

# REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2007

## January

**1** Bulgaria and Romania joined the European Union, swelling the organisation to 27 countries and 489 million people



**10** U.S. President **George W. Bush** announced that he was sending a surge of 21,500 extra troops to Iraq



**11** English soccer star **David Beckham** signed a five-year deal with U.S. team L.A. Galaxy, worth \$1m a week

## February



**3** At least 130 people were killed and 305 injured in a suicide truck bombing at a market place in central Baghdad

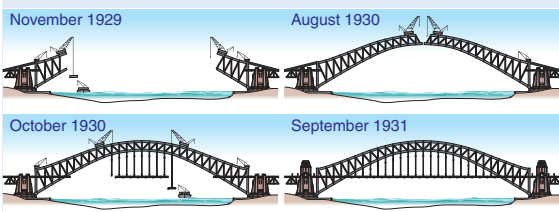
**25** Director **Martin Scorsese**, Oscar-nominated six times, finally won for his gangster film *The Departed*, which also won Best Picture

## March

**12** BBC correspondent **Alan Johnston** was abducted in Gaza by Islamic militants; he was held for 114 days



**18** The Cricket World Cup was marred by the sudden death of Pakistan coach **Bob Woolmer** less than 24 hours after the team's shock exit from the tournament. The initial report indicated murder but this was later proved false



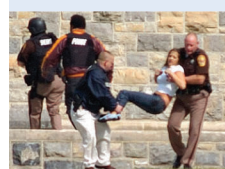
**19** Sydney's iconic Harbour Bridge, opened in 1932, celebrated its 75th birthday

## April

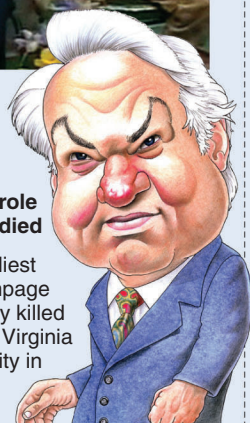


**4** Iran's President **Ahmadinejad** freed 15 British naval personnel captured at gunpoint in the Gulf and held for 12 days

**23** **Boris Yeltsin**, who played a key role in the demise of the Soviet Union, died



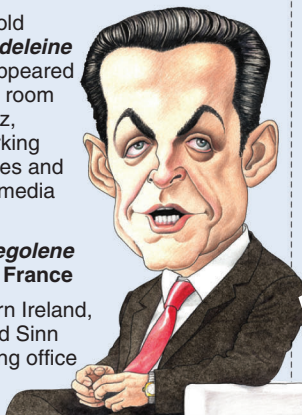
**16** The deadliest shooting rampage in U.S. history killed 33 people at Virginia Tech university in Blacksburg, Virginia



## May



**3** Three-year-old British girl **Madeleine McCann** disappeared from her hotel room in Praia da Luz, Portugal, sparking global headlines and a high-profile media campaign



**6** **Nicolas Sarkozy** defeated **Segolene Royal** to become President of France

**8** Home rule returned to Northern Ireland, with DUP leader **Ian Paisley** and Sinn Fein's **Martin McGuinness** taking office as First Minister and Deputy First Minister, respectively

## June

**4** The war crimes trial of former Liberian President **Charles Taylor** began in The Hague



**27** **Tony Blair** stepped down as British prime minister after 10 years, handing power to **Gordon Brown**

**29** Apple's eagerly awaited iPhone finally went on sale, retailing initially at \$500



## July

**8** **Roger Federer** won Wimbledon for the fifth consecutive year



**10** Pakistani forces stormed the Red Mosque in Islamabad, killing up to 100 militants

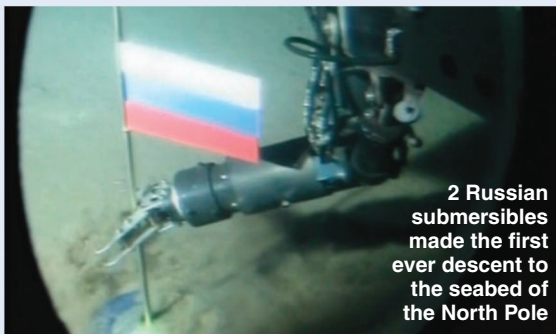


**21** *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, the seventh and final volume of the Harry Potter series, was released worldwide, selling millions of copies within hours

**22** The English town of Tewkesbury became an island as much of the country suffered severe flooding following torrential rain

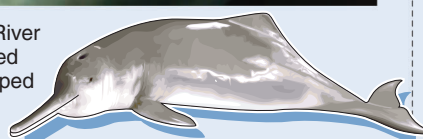
## August

**1** An interstate road bridge over the Mississippi River in Minneapolis collapsed, killing 13 people



**2** Russian submarines made the first ever descent to the seabed of the North Pole

**8** China's Yangtze River dolphin was declared probably extinct, wiped out due to human activity

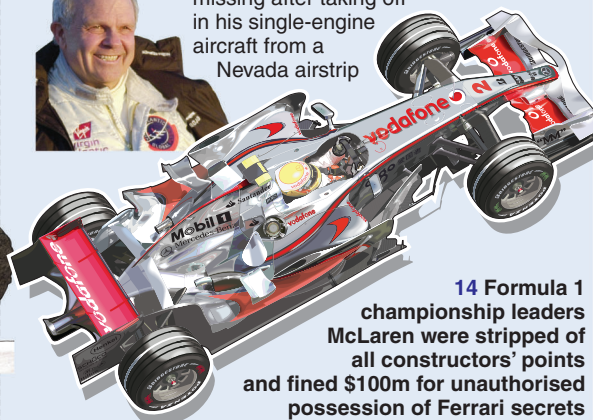


**23** Wildfires raged throughout much of Greece, destroying 2,700 sq. km. of forest, olive groves and farmland

## September



**3** U.S. adventurer **Steve Fossett** went missing after taking off in his single-engine aircraft from a Nevada airstrip



**14** Formula 1 championship leaders **McLaren** were stripped of all constructors' points and fined \$100m for unauthorised possession of Ferrari secrets

**26** Mass demonstrations led by Buddhist monks in Myanmar were violently suppressed by the ruling military junta

## October

**6** President **Pervez Musharraf** of Pakistan won a third term in office, on condition he gave up his army post



**18** Suicide bombs killed 138 people on former prime minister **Benazir Bhutto's** return to Pakistan



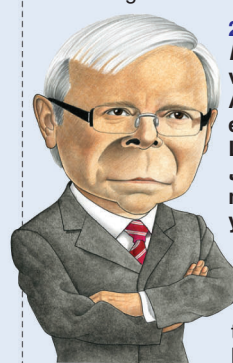
**28** Argentina's first lady, **Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner**, graduated to the top job when she succeeded husband **Nestor Kirchner** as president

## November

**20** Britain's **Queen Elizabeth II** and **Prince Philip** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary



**24** Labor's **Kevin Rudd** swept to victory in Australia's general election, unseating Liberal leader **John Howard** after more than 10 years in power

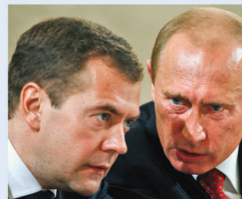


**27** U.S. authorities warned that the subprime mortgage meltdown, which had disrupted money markets around the globe, would continue to take a heavy toll in 2008

## December

**3** Sri Lanka's **Muttiah Muralitharan** broke **Shane Warne's** record to become test cricket's leading wicket-taker, with 709 wickets

**17** Russian President **Vladimir Putin** said he would become prime minister if his chosen successor, **Dmitry Medvedev**, won the 2008 presidential election



**27** Pakistan was plunged deeper into turmoil after **Benazir Bhutto** was assassinated in a suicide attack in Rawalpindi moments after leaving an election rally

