been tried in the past and failed. Most of the parties that are expected to form a coalition with Mr. Netanyahu's Likud-Beitenu alliance disagree with giving any land back to the Palestinians. This includes Mr. Bennett's Jewish Home Party. ■

ANCIENT MIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA

Nowadays, scientists are able to track movements, or migrations, of people across the world that occurred many thousands of years ago. They do this by studying and comparing DNA samples. Recently, a team of researchers have been studying the DNA of Aboriginal, or native, Australians. Their results have surprised many people.

It's thought that between 70,000 and 60,000 years ago early modern human beings, or *Homo sapiens*, started to leave Africa.

The first groups traveled eastwards to China, then south into Indonesia and to Australia. Others moved north into Europe and across Northern Asia. The first modern humans crossed the Bering Strait from Russia into North America between 30,000 and 15,000 years ago. Later they traveled south to eventually reach South America. This meant that *Homo sapiens* had spread all across the world.

Homo sapiens are believed to have reached Australia sometime between 50,000 and 40,000 years ago. After this it has always

been thought that no other modern humans traveled to Australia until the British and other Europeans arrived just over 200 years ago. However, the DNA study shows that this may not be true.



Dingo

The researchers studied the DNA of Aboriginal Australians from the north of the country. They found that in the past there seemed to have been some "genetic mixing" with people from India. They were even able to work out a date for this "event". They believe that it happened around 4,200 years ago. They were not able to find similar genetic mixing in DNA samples from Indonesia. This suggests that the people from India went by boat to Australia. Yet the researchers are not certain about this.

The DNA study may also help to explain the dingo. A dingo is a type of wild dog that is found only in Australia. Scientists know that dingoes are not native to the country. Most native mammals in Australia are marsupial. This means that they raise their young in a pouch, as kangaroos and koalas do. Also, like all pet dogs the dingo is descended from the wolf, which is not found in Australia.

The oldest dingo fossils found in Australia date to around 4,000 years ago. What's more new types of stone tools called microliths also appear in Australia around this time. These were used for the points of hunting weapons such as spears and arrows.

Its therefore possible, the researchers say, that the people from India brought these stone tools and some pet dogs with them. If true it means that their dogs may be the ancestors of Australia's dingo population. ■

BEIJING'S AIR POLLUTION

News agencies in China, which are controlled by the government, have, for the first time, been reporting about the bad air pollution in some parts of the country. The worst "smog" has been in the northeast of China, including Beijing, the capital city.

The word smog is used to describe heavy air pollution over cities. It is a mix of the words "smoke" and "fog". The word became commonly used in Britain in the 1950s. Then many people burned coal to keep their houses warm. If the weather was foggy and there was little wind, smoke particles became attached to the water droplets in the air. Not only did this make it difficult to see very far, but breathing the air made some people ill.



"Smog" in Beijing

In Beijing and northeast China the air pollution often gets worse when the weather gets colder. Several types of pollutants have caused the recent thick smog, or haze. They include smoke from power stations, which burn coal to make electricity, emissions from factories that surround the city and vehicle exhausts.

Many people believe that the air quality in Beijing has been getting worse for many years. Yet for a long time government officials seemed to refuse to admit it. For example, in the past, it was not unusual for them to say that there was nothing wrong with the air and that the haze was just “fog” or “mist”.

In 2008, the American embassy in Beijing put an “air pollution monitor” on its roof. The readings from this were then automatically posted on the internet.

This pollution monitor caused many arguments with the Chinese authorities. This was because the pollution figures given out by local officials were measured in a different way. Their equipment measured particles in the air, or pollutants, that were ten micrometers and larger. The American monitor starts recording if pollutants are bigger than 2.5 micrometers. However, last year Chinese officials started to measure the air pollution in a similar way to the American monitor.

On January 14, hospitals in Beijing said that there had been a large increase in the number of people who were being treated for breathing difficulties. A few days before the American embassy monitor recorded the worst levels of air pollution since it was set up. Many Chinese people have now started to use the internet to complain about the air pollution.

In China, a new set of leaders takes over every ten years. At the end of last year those chosen to lead the country for the next decade were appointed. One of the new leaders is Li Keqiang. He will officially become China’s new premier in a few months time. Recently, Mr. Li has agreed that the air pollution in many parts of China is a serious problem.

He said that the government must do something to solve it. This, some people think, explains why the government run news agencies have now begun to report on the air pollution and how bad it is. ■

BANKNOTE ERROR?

The banknotes, or bills, in Canada are made out of a special type of paper or polymer. Recently, a Canadian botanist, or scientist who studies plants, claimed that the maple leaf design that appears on these new notes is the wrong type.



Canada's new 50 dollar banknote

The maple leaf is the national symbol of Canada. It even appears on the country’s flag. Canada is famous for its maple syrup. This is a sweet sticky substance that is usually eaten on pancakes, ice cream and waffles. It can also be used in cooking or to make sweets. Much of this syrup is made from the sap of two types of maple trees. More than 80% of the world’s maple syrup is produced in Canada.

The polymer bank notes were first released in 2011. There are 20, 50 and 100 Canadian dollar bills. The notes are almost impossible to tear and have a number of special security features. These include

raised letters and hidden numbers. This makes them very hard to forge, or copy. These types of polymer banknotes (sometimes called “plastic” bills) last much longer than those made out of normal banknote paper. Other countries that use plastic bills include Australia, New Zealand, Mexico and Vietnam.

The designs of the Canadian polymer banknotes have a maple leaf on both sides. The maple leaf on



Sugar maple leaf

Canada’s flag is from the Canadian sugar maple tree. Yet the maple leaf on the banknotes looks different.

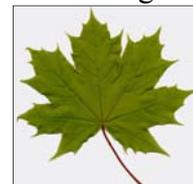
Sean Blaney, the botanist who claims that it is the wrong type, says that the leaf on the banknotes look more like one from the Norway maple tree.

Sugar maple trees are native to Canada. Norway maple trees are common in both Canada and other parts of North America. Yet they are not a native species. Norway maple trees originally came from Europe and were imported into Canada many years ago.

Several other botanists agree with Mr. Blaney. They say that the leaf on the banknotes has a more pointed outline and therefore looks much more like one from a Norway maple tree.

Officials at the Bank of Canada who arranged for the design of the new polymer banknotes disagree.

They insist that the design is meant to be a “stylized” maple leaf. However, one botanist said that the maple leaf



Norway maple leaf

on Canada’s flag has also been stylized yet it still looks like the native species. ■

DAVOS

This year's World Economic Forum (WEF) is being held between January 23 and 26. The WEF is a series of conferences and presentations that take place around the end of January every year. It is held in the small town of Davos, in Switzerland, which is also a well-known ski resort. Nowadays many people call this annual meeting "Davos" instead of the WEF.



The first WEF was held in 1971. Klaus Schwab, an economist from Germany, set up the organization. He believed that it would be useful for important and powerful people to be able to share ideas at an informal meeting. No actual decisions are made at Davos. Yet each year those who attend take part in talks, or sessions, where many of the world's current problems are discussed. The WEF's slogan is "committed to improving the state of the world".

Only those invited to Davos may attend. These usually include the bosses of the world's biggest companies, religious leaders, economists, environmentalists, and politicians as well as some musicians, actors, artists, and journalists. This year around 2,000 people have been invited. Dmitry Medvedev, the prime minister of Russia, made the opening speech.

This year's discussions will be on the financial problems of many of the countries that use the euro as their currency, energy, technology and the supply of food. Many of the leaders of countries that use the euro will attend. These include Angela Merkel, the chancellor of Germany, and the

Italian prime minister, Mario Monti. Christine Lagarde, the head of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Mario Draghi, the leader of the European Central Bank (ECB) will also be taking part in the euro discussions.

One of the most important sessions will be about economic growth. Over recent years the U.S. as well as many countries in Europe have had economic problems. Most experts agree that the solution is for their economies to grow. Yet this has been difficult. Their governments have borrowed too much money in the past and they now have to reduce the amount of money they spend. Some believe that these reductions, known as government, or spending, cuts, are one of the main reasons why their economies are not growing. The leaders of the world's largest banks will discuss what they need to do to help the economies of these countries improve.

Even though the U.S. and European countries are currently having economic difficulties many Asian countries are successfully growing their economies. China is a good example. This year a large Chinese [delegation](#) will be at Davos. Several Chinese officials are expected to give talks explaining how their country has continued to grow its economy. ▣

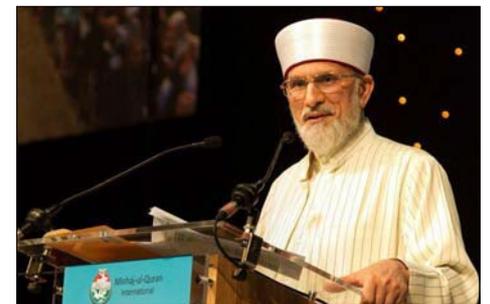
LONG MARCH IN PAKISTAN

On January 17, Mohammad Tahir-ul-Qadri held talks with several government officials in Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan. After the talks he told the thousands of people who had followed him to the city three days before that he had agreed to end their protest.

Dr. Qadri is a former politician, law professor and Islamic scholar.

For the last seven years he has lived in Canada. Dr. Qadri believes in religious [moderation](#) and argues against any form of violence. In Canada he spent his time writing books and giving lectures. He recently returned to Pakistan and began to organize a public protest, which he called "the Long March".

Dr. Qadri believes that many politicians in Pakistan are dishonest and corrupt. This year elections will be held for the country's National Assembly, or parliament. Dr. Qadri decided to organize a protest to make sure that the elections were fair and that corrupt politicians could not be reelected. He said that he wanted the parliament to be dissolved, or shut down, immediately. He insisted that an interim government should be appointed to organize the new elections.



Mohammad Tahir-ul-Qadri

Dr. Qadri asked people to travel with him from the city of Lahore to Islamabad. There they would hold a protest outside the city's parliament building. Hundreds of busses, cars and motorbikes set off from Lahore on January 14. By the time the [convoy](#) had arrived in Islamabad there were about 40,000 protesters.

At first, the police kept the protesters away from the center of the city. Yet later they were allowed to hold, or stage, a sit down protest close to the parliament building. All the protesters said that they wanted a government that was not corrupt. They declared that a proper govern-

ment should be able to create more jobs and end the country's frequent electricity power cuts, or shortages.

Dr. Qadri stayed inside a shipping container surrounded by bodyguards. The metal container, which was transported from Lahore on the back of a truck, had been modified. On one side was a large window with bulletproof glass. From inside the container Dr. Qadri was able to speak to the protesters. He declared that they would remain in Islamabad until their demands were met.

Dr. Qadri stayed in his unheated caravan-like container while the protesters slept on the street.

On January 17, Dr. Qadri met a group of government officials. They said that they were worried about the protesters staying outside in the rain and cold weather.

Eventually the officials and Dr. Qadri made an agreement. As already planned the National Assembly would be dissolved before March 16. Dr. Qadri would help to choose the person who would be appointed as an interim prime minister. Part of this person's job would be to make sure that the forthcoming election was fair. There would also be an extra month in the election process, or timetable. This was so checks can be made on those who want to be elected to make sure that they are honest and not corrupt. In return Dr. Qadri agreed to end his Long March protest. ■

VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT'S ILLNESS

On January 15, Nicolas Maduro, the vice-president of Venezuela, gave the annual "state of the nation" speech to the country's National Assembly or parliament. This was unusual, as Venezuela's president, Hugo Chávez, should have made the speech.

Mr. Chávez, who is 58 years old, has not been seen since the beginning of December. Since then he has been in the hospital in Havana, the capital of Cuba. There he has had several operations for cancer. Yet it has not been said what type of cancer he is suffering from.

Mr. Chávez has been president of Venezuela since 1999. Last October he won his fourth presidential election. He got 55% of the votes and was elected for another six years.



President of Venezuela, Hugo Chávez

Mr. Chávez is a popular leader. Many of his supporters are the poorer people of Venezuela. Mr. Chávez describes the way in which he runs the country as a "socialist revolution". He believes that the government should control most of the big companies in Venezuela.

Before the election Mr. Chávez arranged to spend a lot of money on building extra houses for the poor. He also subsidized, or made less expensive, several of the things most people need to use, such as electricity and fuel. Many people say that Mr. Chávez has only been able to do this because of the country's large oil supplies.

Venezuela is very dependant on oil. It has the largest proven, or known, oil supplies in the world. Of Venezuela's total economy around 95% of the money it makes comes from oil. The government is now in charge of all the large oil companies in the country.

Mr. Chávez has been to Cuba before for hospital treatment. The first time was in 2011. Three months before last year's election he declared that he had fully recovered. Yet soon after winning it he announced that he would be returning to Cuba for more medical treatment. Before he left he appointed Mr. Maduro as the country's vice-president.

As the winner of the election, Mr. Chávez was supposed to attend an **inauguration** ceremony, in Caracas, the capital of Venezuela, on January 10. It is at this ceremony that election winners are sworn in, or officially become the new president. Yet, Mr. Chávez was too ill to take part.

Mr. Chávez's illness has caused arguments about the country's constitution, or the rules by which it is governed. Because he was unable to attend his inauguration his opponents say that a new presidential election must now be held. Yet a senior judge ruled that Mr. Chávez could be sworn in at a later date.



Nicolas Maduro, Venezuela's vice president

Mr. Maduro and several other senior ministers have been to Cuba to visit Mr. Chávez. On January 20, Mr. Maduro announced that Mr. Chávez was recovering from his operation. He said that he hoped that the president would soon be able to return to Venezuela. Yet some people are not so sure. Many are now wondering what will happen if Mr. Chávez dies, or is never able to return. ■

FLOODING IN JAKARTA

Heavy rain has caused serious flooding in Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia. The rains began on January 15, and lasted for several days. Thousands of people have had to leave their homes and many businesses and government offices have been forced to close.

Over ten million people live in Jakarta, which is one of the biggest cities in the world. Thirteen rivers run through the capital much of which has been built on low lying ground. A network of canals also surrounds the city. There is usually some flooding in parts of Jakarta every summer during the rainy season. Yet this time much of the center of the city was waist-deep in water.



Flooded street in Jakarta

Some parts of Jakarta were cut off. In places the water was 13 feet (four meters) deep. Roads became rivers of muddy brown water. The army used boats and trucks to take fresh water and food to many areas. Emergency workers helped hundreds of people to evacuate their homes.

In the center of the city the **basement** floors of a large modern building were flooded. This happened after a nearby canal, which had been built to prevent floods, collapsed. Two people drowned in the basement and firefighters rescued several others.

The floods caused blackouts in many parts of the city and busses and trains could no longer operate.

Schools were closed and people were advised to stay at home and not to go to work.

Even the presidential palace was flooded. Local television news channels showed pictures of Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, the country's president, in the palace standing in water that covered his ankles. He said that it did not matter if the palace was flooded as long as the people were protected.

It will take a long time to clean everything up after the floodwaters go down. The governor of Jakarta, or the city's most senior official, said that more dams and flood defences would have to be built around the city in the future.

Some people believe that the many roads and concrete covered areas in the city are making the problem worse. This, they say, means that the water has fewer places to drain away. Also more people are moving to Jakarta so it is getting even bigger. Around the edge of the city many trees have been cut down. Tree roots help surface water drain into the ground. So as the trees are cut down more water gets into the rivers that then flow through Jakarta. ■

TURKEY AND THE KURDS

On January 17, thousands of people gathered in Diyarbakir, in southeast Turkey. The people had come to the mainly Kurdish city to take part in the funerals of three women who had been shot dead in Paris, the capital of France, eight days before.

The three women were all Kurdish **activists**. They worked at the Kurdish Information Center in the north of Paris. One of the women, Sakine Cansız, was a founder member of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

The Kurds are a separate people without a country. They have their own customs, culture and language. Yet there has never been an independent Kurdistan. Others have always ruled the area where they live.

Around 25 million Kurds live in the region where the borders of Turkey, Syria, Iraq, and Iran meet. In Turkey there are about 15 million Kurds, which is roughly 20% of the country's population.



The PKK was formed in the 1970s. At first, it wanted to set up an independent country called Kurdistan. However, not all Kurds in Turkey support the PKK.

In the 1990s the PKK fought a war with Turkey. Over 35,000 people were killed. In 1999, Turkish secret agents managed to capture the PKK's leader, Abdullah Öcalan, in Kenya. He is now being held as a single prisoner on a small island near Istanbul, Turkey's largest city. Before he was caught and before she moved to France Ms. Cansız worked closely with Mr. Öcalan.

Since the capture of Mr. Öcalan fighting between the PKK and the Turkish army has continued. Over the last two years this fighting has caused the deaths of nearly 900 people. Nowadays the PKK claims that it is fighting for the right of Kurdish people to govern themselves. Both the U.S. and European Union (EU) member countries believe that the PKK is a terrorist group. This, they

say, is because of its attacks on both the Turkish army and civilians.

The day before the three women were murdered in Paris, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Turkey's prime minister, made an announcement. He said that government officials were now speaking with Mr. Öcalan about a possible peace plan. It's thought that the Kurds may be offered some type of [autonomy](#). This means that they will remain as part of Turkey but will have their own local government. It is not yet known if Mr. Öcalan and the PKK will agree to this.

The French police are now investigating the murder of the three women. Ms. Cansız is known to have supported some type of peace plan. Around 150,000 Kurdish people live in France. Some accuse the Turkish government of secretly arranging the shootings. Yet others disagree. They suspect that those who did it are more likely to be a group of Kurds who are opposed to any form of peace plan. ■

WOLF HUNT IN SIBERIA

A three month long wolf hunt, or cull, began in Sakha, in Russia, on January 15. The Sakha region is in eastern Russia. This part of the country is often called Siberia. Even though the Sakha region, which is known for its diamond mines, is about the same size as India less than one million people live there.

A long time ago, gray wolves used to be common in many parts of the world. Today they are mainly found in Russia, Canada and Alaska, which is part of the U.S. However, in recent years their numbers have been growing in several European countries such as Sweden, Romania and Poland. In some of these

countries the animals are protected but their numbers are controlled.

Today, most wolves live in remote areas where they hunt in groups, or packs, and feed on wild animals. Yet when they cannot find enough food in the wild they will move out of these areas to places where there are villages and towns. There they will kill farm animals, such as cows, sheep and horses. However, it is unusual for humans to be attacked by wolves.



Gray wolf

The leader, or governor, of the Sakha region announced the wolf cull. He said that the problem is that wolves are now attacking [domesticated](#) reindeer. For some people in this part of Russia herding reindeer is a traditional way of life. They rely on the animals for food, for transport, for their fur and skins, and sometimes for their milk.

Wolves in Russia are normally found in mountainous areas and dense forests where there are not many people. They live off hares and wild reindeer. Recently, packs of wolves have moved closer to villages and towns in the Sakha region. They have been attacking herds of domesticated reindeer and horses. Last year wolves are thought to have killed around 16,000 domesticated reindeer and at least 300 horses in Sakha.

The governor of Sakha estimates that there are 3,500 wolves in the region. He says that he wants this number reduced to about 500 by April. Wolf

hunters have been traveling to Sakha from other parts of Russia. During the hunt they will be paid about 7,150 roubles (\$238) for each wolf skin, or pelt. The three hunters that manage to kill the most wolves will get an extra payment of 100,000 roubles (\$3,330). The hunters will be able to use snowmobiles, which will be provided by local officials.

As it will take place in the winter the wolf hunt is unusual. Normally wolf hunters operate in the summer months when the days are very long. In this part of Russia there are only a few hours of daylight in winter. It is also very cold. For these reasons some people think that it is unlikely that the hunters will be able to find and shoot 3,000 wolves during the next three months.

Not everyone is happy about the wolf hunt. Some people think that humans have caused the problem. Local hunters, they claim, have been

NEWSCAST

RUNAWAY TRAIN — A woman in Stockholm, the capital of Sweden, was badly injured on January 15. At first the police thought that she had stolen a train. After traveling for one mile (1.6 kilometers) the train came off the tracks and crashed into a three-story building. Later it was discovered that the woman was a cleaner who worked for the train company. While she was cleaning the place where the driver sits she must have touched one of the controls. The train then started moving faster and faster. The woman was unable to stop or slow the train down. Three families were in the building at the time of the accident but nobody was hurt. The woman is expected to recover from her injuries.

killing too many of the hares that the wolves usually feed on. This, they say, is why wolves have been moving out of remote areas and are now preying on domesticated reindeer. ■

AFGHANISTAN HANDOVER

The president of the U.S., Barack Obama, and Hamid Karzai, the president of Afghanistan, made a joint announcement on January 11. Afghan soldiers, they said, would replace all the troops from the U.S. and several other European countries that are currently fighting against the Taliban in Afghanistan. This handover is expected to happen within the next few months.



Presidents Obama and Karzai at the White House

Mr. Karzai had been visiting Washington DC, the capital of the U.S., for three days. During this time he had meetings with American military leaders and Mr. Obama. Their joint announcement was made at the White House, the home of the American president.

The handover means that American and foreign troops will soon take no further part in any combat, or actual fighting against the Taliban. Instead these troops will support the Afghan military forces that do. This support includes providing military equipment, weapons and training.

For several years, the U.S. has said that it planned to withdraw nearly all of its troops from

Afghanistan by the end of 2014. Other European countries, which have military forces in Afghanistan, such as Britain, have said that their troops would leave the country before this date. However, the handover announcement by Mr. Obama and Mr. Karzai means that all foreign troops in Afghanistan might now be withdrawn earlier than planned.

The war in Afghanistan has been going on for 11 years. It began when the U.S. led an invasion of the country in 2001. This was shortly after a militant group, called al-Qaeda, had attacked the U.S. Then al-Qaeda had its training camps in Afghanistan. At the time the Taliban ruled the country under very strict Islamic laws. The U.S. demanded that it hand over the al-Qaeda leaders who were in Afghanistan. When the Taliban refused the U.S. invaded.

However, the Taliban was not defeated. Many of its fighters withdrew to southern mountainous areas close to the border with Pakistan. The fight against the Taliban and al-Qaeda has continued. Since 2001 other countries have also sent troops to Afghanistan. Most have been from NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) member countries.

A few years after the invasion, the U.S. helped to organize elections and Mr. Karzai became president. Since then he has won another election. Yet Mr. Karzai says that he plans to stand down when the next presidential election takes place in 2014.

While American and NATO forces have been in Afghanistan they have helped to train a new Afghan army and police force. Over the last year American and NATO troops have been handing over the control of some parts of Afghanistan to the Afghan security forces. Yet, so far, this has not happened in the south of the

country where the fighting has been fiercest. In these places some Afghan troops have been working alongside American and NATO forces.

Some people suspect that the Taliban are waiting for the American and NATO forces to leave. Once this happens it will take over the country again. These people think that the Afghan army is unlikely to be able to stop this from happening. They say that the only way to end the war is to arrange peace talks with the Taliban leaders.

In their joint announcement Mr. Obama and Mr. Karzai also said that they had agreed for a Taliban office to be set up in Doha, the capital of Qatar. This was so peace talks, outside Afghanistan, could now be held with Taliban leaders. ■

DENGUE FEVER OUTBREAK

Health officials in Brazil are concerned about the recent increase in the numbers of people suffering from dengue fever. Since the beginning of January there has been an outbreak of the disease in two of the country's cities, Campo Grande and Vitoria.

Dengue fever is a disease that is caused by a virus. It is spread by *Aedes* mosquitoes, which feed off human blood. If one of these insects bites a person who already has the virus in his or her blood the mosquito also becomes infected. If this mosquito then bites another person the virus can be passed on. The virus does not seem to harm the mosquitoes that carry it.

People who suffer from dengue fever can become very ill. **Symptoms** include headaches, sickness, pain in the muscles and joints, and feeling both very hot and very cold. People who get the disease also develop a skin rash that looks similar

to measles. After a few weeks most people get better. Yet in some cases dengue fever can be **fatal**. It's thought that the virus cannot be passed from one person to another.

There is no cure or vaccination for the disease. However, certain medical treatments can help people recover if they are found to have the dengue virus soon after being bitten by an infected mosquito.

The mosquitoes that transmit dengue fever are mainly found in urban areas, or places where many people live. To reproduce and thrive the mosquitoes need stagnant water, in which they lay their eggs, as well as warm night temperatures.

As there is no cure for dengue fever one of the best ways of stopping people getting the disease is to reduce the number of mosquitoes.

In Campo Grande officials say that about 700 people a day have been getting treatment for the disease since the start of the year. The officials think that recent heavy rains have increased the places where the mosquitoes can lay their eggs.

To reduce the number of mosquitoes people have been asked to tip the water out of containers and put covers on outside water tanks. Since January 21, extra workers have been walking through the city's streets. Their job is to get rid of any puddles and other areas of still water where the mosquitoes can breed.



Aedes mosquito

In the city of Vitoria around 1,500 people are reported to have the disease. Campo Grande is not far from Brazil's border with Paraguay. Recently, government officials from Paraguay have announced that around 8,000 people are suffering from dengue fever. There, both the police and army have been ordered to help to clear, or drain, any areas of stagnant water. ■

KUMBH MELA

India's Kumbh Mela festival began on January 14. This Hindu festival lasts for over one month. It is often described as the biggest religious gathering in the world. By the time the festival ends more than 80 million people are expected to have attended it.

The Kumbh Mela takes place every 12 years in the holy city of Allahabad. Smaller but similar festivals are held every three years at one of three other cities in India, Nasik, Ujjain and Haridwar. This year's festival is known as the Maha Kumbh. It is especially important as it only occurs

once every 144 years. The Maha Kumbh is always held at Allahabad.

Hindus believe that the Ganges in a **sacred** river. The festival is held where the Yamuna River meets the Ganges River. This place is called the Triveni Sangam, or the Sangam. Hindus say that a third mythical, or invisible, river also joins the other two at the Sangam. Called the Sarasvati they believe that it comes up from below ground.

In Hindu mythology there is a story about the gods fighting with each other over a special drink. Those who drank this liquid would be immortal, or live forever. During the fight four drops of the liquid fell to the Earth. In the story these drops landed on the four places where Kumbh Melas are now held.

Those attending the festival take a bath in the river water at the Sangam. **Devout** Hindus believe that by taking a bath at this place all of a person's sins will be washed away. This then frees them from the cycle of rebirth and clears the way to heaven. It is also believed that the gods, disguised in human form, go to the Sangam at this time to wash away their sins.

The dates of the festival depend on the positions of the planet Jupiter, the Earth and the Sun. It starts in the early morning when the sadhus, or holy men, run into the river. The men are covered in ash and wear colorful garlands. As they wade into the river they recite religious chants. Later other people come to the river to bathe. After the first day the police estimated that as many as seven million people had washed themselves in the river.

There are six days during the festival on which it is thought to be the best to bathe. The most popular is likely to be February 10. On this day

NEWSCAST

SMELL IN THE AIR — On January 22, people living in the southeast of Britain noticed that there was an unpleasant smell in the air. Many said that it smelt like rotten eggs. Later it was discovered that the bad smell had been blown across the English Channel. It came from a gas leak at a chemical factory near the city of Rouen, in northern France. Later people in London, the capital of Britain, and Paris, the capital of France, complained that the smell had reached their cities. French officials explained that the smell was mercaptan gas, which is both colorless and non-toxic.

around 35 million people are expected to wash themselves at the Sangam.



Kumbh Mela

Officials in the city of Allahabad spend many months preparing for the festival. Thousands of tents are put up on the sands along the sides of the rivers. Temporary bridges are built. A hospital is also set up with hundreds of doctors to treat anyone if they become sick. Large amounts of food, water and firewood for cooking, are brought to the area. Around 30,000 police officers help to control the huge crowds.

Because of its religious importance the ashes of some of India’s national leaders have been scattered in the Ganges River at the Triveni Sangam. One example is Mahatma Gandhi (1869 – 1948). He was both a political and spiritual leader. Gandhi led protests to end discrimination against poor people and women. He is best known for his work in helping India become an independent country. Before independence in 1947 what became India and Pakistan was a British colony. ■

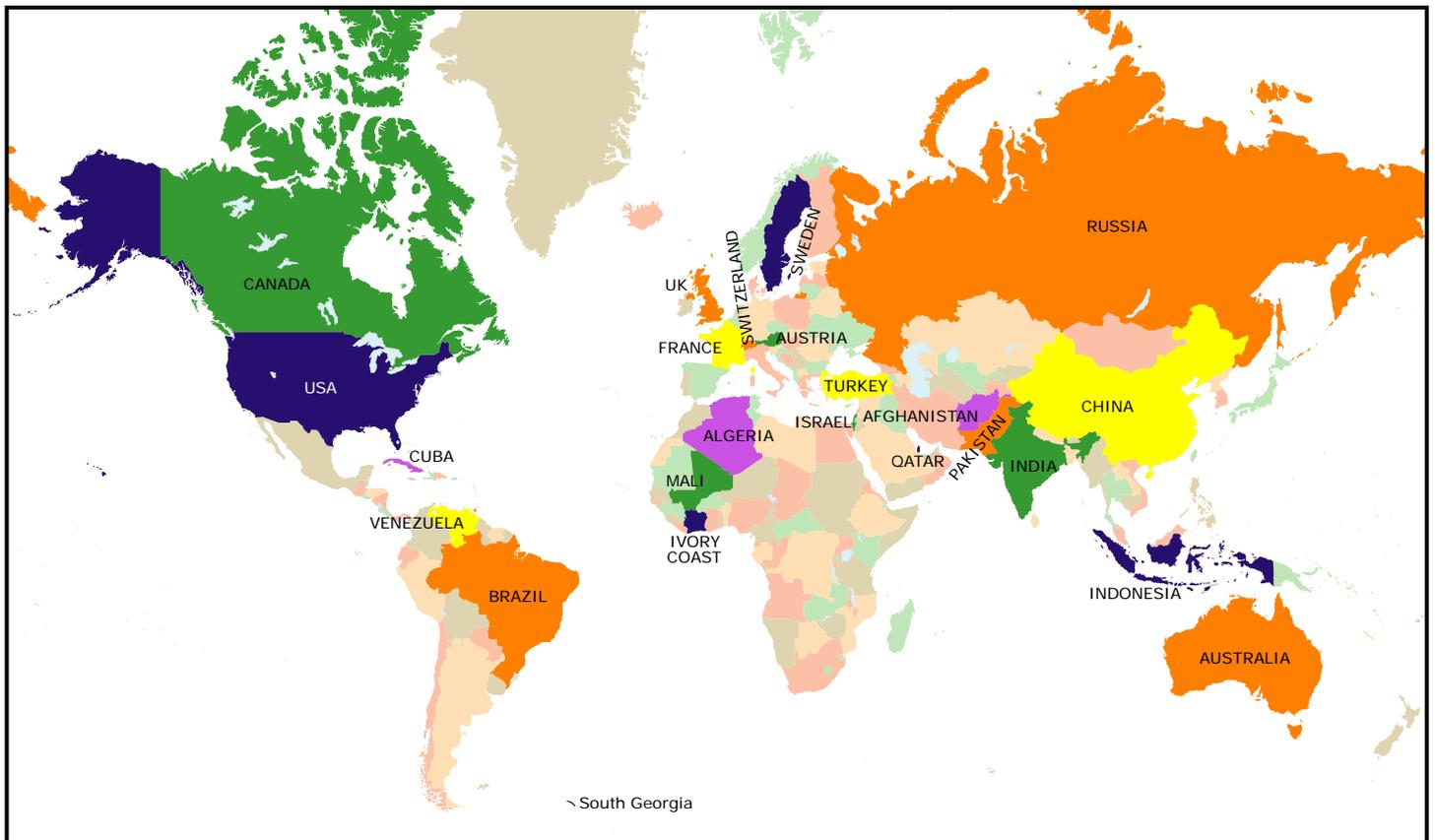
DREAMLINER GROUNDED

On January 18, the Boeing Company announced that it would halt all deliveries of its new Dreamliner passenger aircraft. Company officials said that until they had found out what had caused a few of the

aircraft’s batteries to overheat no more planes would be delivered.

Currently, airline companies based in Japan, India, Qatar, Poland, Ethiopia, Chile, and the U.S. use Dreamliners. Boeing’s announcement came the day after air transport officials in these countries ordered all the planes to be grounded. This means that they have to stop flying. The reason for the order was that batteries had overheated on two Dreamliner planes used by Japanese airline companies.

Earlier this month, a Japan Airlines (JAL) Dreamliner plane had a problem when one of its batteries caught fire after landing in Boston, in the U.S. Then, on January 16, an All Nippon Airways (ANA) passenger plane made an emergency landing in Japan. All the passengers were quickly evacuated from the aircraft. A battery warning light had



come on and one of the pilots could smell smoke in the [cockpit](#).

Boeing is an American company. It and an organization called Airbus are the only companies in the world that make large passenger planes. A group, or [consortium](#), of governments and companies in Europe, own the Airbus Company.

Boeing first started work on its Dreamliner plane around 13 years ago. There have been many problems and delays. The first Dreamliner passenger flight was between Tokyo, the capital of Japan, and the Chinese city of Hong Kong, in October 2011.



Dreamliner

Even though it looks like a normal passenger aircraft the Dreamliner is very different. Its wings and much of its body are made from a super-strong material called carbon-reinforced composite.

The strength of the material means that the Dreamliner's windows can be much bigger than on other planes. The passengers can also control the window's tint, or darkness, rather than using a pushdown blind. The plane's toilets are even designed to flush much more quietly than those on other passenger aircraft.

The lights inside the plane can dim or become brighter to match the daylight and night time of the place to which the plane is flying.

The engine noise is quieter and the pressure inside the plane is higher than other passenger aircraft. The Boeing Company claims that these

things help to reduce the tiredness, known as jet lag, many people feel after being on a long flight.

Some people have nicknamed the Dreamliner "the plastic plane" because of the carbon-reinforced composite body. The bodies and wings of most current aircraft are made from aluminium, a light metal. Yet the carbon-reinforced composite is lighter than aluminium. This means that the plane uses about 20% less fuel than other planes of the same size. Boeing therefore claims that the Dreamliner is less damaging to the environment and cheaper to run.

Boeing has sold and delivered 50 Dreamliners. ANA has 17, which is more than any other airline company. United Airlines of the U.S. and JAL have six each and Air India five. However, many other airline companies like the plane and, so far, almost 850 have been ordered from Boeing.

Boeing says that it hopes to solve the battery problem soon. However, if it takes a long time it is likely to cost the company a lot of money. Several years ago something similar happened to Airbus's new A380, which is the world's largest passenger aircraft. For a time all of these planes were grounded after cracks were found in the wings of one of them. ■

WORLD'S BIGGEST TECHNOLOGY SHOW

At the beginning of each year, many electronics companies from around the world attend the International [Consumer](#) Electronics Show (CES). The show is held in the city of Las Vegas, in the U.S.

Consumer electronics companies use the CES to introduce and display their new designs and products. The

2013 show took place from January 8 to 11.

The CES was first held in 1967. In the past some of the world's most famous and best-selling electronic items, often called gadgets, were first introduced at the CES. These include cell phones, DVDs (Digital Video Discs) and HDTV (High Definition Television).

Some items that were first displayed at the show became very popular, but have now been replaced by newer gadgets. Some examples are the video cassette recorder, which first appeared at the show in 1970, and the compact disc player in 1981.

Around 17,000 people attended the first CES, 45 years ago, and 200 companies displayed their new products. This year there were 150,000 visitors and over 3,000 companies.

Many of the larger companies that make televisions, computers, cell phones, and cameras were there to show off their new designs and inventions. This year a number of well-known car making companies also took part. They used the event to demonstrate electronic items and computers that they plan to include in their cars in future. Some electric cars were also on display.



However, several of the world's most successful technology companies no longer go to the CES. Nowadays companies such as Apple, Microsoft, Amazon, and Google arrange their own product launches. Most people think that these

companies believe that they can get more attention by announcing their new products and devices in this way.

Many of the technology companies at the show were from Asia. These included Huawei and ZTE from China. Samsung and LG, from South Korea, and Panasonic and Sony from Japan. Several companies introduced new types of televisions. These are known as Ultra High Definition (UHDTV). Pictures on these televisions are supposed to be even sharper than those of normal HDTVs.

Some companies demonstrated televisions that do not need a remote control to change channels. Instead the television will respond to a person's voice or hand movement. So all you need to do is tell the television what channel you wish to watch.

This year, Sony used the CES to launch its new smartphone. Called Xperia Z it is waterproof for up to 30 minutes. This, the company say, means that you can use it in the show-

NEWSCAST

LONG WRONG TURN — An elderly woman in Belgium set off to meet a friend at a station in Brussels, the capital city. She used her car's sat-nav but took a wrong turn. Not noticing her error the woman kept driving. She drove through France, Germany, Austria and Slovenia. When, 60 hours later, the woman reached the city of Zagreb, the capital of Croatia, she finally realized she had gone to far. She telephoned her son, who had contacted the police to report that she was missing. On the way she had stopped several times to get gasoline and to go to sleep. The woman claims that she did not think that anything was wrong until she got to Zagreb.

er or the bath. The Xperia Z is the first new cell phone Sony has launched for a long time. Even though many people said that they liked the phone most believe that it will be difficult for the Japanese company to compete with the smartphones made by Apple and Samsung.

There are often some unusual gadgets displayed at the CES. This year, one was a fork, which is supposed to stop people eating too much or too quickly. The fork **vibrates** if you put it in your mouth too often. Another was a child's plastic potty. It has been designed with a special stand. This means that a young child can watch a video or play games on an iPad while sitting on the potty. ■

CONSCRIPTION IN AUSTRIA

On January 20, a referendum, or vote in which all adults can take part, was held in Austria. This was the first nationwide referendum to be held in the country. People were asked if they wanted to keep Austria's military conscription. Around 60% voted "yes".

Conscription, also known as national service or "the draft", is a period of **compulsory** service in the military. In some countries it applies to all young, medically fit men and women, and in others only men are conscripted. They are known as conscripts, national servicemen and women, or draftees.

Countries that still have conscription include Russia, China, Turkey, Norway, Israel, and South Korea. However, since the break up of the Russian-led Soviet Union in 1991 several European countries have decided to end military conscription. In France it stopped in 2001 and Germany ended conscription in 2011.

In Austria, young men serve in the army for six months when they are 18. Later they have to do a few weeks military training every 12 months for a certain number of years. Austria has an army of 45,000 soldiers. Of these about half are conscripts.



Austrian soldiers

Young men who do not want to be in the army can do an alternative type of non-military service instead. This may include looking after sick and elderly people and helping with emergency medical services. Those who choose non-military service have to do it for nine months.

Some people think that conscription is a good thing. They argue that it is an important part of education, especially of young men. It means that most men have some basic military training, which will be useful if their country ever gets involved in a war. Some conscripts may decide to stay in the military after their conscription period has ended. So it can also help to recruit full-time soldiers.

Others disagree with conscription. They believe that national service can **interrupt** young people's lives and that forcing them to do something they don't want to makes a conscripted army very inefficient. They also say that it is not a good idea for a country's economy to take young people out of higher education (or make them postpone it) for national service.

The armies of countries that don't have conscription are known

as “professional” or “all-volunteer”. Some military commanders dislike conscription, especially when it is for a short period. They claim that there is not enough time to train conscripts to do useful things before their service ends. These commanders also believe that it uses up money that could otherwise be spent on better military equipment.

Those that voted to end the draft in Austria said that a conscripted army was not much use in the modern world. A smaller professional army, they argued, would be much more effective.

Like Switzerland, Austria is a neutral country. This means that unless it was attacked, the country will never be involved in any wars.

People who voted to keep conscription said that they wanted Austria to remain neutral. They argued that if Austria had a professional army it might, like many other European countries, decide to join NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization). The rules of NATO mean that if one country is attacked the others may be asked to help. Therefore if Austria did join NATO it could no longer be a neutral country. ■

SOUTH GEORGIA’S RATS AND REINDEER

Operations to eradicate, or get rid of, reindeer and rats on South Georgia, a remote group of islands in the southern Atlantic Ocean, have just begun.

South Georgia does not have a native population. The islands are a British overseas territory, so they belong to Britain. Today only a few scientists and a British government official stay on the islands.

However, in the past the government of Britain gave permission for

several whaling stations to be set up on South Georgia. The first one opened just over 100 years ago. People from Norway ran most of these whaling stations. Whales that had been caught in the South Atlantic Ocean were brought to South Georgia. There they were cut up and processed in factories. The last of these whaling stations closed down in the 1960s.



Reindeer and penguins on South Georgia

Many different types of seabirds make their nests on the islands. These include petrels, skuas and terns. South Georgia also has a large colony, or group, of king penguins. Other local birds such as the pipit and pintail make their nests on the ground. Many seals use South Georgia as a place to give birth to their young.

When animals or plants are introduced to a place, but are not native to it, and their numbers keep increasing, they are often called an invasive species. This is what has happened with reindeer and rats on South Georgia.

Rats first appeared on the islands about 200 years ago. They arrived on the ships of seal hunters. In the early 1900s some Norwegians, who worked at one of the whaling stations, brought ten live reindeer to South Georgia. The idea was that their numbers would increase and reindeer would become a useful source of fresh meat.

Today, there are about 3,000 reindeer on South Georgia. They eat and **trample** over the local plants. This is

causing some of the ground to erode, or wash away. The reindeer are also a threat to the king penguins and local birds because they destroy their nests. The rats are a problem as they eat many birds’ eggs and young chicks.

A 16 man team has recently arrived on South Georgia to cull, or kill, all the reindeer. Most of them are Sami reindeer herders from Norway. The Sami are **indigenous** people who came from northern Scandinavia. They have been asked to do the job because of their knowledge of reindeer. They have started to set up corrals, or fenced in areas. The reindeer will eventually be herded into these corrals and then shot. The cull of South Georgia’s reindeer is expected to take two summers.

Killing all the rats will be much more difficult. Scientists plan to put rat poison **pellets** over an area of 220 square miles (580 square kilometers). A successful trial using this type of poison was done on a small part of the island in 2011.

Once all the reindeer have gone and the number of rats reduced scientists expect to see a big increase in the bird populations on South Georgia. ■

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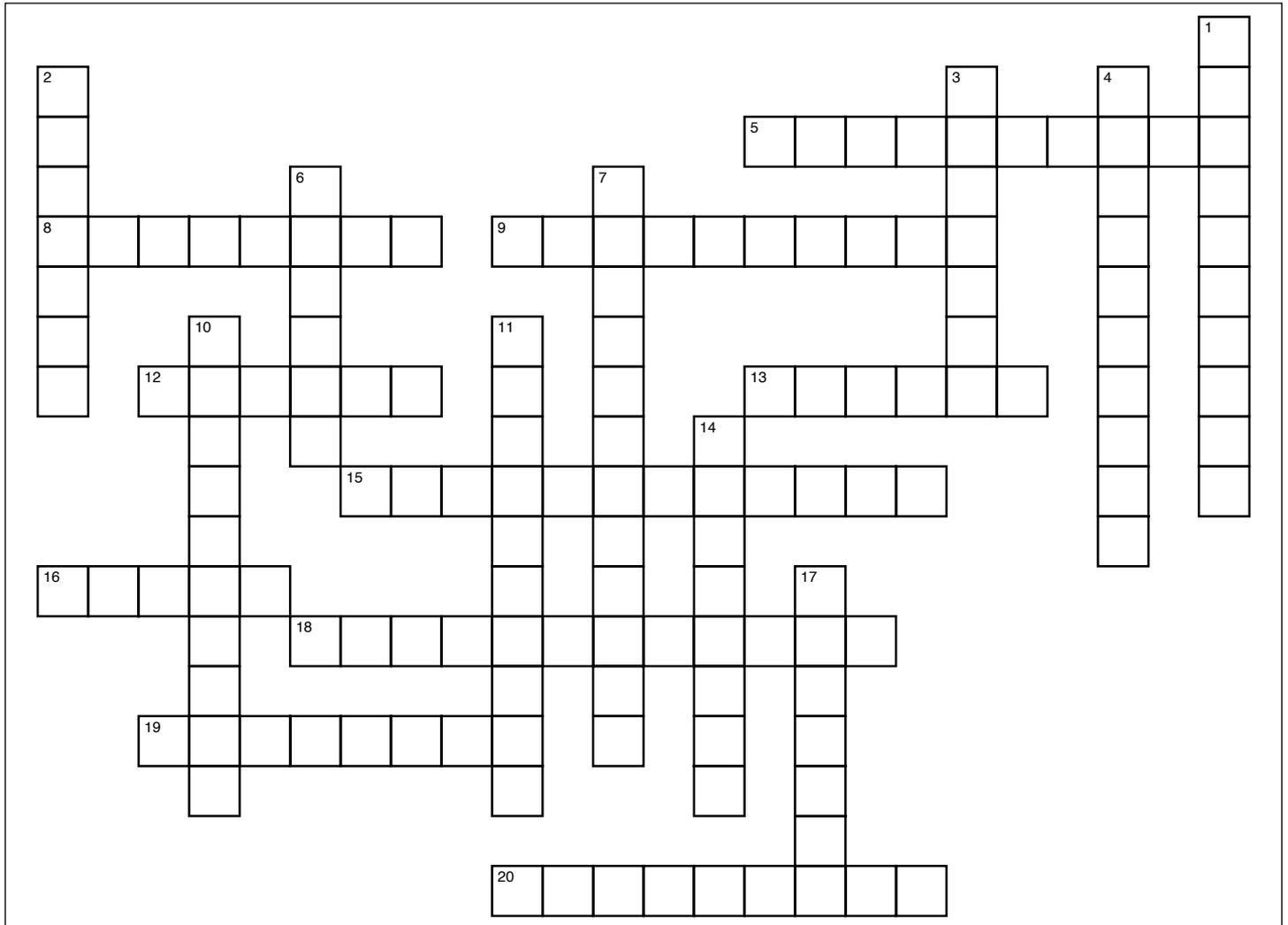
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ISSUE 189

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

- 5 *Verb* Intentionally became involved in a difficult situation to stop it from getting worse
- 8 *Noun* The right of a person, group or region to act without consulting another person or official body
- 9 *Noun* A group of organizations that work on a project together
- 12 *Adjective* Very religious
- 13 *Adjective* Describes something holy or religious
- 15 *Adjective* In balance according to size or number
- 16 *Adjective* Causing death
- 18 *Adjective* Describes animals or plants that have been brought under human control for transport, food, power or companionship
- 19 *Noun* A person who buys goods or services for his or her own use
- 20 *Noun (Plural)* People who campaign to bring about political or social change

Down

- 1 *Noun* Opinions that are reasonable and not extreme
- 2 *Adjective* Describes people who live by moving from place to place rather than having a fixed place to live
- 3 *Verb* To walk on something and flatten it
- 4 *Adjective* Originating in or native to a particular country
- 6 *Noun* A group of vehicles or ships traveling together
- 7 *Noun* An official ceremony to mark the beginning of a new period
- 10 *Noun* A group of people specially selected to attend a meeting or make speeches
- 11 *Adjective* Describes something that must be done; there's no choice
- 14 *Verb* Shakes very quickly to and fro
- 17 *Noun (Plural)* Small balls or pieces of material that have been pressed tightly together

ISSUE 189

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.

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

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MISSING WORD ANSWER = _____

ISSUE 188 ANSWERS

S T A M P E D E