

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2008

January



1-31 Over 800 people were killed and up to 600,000 displaced after Kenya erupted in violence following December's disputed presidential election result

9 The **Tata Nano**, the world's cheapest production car, was launched in Delhi, India



23 Thousands of Palestinians surged across Gaza's border into Egypt to buy food and fuel made scarce by an Israeli blockade

February



2 French President **Nicolas Sarkozy** married singer and former model **Carla Bruni**

13 Australian Prime Minister **Kevin Rudd** issued a formal apology to the country's "Stolen Generation" of indigenous people



17 Kosovo declared independence from Serbia, despite fierce opposition from Belgrade and Moscow

March

2 **Dmitry Medvedev** won a landslide victory to become President of Russia. Predecessor **Vladimir Putin** became prime minister

27 London's Heathrow airport's new Terminal Five got off to a rocky start with numerous cancelled flights and thousands of items of lost luggage

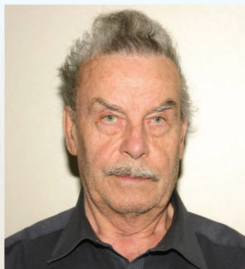


29 Zimbabwe's presidential election result was delayed for weeks as President **Robert Mugabe** refused to yield power in spite of an apparent victory by MDC leader **Morgan Tsvangirai**

April

15 **Silvio Berlusconi** was re-elected for the third time as Prime Minister of Italy

26 Austrian police arrested 73-year-old **Josef Fritzl** (right), who confessed he had incarcerated his daughter in a cellar beneath his house for 24 years, and fathered seven children by her



29 UN Secretary-General **Ban Ki-moon** set up a task force to tackle the world crisis over rising food prices, that had triggered rioting in 37 countries

May

2 **Cyclone Nargis** slammed into Myanmar's Irrawaddy delta, causing catastrophic destruction and a death toll estimated at over 146,000



8 The 2008 Summer Olympics torch relay reached the summit of Mount Everest



12 A powerful 7.9 magnitude earthquake hit the Chinese province of Sichuan, killing around 87,000 people

June

7 **Hillary Clinton** pulled out of the race for the White House, endorsing **Barack Obama** for U.S. President



8 Spain's **Rafael Nadal** defeated **Roger Federer** to win the French Open for the fourth year in a row, and beat him again in July to win his first Wimbledon title



11 Dethroned **King Gyanendra** left the royal palace for the last time after Nepal was declared a republic



July

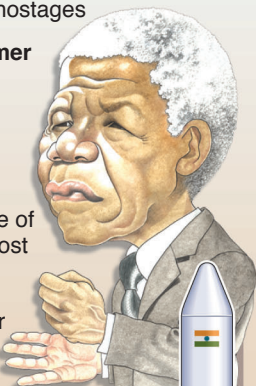


2 Former Colombian presidential candidate **Ingrid Betancourt**, held captive by FARC guerillas for six years, was freed along with 14 other hostages

18 South Africa's revered former president **Nelson Mandela** celebrated his 90th birthday



21 Bosnian Serb fugitive **Radovan Karadzic**, one of the world's most wanted men, was arrested in Serbia after 12 years on the run



August

8 Stars of the Beijing Olympics included U.S. swimmer **Michael Phelps**, who won eight gold medals, and Jamaican sprinter **Usain Bolt**, who shattered world records in 100m and 200m on the track



8 Georgia launched a full-scale assault in the breakaway region of South Ossetia, sparking a brief, but fierce conflict with Russia

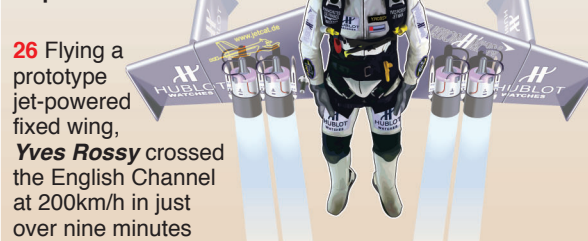


18 **Pervez Musharraf** resigned as president of Pakistan to avoid impeachment

September

10 Proton beams were successfully circulated in the main ring of the **Large Hadron Collider** for the first time

15 The failure of **Lehman Brothers** triggered a collapse of major financial institutions, making the global economic crisis the worst of its kind since the Great Depression



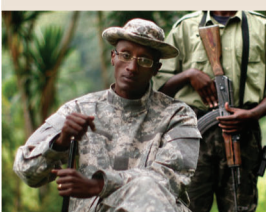
26 Flying a prototype jet-powered fixed wing, **Yves Rossy** crossed the English Channel at 200km/h in just over nine minutes

October

1 Ford marked the 100th anniversary of the first production model of the iconic **Model T**



22 India successfully launched its first unmanned lunar exploration mission



27 Fighting in the D.R. Congo between rebel leader **Laurent Nkunda** and Congolese forces threatened to engulf the region



November



2 **Lewis Hamilton**, 23, became the youngest ever Formula One World Champion

26 A series of terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India's financial capital, killed at least 172 people before security forces regained control 48 hours later

4 Democrat **Barack Obama** became the first African American to be elected President of the United States



December

3 Thailand's main international airport resumed full operations after an eight-day occupation by anti-government protesters



7 Rioters rampaged through Athens (above) and other Greek cities after a 15-year-old boy was shot dead by police



15 The death toll from the cholera epidemic sweeping Zimbabwe topped 1,000, with 20,000 more infected