

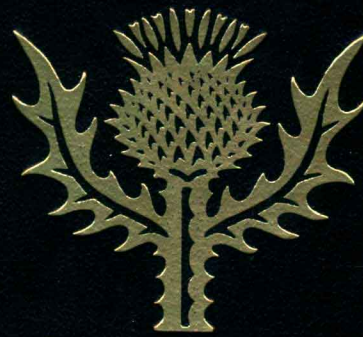


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BRITANNICA
Book
of the Year



Events of
2011



ENCYCLOPÆDIA
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2012
BOOK OF THE YEAR®



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Foreword

The year 2011 could best be characterized as one of constant unrest and enormous upheaval. Revolution spread through the Middle East and North Africa, giving rise to the Arab Spring, which in the course of the year led to the downfall of three powerful heads of state. In Japan a massive earthquake followed by a devastating tsunami claimed some 19,000 lives. Fracking, the process used to extract natural gas from shale, came under scrutiny as critics worried about land and water contamination. The economy failed to rebound, and countries in the euro zone faced ongoing financial crises. Sports-related brain injuries became a hot topic following the deaths, some of them suicides, of former NFL and NHL players who had suffered repeatedly from concussions. In Germany, an *E. coli* outbreak, the source of which took some time to detect, raised a panic there and in places where the disease surfaced. Meanwhile, the discovery of dinosaur skeletons in Antarctica invigorated paleontological research. The 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War was marked, as was the first International Yarn Bombing Day, a salute and showcase for knitters and crocheters worldwide. While the U.S. released the results of its 10-year census, the world's seven billionth birth was recorded. All of these topics are featured in Special Reports.

Some relatively new gadgets and trends took flight during the year. E-readers and tablets became a huge hit, and for-profit colleges expanded their online business, but, unfortunately, the incidence of bedbug infestation skyrocketed. In a year of beginning and endings, South Sudan became the world's newest independent country, the U.S. space shuttle program ended its 30-year mission, and the *News of the World* newspaper, published in the U.K. since 1843, was silenced following confirmation that its editors had been involved in a phone-hacking scandal. India rejoiced after winning the Cricket World Cup, and the New Zealand All Blacks celebrated their victory at the Rugby Union World Cup. On a more somber note, the deaths in 2011 of the last American veteran and the final combat soldier in World War I were marked. These stories are covered in Sidebars.

Royal weddings were top news in 2011, and Catherine Middleton (the future duchess of Cambridge) captivated a worldwide audience upon her marriage to Prince William of Wales. Charlene Wittstock (the future princess of Monaco) made her vows to Prince Albert II a few months later. In the entertainment arena, pop singers Katy Perry and Rihanna took the stage by storm, *Game of Thrones* creator George R.R. Martin saw his novels turned into a television series, *Mad Men* creator-writer Matthew Weiner saw his drama series win yet another Emmy Award, and British actor Colin Firth garnered an Academy Award for best actor for his performance as a stuttering king. On the gridiron, Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers led his team to a Super Bowl victory, and on the baseball diamond Tony La Russa helped the St. Louis Cardinals clinch the World Series. All of these people are profiled in biographies.

Some of the most-talked-about deaths included those of militant Osama bin Laden, Libyan strongman Muammar al-Qaddafi, and North Korean leader Kim Jong Il. The accolades never seemed to stop following the passing of former first lady Betty Ford and of Apple Computer founder Steve Jobs. Hollywood lost glamour queens Elizabeth Taylor and Jane Russell as well as such beloved TV character actors as James Arness (Marshall Matt Dillon of *Gunsmoke*) and Peter Falk (Lieutenant Colombo). Readers of the funny pages mourned the deaths of Ronald Searle (St. Trinian's girls), Joe Simon (Captain America), and Jerry Robinson (the Joker and Robin, the Boy Wonder). Sports fans lost such heroes as boxer "Smokin' Joe" Frazier, golfer Seve Ballesteros, and cricketer Basil D'Oliveira. These personalities appear in obituaries.

Many more stories, personal profiles, and factoids can be found in the 2012 *Britannica Book of the Year*. In addition, there is a new country article—South Sudan—which appears in the World Affairs section. My hope is that you will continue to explore and discover the wealth of information contained between the covers of this volume.

Karen Sparks
Director and Editor

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WORLD DATA

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Protesters in Tunis, the capital of Tunisia, on January 14 demand greater political freedom and the resignation of Pres. Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali, who subsequently fled the country into exile. Civil unrest dominated the agendas of many countries during the year.

Christophe Ena/AP



Dates of 2011



(Top) David Freese (right) of the St. Louis Cardinals is greeted by jubilant teammates as he races to the plate after having hit his game-winning home run in the 11th inning of game six of the World Series. (Bottom left) A man in Cairo in June brandishes posters showing his own face on magazine covers as he celebrates the overthrow of Egyptian Pres. Hosni Mubarak in February.

(Top) Jeff Roberson/AP; (bottom left) Amr Nabil/AP



(Bottom right) During a nationwide strike in Chile in August, tense confrontations took place such as this face-off between a police officer and a youth.

(Bottom right) Roberto Candia/AP; (background) © a_korn/Fotolia



(Top left) In November residents of Bangkok slog through a flooded section of highway. Heavy monsoons that started in July left much of Thailand submerged for months. (Middle left) After Occupy Wall Street demonstrations began in New York City's famed financial district in September, other protesters joined the cause, including these in Albany, N.Y., in October. (Bottom left) Tear gas dispersed by Greek police billows around a well-prepared protester during an antigovernment riot in Athens in June.

(Top left) Sakchai Lalit/AP; (middle left) Hans Pennink/AP; (bottom left) Petros Giannakouris/AP

(Top right) A young man in the newly independent country of South Sudan displays the new national flag as he prepares for the official celebration in the capital, Juba, on July 9. (Middle right) King Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuk of Bhutan presents his new queen, Jetsun Pema, after their sumptuous wedding on October 13. (Bottom right) In famine-stricken southern Somalia, children line up in August to receive hot food distributed by the World Food Programme.

(Top right) David Azia/AP; (middle right) Adrees Latif—Reuters/Landov; (bottom right) Farah Abdi Warsameh/AP

January

“What happened here is going to affect the whole Arab world.”

Zied Mhirsi, a demonstrator in Tunis, Tun., after the fall of Pres. Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali, January 14

1 As churchgoers leave a New Year's service a half hour after midnight at a Coptic Christian church in Alexandria, Egypt, a bomb explodes and kills at least 21 people; Christians riot in response.

The Estonian kroon is replaced by the euro as Estonia becomes the 17th member of the euro zone.

Dilma Rousseff is sworn in as the first female president of Brazil.

The U.S. dollar becomes the official currency in the Dutch special municipalities of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius, and Saba.

2 The Muttahida Qaumi Movement leaves the ruling coalition in Pakistan; it is the second largest component of the coalition and leaves the government without a parliamentary majority.

A 7.1-magnitude earthquake rattles southern Chile, causing some 50,000 people to evacuate, but there are no reports of casualties or damage.

3 Christian protests stemming from the New Year's bombing at a Coptic Christian church in Alexandria take place in Cairo, where rioting also occurs; the protests take on an antigovernment tone.

A second attempt by African heads of state to persuade Laurent Gbagbo, who lost the 2010 presidential election in Côte d'Ivoire, to step down fails; Gbagbo maintains that his presidency is legitimate.

4 In Islamabad, Pak., Salman Taseer, the secularist governor of Punjab, is assassinated by a member of his guard; Taseer had led a fight to repeal the country's draconian laws against blasphemy.

5 The UN Food and Agriculture Organization publishes a report saying that its world food price index went up 32% between June and December 2010, reaching a record high; the prices measured in the report are those of commodities in the export market.

The powerful Shi'ite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr returns to Iraq after three years of self-imposed exile in Iran; his followers greet him in Al-Najaf with jubilation.

In Islamabad, Pak., hundreds of people turn out in support of Malik Mumtaz Hussain Qadri, the guard member who killed Gov. Salman Taseer of Punjab for his opposition to blasphemy laws, while thousands attend Taseer's funeral.

6 Rioting over rising food prices and high unemployment spills from Algiers, the capital of Algeria, to outlying areas.

U.S. military officials declare that some 1,000 U.S. Marines will be deployed to Afghanistan, most of them to Helmand province, to attempt to consolidate gains.

7 After the government of Pakistani Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani backs down from several planned economic reforms, the Muttahida Qaumi Movement agrees to rejoin the government.

Government officials in Germany shut down sales from thousands of small farms and pull millions of eggs from sale after having found feed for chickens and pigs that contained dioxin, a cancer-causing chemical.

The U.S. Department of Labor reports that the unemployment rate in December 2010 fell from 9.8% to 9.4% and that the economy added 103,000 jobs.

The First Commercial Bank of Florida, based in Orlando, becomes the first U.S. bank failure in 2011 when it is seized by regulators; 157 banks failed in 2010.

8 At a "Congress on Your Corner" event outside a supermarket in Tucson, Ariz., a deranged gunman approaches U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords and shoots her in the head, gravely wounding her, and then opens fire on the crowd, shooting 18 other people attending the event before he is stopped by bystanders and taken into custody; six people, including a federal judge and a nine-year-old girl, are killed.

The bodies of 15 young men who were decapitated are found outside a shopping centre in Acapulco, Mex., and four bullet-riddled bodies are found in residential areas.

9 Officials in Tunisia say that protests over unemployment the previous two days left some 14 people dead; leaders of the demonstrations, which began in December 2010 after a produce vendor set himself on fire to protest the police's seizure of his cart, say the death toll is closer to 20.

A weeklong referendum on independence gets under way in southern Sudan; jubilant voters throng the polling places.

10 The Basque militant separatist group ETA declares a permanent ceasefire; it does not, however, offer to disarm.

North Korea proposes talks on economic ties to South Korea, which counters with an offer for discussions on North Korea's shelling in November 2010 of the island of Yonp'yong (Yeonpyeong) and its March 2010 sinking of the South Korean warship *Cheonan*.

Auburn University defeats the University of Oregon 22–19 in college football's Bowl Championship Series title game to win the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision championship.

In the field of children's literature, the Newbery Medal is awarded to Clare Vanderpool for her novel *Moon over Manifest*, and Erin E. Stead wins the Caldecott Medal for her illustrations for *A Sick Day for Amos McGee* by Philip C. Stead.

11 The 123 Agreement between Russia and the U.S. on cooperation on civilian nuclear power goes into effect.

The telecommunications carrier Verizon announces that beginning in February the iPhone smartphone, which heretofore has been available exclusively with the AT&T network, will also be sold by Verizon.

The Journal of Archaeological Science publishes online a report on the finding in an Armenian cave of a complex winemaking operation that produced red wine some 6,100 years ago; it is the earliest winemaking facility to have been discovered.

In St. Petersburg, Fla., the new home of the Dalí Museum opens with fanfare to critical praise. (Photo below.)

12 Massive demonstrations take place in Tunis as well as other cities in Tunisia in spite of efforts by government forces to shut the protests down and the replacement of the minister of the interior; demonstra-

tors call for the resignation of the president.

Hezbollah and its allied parties resign from Lebanon's cabinet, causing the fall of the national unity government.

River waters in Queensland continue to rise, and authorities in Australia urge residents of parts of Brisbane to evacuate as even a reservoir built to protect the city from flooding overflows; floodwaters inundate some 30,000 homes and businesses.

Torrential rainfall sets off flash flooding and landslides in Brazil's Serrana region, killing at least 842 people; the towns of Teresópolis and Nova Friburgo are particularly hard hit by the disaster.

The U.S. National Climatic Data Center reports that the average global temperature in 2010 was 0.62 °C (1.12 °F) above the historical average, making 2010 a tie with 2005 for the warmest year since record keeping began in 1880; 2010 was also the wettest year on record.

13 Tunisian Pres. Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali, in a tele-

vised address to the country, offers concessions to the protesters and promises not to run for reelection in 2014; protests, now against corruption, continue to grow.

The Organization of American States presents to Haitian Pres. René Préval a report by international experts that says that there was widespread fraud in the vote counting after the November 2010 presidential election and that the true second-place candidate who should advance to a runoff is Michel Martelly rather than Jude Célestin.

The Bank of Korea, South Korea's central bank, raises interest rates a quarter point, surprising economists.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency revokes the permit granted to Arch Coal for a proposed coal mine that would have removed mountain tops in a 922-ha (2,278-ac) area in West Virginia to access the coal within the mountains and would have placed the resulting debris into valleys and rivers.

14 Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali abandons the presidency of



Christian Heeb—Laif/Redux

Tunisia and flees the country in the face of relentlessly swelling protests; Prime Minister Mohamed Ghannouchi declares that he is now interim president.

Prosecutors in Milan announce that they are investigating Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi in connection with a prostitution case.

A referendum to extend the term of office of Pres. Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan until 2020, bypassing elections scheduled for 2012 and 2017, is approved by the country's legislature; on January 31 the country's Constitutional Court rules the move unconstitutional.

The British-based energy company BP announces a partnership with the Russian company Rosneft to conduct oil exploration in the Russian Arctic.

15 As violent antigovernment demonstrations continue in Tunisia, Prime Minister Mohamed Ghannouchi, who the previous day declared himself interim president, relinquishes power to Fouad Mebazaa, the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies; the constitution mandates that the speaker succeed the president in case of emergency.

The Dakar Rally concludes in Buenos Aires; the winners are Qatari driver Nasser al-Attiyah in a Volkswagen automobile, Spanish driver Marc Coma on a KTM motorcycle, Russian driver Vladimir Chagin in a Kamaz truck, and Argentine driver Alejandro Patronelli in a Yamaha ATV.

16 Jean-Claude ("Baby Doc") Duvalier, who was dictator of Haiti from

1971 until he fled to exile in France in 1986, returns to Haiti; his motives are unclear.

At the Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif., best picture honours go to *The Social Network* and *The Kids Are All Right*; best director goes to David Fincher for *The Social Network*.

17 Pres. Michel Suleiman of Lebanon postpones planned negotiations on the formation of a new government.

Steven P. Jobs, CEO of the technology company Apple Inc., takes a medical leave of absence from the company but retains his title.

At Thoroughbred horse racing's 2010 Eclipse Awards, the nearly undefeated mare Zenyatta (19-1) is named Horse of the Year.

18 A suicide bomber detonates his explosives outside a police recruiting centre in Tikrit, Iraq, killing at least 49 people.

In Haiti former dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier is taken into custody and escorted to a courtroom, where prosecutors lodge charges of corruption and embezzlement against him before releasing him; he is cautioned to remain in Haiti.

Pres. Hu Jintao of China arrives in Washington, D.C., for a state visit.

The Piracy Reporting Center of the International Maritime Bureau reports that pirates attacked 445 ships in 2010 and took close to 1,200 people hostage, 8 of whom were killed; it is the fourth consecutive year of increased piracy.

19 In what appears to be part of a power struggle between Afghan Pres. Hamid Karzai and the Independent Election Commission and Electoral Complaints Commission, Karzai orders that the seating of the new legislature be delayed by a month.

A roadside bomb kills 13 people in a motorized rickshaw in Afghanistan's Paktika province.

20 In the face of an open revolt by members of his Fianna Fail party, Irish Prime Minister Brian Cowen calls for early elections to be held on March 11.

Three car bombs explode along the road to Karbala', Iraq, as thousands of Shi'ite pilgrims head to the city for a religious observance; at least 52 people are killed.

China's National Bureau of Statistics reports that the country's economy grew at a blistering 9.8% rate in the final quarter of 2010.

21 Some 20,000 people march in Tirana, the capital of Albania, to demand the resignation of the government; three individuals are killed in clashes with government forces.

Protest marches take place in several cities in Jordan, where demonstrators demand the right to elect the prime minister and object to the country's poverty.

Protesters return to the streets in Tunisia to demand the dissolution of the government, which is still dominated by the ousted president's ruling party.

Andy Coulson, communications director for British Prime Minister David

Cameron, resigns because of growing questions about his involvement in the hacking of telephone messages of the royal family and various celebrities by the tabloid newspaper *News of the World* when Coulson was its editor.

Keith Olbermann, the most popular host on the cable television network MSNBC, suddenly announces his departure as host of *Countdown*, ending his association with MSNBC.

22 A specially created government committee formally takes command over the militia of the former Maoist insurgency in Nepal; the question of the integration of the Maoist forces into the Nepali armed forces has been a sticking point in the country's attempted transition to democracy.

Under pressure, Afghan Pres. Hamid Karzai backs down from his plan to postpone the seating of the country's two-chamber National Assembly.

Sumo *yokozuna* Hakuho defeats *ozeki* Baruto to win his 18th (and 6th consecutive) Emperor's Cup at the New Year *basho* (grand tournament) in Tokyo.

23 Some 34,000 people march in Brussels to demand the formation of a new government; Belgium has been without a government since elections in June 2010.

The Green Party pulls out of the governing coalition in Ireland.

24 A powerful bomb explodes outside Moscow in the public waiting area of

the international arrivals hall of Domodedovo, Russia's largest airport; at least 36 people are killed.

Najib Miqati, the candidate put forward by Hezbollah, wins enough legislative support to become Lebanon's next prime minister; anti-Hezbollah rioting erupts in Beirut.

Gen. Rachid Ammar, head of the Tunisian army, for the first time addresses antigovernment protesters; he pledges the military's support for the revolution while urging the crowds to await the holding of new elections. (Photo right.)

Zoubeir Souissi—Reuters/Landov



25 Unexpectedly large demonstrations, apparently inspired by a Facebook page, swell in several cities in Egypt to demand the downfall of the country's government.

In his state of the union address, U.S. Pres. Barack Obama proposes areas for increased spending to bolster the country's international competitiveness and suggests areas for cost cutting to reduce the budget deficit.

Official figures released in the U.K. show that the British economy contracted by 0.5% in the final quarter of 2010.

26 Antigovernment protests continue in Egypt as government security forces unleash tear gas and truncheons in an effort to quell the uprising; hundreds are arrested.

The BBC World Service, citing slashing in its funding by the British government, announces that it must close five language services and reduce its workforce by a

quarter over the next three years.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rises above 12,000 for the first time since June 19, 2008, before falling again to close at 11,985.44.

27 A car bomb kills at least 48 people at an outdoor funeral service in a Shi'ite neighbourhood in Baghdad, and residents riot against police and security forces, angered at their failure to protect them.

Thousands of people march in Sanaa, Yemen, demanding reforms or the fall of the government.

A report published in *Science* magazine describes the finding at the Jebel Faya site in the United Arab Emirates of stone tools 127,000 years old that raise the suggestion that modern humans may have spread out from Africa earlier than the 50,000 years ago that is generally held to be the case.

28 The day after Ireland's legislature approved unpopular austerity measures, including a tax

increase, the government announces that the body will be dissolved on February 1.

Pres. Hosni Mubarak of Egypt orders a shutdown of Internet and cell phone communications and vows to enforce security as antigovernment protests continue to grow in size and vehemence, and demonstrators fight successfully against security forces.

The African Union reveals its plan to set up a panel of heads of state, led by Pres. Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz of Mauritania, to produce a resolution to the impasse that arose from the 2010 presidential election in Côte d'Ivoire.

The U.S. Department of Commerce reports that the country's GDP expanded at an annual rate of 3.2% in the final quarter of 2010, an improvement from the third quarter.

29 For the first time in his tenure, Egyptian Pres. Hosni Mubarak names a vice president—intelligence chief Omar Suleiman—and replaces Ahmad Nazif with Ahmed Shafiq as prime minister;

meanwhile, security forces clash with tens of thousands of protesters, but the military largely remains on the sidelines.

Belgian Kim Clijsters defeats Li Na of China to win the Australian Open women's tennis championship; the following day Novak Djokovic of Serbia defeats Briton Andy Murray to take the men's title.

Japan wins the Asian Cup in association football (soccer) for a record fourth time when it defeats Australia 1–0 in extra time in the final match in Doha, Qatar.

30 It is reported that losses at Kabul Bank owing to mismanagement and fraud may be as high as \$900 million, three times earlier estimates; Kabul Bank is Afghanistan's main bank.

31 A presidential election takes place in Niger as a part of a plan to restore civilian rule after a coup in February 2010; it results in the need for a runoff.

The legislature of Myanmar (Burma) meets in Nay Pyi Taw in its first session in 22 years.

The U.S. and the EU put in place new sanctions against Pres. Alyaksandr Lukashenka of Belarus and dozens of other Belarusian officials because of the government crackdown on the opposition in the wake of a flawed presidential election.

Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn signs a measure allowing same-sex and opposite-sex couples to enter into civil unions, which will give them most legal rights that married couples have; 10 U.S. states now permit same-sex couples to marry or enter civil unions.

February

*We can breathe fresh air, we can feel our freedom.
After 30 years of absence from the world, Egypt is back.*

Gamal Heshamt, former Egyptian legislator,
on the fall of Pres. Hosni Mubarak, February 11

1 As hundreds of thousands of antigovernment protesters fill Cairo's Tahrir Square, Egyptian Pres. Hosni Mubarak addresses the country in a televised speech in which he declares that he will not run for office again and will step down in September; the angered crowds demand his immediate resignation.

Irish Prime Minister Brian Cowen dissolves the legislature and schedules an election for February 25.

King 'Abdullah II of Jordan responds to growing antigovernment demonstrations by dismissing the cabinet and replacing Prime Minister Samir Rifai with Marouf al-Bakhit.

2 Pres. 'Ali 'Abd Allah Salih of Yemen offers concessions to antigovernment protesters and promises not only to abandon his effort to change the constitution to allow him to remain in office for life but also to step down at the end of his term of office in 2013.

NASA astronomers report that the Kepler space telescope, launched in 2009 to

study part of the Milky Way, has found 1,235 possible planets, 68 of which are fairly small; other astronomers report having found a system of six planets orbiting the star Kepler 11 in a dense pack.

3 Haiti's electoral commission announces that the runoff election in March will be between Mirlande Manigat, as first announced, and Michel Martelly, who had initially been deemed to have come in third in first-round balloting.

On its 17th attempt to choose a new prime minister, the legislature of Nepal elects Jhalanath Kanal of the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) to the post.

In Malakal, the capital of Sudan's Upper Nile state, members of an army unit refuse deployment to the northern part of the country, and mutiny and fighting spread; at least 50 people die in the mutiny.

Manuel Farfán, a retired army general who a few weeks earlier was appointed police chief of Nuevo Laredo, Mex., in an attempt to

deal with organized crime, is gunned down on a downtown street.

For the first time in nearly a decade, King 'Abdullah II of Jordan meets with a delegation from the opposition Muslim Brotherhood.

Cyclone Yasi makes landfall near the village of Mission Beach and then continues inland in the Australian state of Queensland, causing major damage.

4 The legislature of Myanmar (Burma) chooses Thein Sein, who served as prime minister under Gen. Than Shwe, as the country's new president.

At a European Union summit meeting in Brussels, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French Pres. Nicolas Sarkozy introduce a detailed plan to increase integration of the member countries of the euro zone.

The U.S. Department of Labor reports that the unemployment rate in January fell significantly from the previous month to 9% but that the economy added only 36,000 jobs.

5 Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki declares that he will not seek to be returned to the post in elections scheduled for 2014.

With signatures on instruments of ratification from U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, the New START treaty, which was agreed to in 2010 and provides for limited nuclear disarmament, goes into effect.

6 In response to the reignition of protests in Tunisia, the country's minister of the interior suspends all activities of the Democratic Constitutional Rally, the former ruling party.

Police evict a group of Rapa Nui indigenous people from the grounds of a resort hotel on Easter Island that they have occupied since August 2010 in protest against the development on land claimed by the Rapa Nui.

The Internet access company AOL reaches an agreement to acquire the news Web site the Huffington Post; Arianna Huffington of

the Huffington Post is to be in charge of AOL's editorial content as president of the newly created Huffington Post Media Group.

In Arlington, Texas, the Green Bay Packers defeat the Pittsburgh Steelers 31–25 to win the National Football League's Super Bowl XLV.

The Japan Sumo Association announces that the spring *basho* (grand tournament), scheduled to begin on March 13, has been canceled because of a match-fixing scandal.

7 The results of the referendum held in southern Sudan are announced in Khartoum; 98.83% voted in favour of independence, and Pres. Omar al-Bashir declares that he accepts the results.

At the Laureus World Sports Awards in Abu Dhabi, U.A.E., Spanish tennis star Rafael Nadal is named sportsman of the year, while American ski champion Lindsey Vonn wins sportswoman of the year; French association football (soccer) player Zinedine Zidane takes the lifetime achievement award.

The Obregón Yaquis of Mexico defeat the Anzoátegui Caribes of Venezuela 3–2 to win baseball's Caribbean Series.

8 The UN Food and Agriculture Organization warns that a severe drought in China's agricultural area, particularly in Shandong province, is causing hardship and threatening the wheat crop; China is the world's largest producer of wheat.

For the third time in four months, the People's Bank of China raises its key lending rate by a quarter point, to 6.06%.

9 Preliminary talks between North Korea and South Korea intended to set an agenda for substantive military discussion break down when the North Korean delegation walks out.

A gas line explosion causes a fire that levels a half dozen row houses in Allentown, Pa.; at least five people are killed.

The New England Journal of Medicine publishes online the results of a much-anticipated study that found that risky prenatal surgery for the more severe form of spina bifida proved more beneficial for those with the condition than surgery that was performed on babies after they were born.

10 Hundreds of thousands of people gather in Tahrir Square in Cairo to hear a suddenly announced speech from Egyptian Pres. Hosni Mubarak in which they anticipate he will announce that he is stepping down; instead, Mubarak declares that he will not resign but will delegate authority to his new vice president, Omar Suleiman.

During the morning parade lineup at a military training

school in Mardan, in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, a teenage suicide bomber detonates his weapon and kills at least 27 cadets.

Researchers from the University of Missouri and Arizona State University report in the journal *Science* the discovery of a fourth metatarsal of the hominin species *Australopithecus afarensis*, of which Lucy is the best-known example; the foot bone shows for the first time that *A. afarensis* walked upright.

11 In southern Sudan, fighting that began the previous day between members of the southern Sudanese military and members of a militia led by George Athor, which had recently integrated with the military, leaves at least 211 people dead.

Hundreds of thousands of Egyptians, enraged by Pres. Hosni Mubarak's failure to resign, flood the streets of Cairo (*photo below*); as dusk falls, Vice Pres. Omar Suleiman announces that Mubarak has stepped down and handed authority to the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker proposes a budget that cuts salaries and pensions of most public employees, severely limits the right to collective bargaining for public-employee unions, and impedes the ability of such unions to collect dues.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture approves the commercial growing of corn that has been genetically engineered to be easy to process into ethanol; those in businesses involved in the use of corn for food products object.

12 The Palestinian Authority calls for presidential and legislative elections to be held by September; the militant organization Hamas, which won the last such elections in 2006, rejects the call.

A suicide bomber attacks a bus carrying Shi'ite pilgrims from Samarra', Iraq, that is stopped at a checkpoint; at least 33 people are killed.

A large and coordinated attack on the police headquarters in Kandahar, Afg., lasts several hours and leaves some 19 people dead.



Xu Jinquan—Xinhua/Landov

13 Egypt's Supreme Council of the Armed Forces dissolves the legislature, suspends the constitution, and calls for elections to be held in six months; the government of Prime Minister Ahmad Shafiq remains in a caretaker role.

Some 1,000 young people, organized via text message, march in Sanaa, Yemen, to demand the immediate resignation of the country's president; the protesters feel that the coalition of opposition parties that led earlier demonstrations is moving too slowly.

Voters in Switzerland reject a proposal in a referendum to restrict the keeping of army firearms in the home and to restrict the purchase of guns.

At the Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, the top winner is country band Lady Antebellum, which wins five awards, including both song of the year and record of the year for "Need You Now"; the album of the year is Arcade Fire's *The Suburbs*, and the best new artist is jazz bassist and vocalist Esperanza Spalding.

14 Tens of thousands of people in various cities in Iran march in protests against the government, but the demonstrations are crushed by security forces.

Police in Malawi prevent thousands of demonstrators from marching in Lilongwe to protest fuel shortages.

A judge in Ecuador orders the oil company Chevron to pay \$9 billion in damages for environmental destruction caused in the 1970s by the oil company Texaco when it was operating in Ecuador in partnership with Ecuador's state oil company; Chevron bought Texaco in 2001.

15 Thousands of people gather in downtown Manama, Bahrain, in an antigovernment rally, and the opposition Islamic National Accord Association party suspends its participation in the country's legislature.

Egyptian Defense Minister Mohamed Hussein Tantawi, now acting chief of state, appoints a panel that is headed by Tareq al-Bishri, a retired judge who was critical of the Mubarak government, to revise the country's constitution.

A judge in Milan rules that Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi must stand trial on charges of having paid an underage girl for sex and of abuse of office.

The stock exchanges NYSE Euronext, which operates the New York Stock Exchange, and Deutsche Börse, operator of the Frankfurt (Ger.) Stock Exchange, announce a planned merger.

Foxcliffe Hickory Wind wins Best in Show at the Westminster Kennel Club's 135th dog show; the Scottish deerhound, known as Hickory, is the first of its breed to win the competition.

16 Large antigovernment protests take place in Benghazi, Libya; similar marches also occur in the cities of Zentan and Zawiyat al-Bayda'.

Thousands of protesters fill the state capital building in Madison, Wis., to oppose the bill proposed by Gov. Scott Walker that would cut public union benefits and curtail bargaining rights.

The bookstore chain Borders files for bankruptcy protection and plans to close about 200 of its more than 650 stores.

An IBM computer called Watson, programmed to understand and respond to natural language, defeats former champions Ken Jennings and Brad Rutter in a three-episode contest (filmed in January) on the popular American television game show *Jeopardy!*

17 Laurent Gbagbo, who refused to cede power in Côte d'Ivoire after having lost a presidential election in 2010, orders the government to seize major banks that suspended business in the country.

In Ghent, Belg., about 50 people remove their clothes in a mocking tribute to Belgium's 249th day without a formal government, a new record for time elapsed after an election.

Two reports are published in the journal *Nature* that use computer modeling to show that a recent worldwide increase in extreme precipitation events is likely to be connected to the rise in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

The opera *Anna Nicole*, based on the life of celebrity Anna Nicole Smith and written by composer Mark-Anthony Turnage and librettist Richard Thomas, debuts at the Royal Opera House in London.

18 Bahrain's military opens fire on protesters entering Manama's Pearl Square; an unknown number are killed.

Tens of thousands of demonstrators march in Tirana, Alb., demanding the resignation of the government.

Yoweri Museveni wins reelection as president of Uganda.

Japan's Ministry of Agriculture announces that the annual whale hunt, which Japan says is for scientific research, is being cut short because of harassment by the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, which seeks to prevent the hunting of whales.

19 Several gunmen wearing explosive vests and Afghan army uniforms attack a bank in Jalalabad, Afg., as soldiers and police officers await their monthly salaries, and a three-hour gun battle ensues; at least 18 people are killed.

Police forces withdraw from Pearl Square in Manama, Bahrain, and joyous antigovernment protesters fill the square.

The Iranian film *Jodaeiye Nader az Simin* (*A Separation*), directed by Asghar Farhadi, wins the Golden Bear at the Berlin International Film Festival. (Photo right.)

20 Two days of battles in Somalia between African Union peacekeeping forces and Islamist insurgents using an underground system of trenches and tunnels leave at least 20 people dead.

In Daytona Beach, Fla., the 53rd running of the Daytona 500 NASCAR race is won by Trevor Bayne, who, at age 20, is the youngest-ever winner.

21 Antigovernment rioters take to the streets of Tripoli, the capital of Libya, and militia members loyal to Libyan leader Muammar al-Qaddafi respond with deadly force; human rights activists believe that more than 220 people have died in clashes between antigovernment

Joerg Carstensen—EPA/Landov



protesters and security forces in the country.

At a government census office in Afghanistan's Kunduz province, a suicide bomber detonates his weapon among people lined up to receive identification cards; at least 31 civilians are killed.

Crown Prince Salman ibn Hamad al-Khalifah of Bahrain announces that because of political turmoil in the country, the Bahrain Grand Prix, expected to open the Formula One automobile racing season on March 13, has been canceled.

22 A 6.3-magnitude quake, centred about 10 km (6 mi) from downtown Christchurch, N.Z., and about 5 km (3 mi) underground, causes buildings in much of the city, including skyscrapers, to collapse and kills at least 123 people, with a further 226 reported missing.

The legislature of Kosovo elects Behgjet Pacolli president and Hashim Thaci prime minister.

Former White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel is elected mayor of Chicago.

23 U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder declares that a review has found that portions of the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, which disallows federal recognition of same-sex marriages that are legal in other jurisdictions, are unconstitutional and that therefore the Department of Justice will no longer defend the law in suits against it.

The price of a barrel of light sweet crude oil briefly passes \$100 for the first time since October 2008.

24 For the first time since the November 2010 election in Côte d'Ivoire, armed forces loyal to Laurent Gbagbo engage in conflict with the militia that supports the winner of the election, Alassane Ouattara; 13 combatants are reported killed.

Hundreds of Palestinians rally in the West Bank town of Ramallah to encourage an end to the divisions between Fatah, which dominates the West Bank, and Hamas, which controls Gaza.

Algeria officially ends a state of emergency that has been in place for 19 years; protest marches in Algiers, however, remain forbidden.

The space shuttle *Discovery* takes off on its final mission; it will deliver supplies and a storage module to the International Space Station.

After a public tirade against the creator of the popular television situation comedy *Two and a Half Men* by its star, Charlie Sheen, the TV network CBS and Warner Brothers halt production of the show.

25 Forces loyal to Libyan leader Muammar al-Qaddafi bloodily put down antigovernment protests in Tripoli; Libya's ambassador to the U.S. and its missions to the Arab League and the UN resign in protest against the violent response to the demonstrations.

In Ireland's legislative election, the opposition Fine Gael wins resoundingly, with 76 seats to the ruling Fianna Fail's 20.

In Baghdad what begins as protests seeking political reform devolves into rioting and clashing with Iraqi security forces; some 29 demonstrators are killed.

Large antigovernment protests take place in several cities in Yemen, notably in Sanaa and Ta'izz.

Pres. Cristina Fernández de Kirchner of Argentina and Pres. Fernando Lugo of Paraguay mark the completion of the Yacyretá hydroelectric dam project as the dam on the Paraná River between the countries reaches its full capacity; the project, begun in 1983, is expected to provide a power output of 3,100 MW.

26 Two gunmen infiltrate the Baiji Refinery, Iraq's biggest oil refinery,

and set off bombs, badly damaging the facility and shutting it down.

27 Mohamed Ghannouchi resigns as prime minister of Tunisia; the interim president appoints Beji Caid Sebti to replace him.

Protesters demanding political reforms, more jobs, and better pay begin fighting with Omani police when officers attempt to shut down the demonstration in Suhar, Oman; two protesters are killed.

Authorities in Mexico say that over the past two days at least 28 people have died in drug-related violence.

For the fourth time in a year, French Pres. Nicolas Sarkozy announces a cabinet reshuffle; notable is the replacement of Michèle Alliot-Marie as foreign minister, a position she had held for three months, with Alain Juppé.

At the 83rd Academy Awards presentation, Oscars are won by, among others, *The King's Speech* (best picture) and its director, Tom Hooper, and actors Colin Firth, Natalie Portman, Christian Bale, and Melissa Leo.

Frank Buckles, who was the last surviving American veteran of World War I, dies in West Virginia at the age of 110.

28 As Western countries discuss how to respond to increasing bloodshed in the country, U.S. warships begin moving closer to Libya, and the European Union announces new sanctions.

The Kurdistan Workers' Party in Turkey ends a six-month cease-fire.

March

I thought it would stop, but it just kept shaking and shaking and getting stronger.

Toshiaki Takahashi, a city official in Sendai, Japan, describing his experience of the 9.0-magnitude earthquake, March 11

1 Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg resigns as Germany's minister of defense after his doctorate degree was withdrawn by the University of Bayreuth in light of revelations that parts of his doctoral dissertation were plagiarized; he is replaced the following day by Thomas de Maizière.

NATO helicopters gun down nine Afghan boys gathering firewood outside the village of Nanglam in Afghanistan's Pech River valley; the following day U.S. Gen. David Petraeus issues a personal apology, saying that the boys were misidentified as insurgents.

The French fashion house Christian Dior fires its star designer, John Galliano, after the appearance of a video in which he is seen engaging in what appears to be a drunken anti-Semitic rant.

2 Shabaz Bhatti, Pakistan's minister of minorities and the only Christian member of the cabinet, is shot dead in his car in Islamabad; he had worked to reform the country's law that makes blasphemy a capital crime.

The U.S. Supreme Court rules that the picketing of soldiers' funerals by members of the Westboro Baptist Church with signs saying that the deaths are God's punishment for the toleration of homosexuality in the U.S. is permitted speech under the First Amendment to the Constitution.

James Levine resigns as music director of the Boston Symphony Orchestra because of health difficulties; he intends to stay on, however, as music director of New York City's Metropolitan Opera.

3 Ahmad Shafiq is replaced as prime minister of Egypt by Essam Sharaf.

In Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, a militia loyal to Laurent Gbagbo fires on an all-women march protesting the refusal of Gbagbo to cede power after losing the presidential election in November 2010; at least six women are killed.

Fouad Mebazaa, interim president of Tunisia, announces that an election for members of a council to

rewrite the country's constitution will take place on July 24.

4 Tens of thousands of pro-democracy demonstrators march in the streets of Manama, Bahrain; large pro-democracy protests also take place in Amman, Jordan, while police and military personnel prevent possible demonstrations in Djibouti.

The U.S. Department of Labor reports that the unemployment rate in February dropped to 8.9% and that the number of jobs added to the economy rose to 192,000; nonetheless, the percentage of adults actively involved in the workforce (either employed or seeking work) remains at a low 64.2%.

5 Forces loyal to Libyan leader Muammar al-Qaddafi lay siege to the rebel-held town of Al-Zawiyah; a day earlier, rebels had taken the port city of Ras Lanuf.

6 Japanese Foreign Minister Seiji Maehara admits having

received illegal campaign donations and announces his resignation.

The ruling coalition is returned to power in legislative elections in Estonia.

Bursts of lava from new fissures that began opening the previous day between the Napau and Pu'u O'o craters on Hawaii's Kilauea volcano reach heights of 24 m (80 ft), which leads to the closure of parts of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. (Photo right.)

7 Tunisia's interim government disbands the state security department.

Prime Minister John Key of New Zealand declares that as a result of the earthquakes on Sept. 4, 2010, and on February 22, more than 10,000 houses and other buildings in Christchurch will have to be demolished and that parts of the city will have to be abandoned because of liquefaction.

U.S. Pres. Barack Obama issues an executive order allowing the resumption of military trials of detainees at