

Review of the Year 2009

January

15 A **U.S. Airways** A320 ditched into New York's Hudson River after striking a flock of birds soon after take-off. The pilot's landing skills saved the lives of all 155 on board



20 **Barack Obama** was inaugurated as the 44th and first African-American President of the United States

31 Madagascar's opposition leader **Andry Rajoelina** seized power amid violent protests that killed over 100 people



February



07 Australia's worst ever bushfires killed 173 people in Victoria on **Black Saturday**

20 Likud leader **Benjamin Netanyahu** was invited to form Israel's next government after **Tzipi Livni's** Kadima failed to form a coalition



22 Low-budget film **Slumdog Millionaire** won eight Academy Awards, including Best Picture



March



4 President **Omar al-Bashir** of Sudan became the first sitting head of state to be indicted by the International Criminal Court, over war crimes in Darfur



9 **Barbie** celebrated 50 years as the world's best selling doll

10 Tibetans marked the 50th anniversary of the flight into exile of the **Dalai Lama**



24 **Indian Premier League** cricket was relocated to South Africa due to security concerns as India geared up for the world's largest election

April

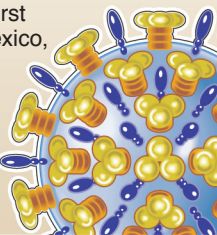


4 **NATO**, the world's largest peacetime military alliance, celebrated its 60th anniversary



25 **Jacob Zuma** became president of South Africa following the ANC's fourth consecutive election victory

28 Swine flu, first detected in Mexico, quickly spread worldwide. By year's end the pandemic had claimed almost 10,000 lives



May

6 Tens of thousands of refugees fled Pakistan's Swat Valley ahead of an imminent army offensive against the Taliban



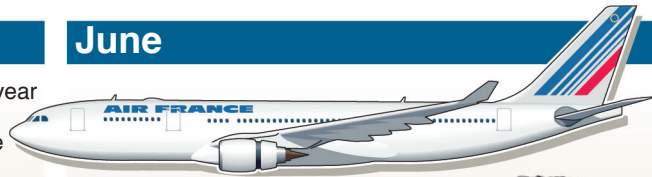
18 Sri Lanka's 26-year civil war with the **Tamil Tigers** came to a violent end



20 Anger in Britain over the stream of revelations over MPs' expenses claims wrecked careers and ruined reputations



June



1 All 228 people aboard an **Air France** A330 died when the aircraft plunged into the Atlantic Ocean on a flight from Rio de Janeiro to Paris

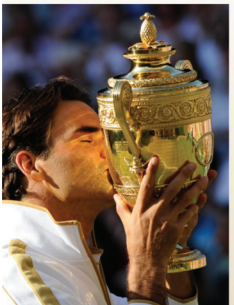
13 Riots erupted in Iran as **Mahmoud Ahmadinejad** was re-elected president by a surprisingly large margin of victory



25 Pop superstar **Michael Jackson** died from cardiac arrest brought on by a powerful cocktail of sleeping drugs, aged 50

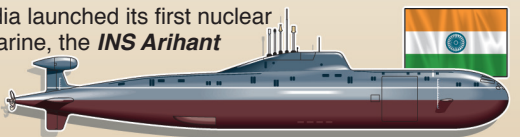
July

5 Tennis star **Roger Federer** won a record 15th major title at Wimbledon, a month after completing a career grand slam with victory at Roland Garros



5 Riots in China's restive Xinjiang region between ethnic Uighurs and Han Chinese left 200 dead

26 India launched its first nuclear submarine, the **INS Arihant**



August

17 The **global financial crisis** showed signs of easing, with Japan, France and Germany the first major economies to pull out of recession



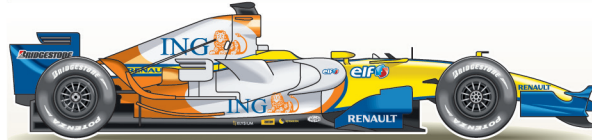
20 **Abdelbaset Ali al-Megrahi**, the Libyan convicted of the Lockerbie bombing that killed 270, was freed from a Scottish jail on compassionate grounds



20 Jamaican sprinter **Usain Bolt** smashed his 100m and 200m world records for the second successive year



September

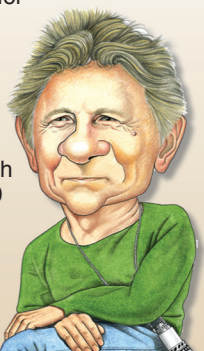


21 More scandal engulfed Formula 1, with **Renault** receiving a suspended two year ban for race fixing at the 2008 Singapore GP



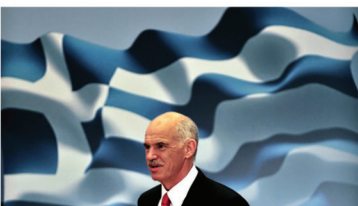
23-30 The Philippines was hit by two devastating typhoons which killed over 900 people

28 Film director **Roman Polanski** was arrested in Switzerland and faced extradition to the U.S. for a sex offence committed in 1977



October

5 Greece's socialist **PASOK** party scored a landslide election victory, as voters ousted the ruling conservatives over the faltering economy



7 Megawealthy TV mogul **Simon Cowell** celebrated his 50th birthday

9-28 A series of bomb attacks in Pakistani cities killed hundreds as the army battled militants in South Waziristan



November

2 As allied casualties mounted in Afghanistan **Hamid Karzai** won another term as President after a drawn-out election marred by widespread fraud



19 Low-profile Belgian premier **Herman van Rompuy** was elected as the European Union's first President

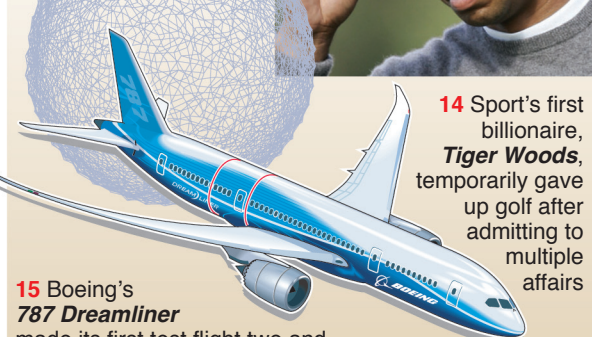


10 **Somali pirates** were responsible for more than half of all pirate attacks in 2009



December

7 The **Copenhagen Climate Change summit** failed to secure a new global agreement to replace the Kyoto Protocol



15 Boeing's **787 Dreamliner** made its first test flight two and a half years behind schedule

14 Sport's first billionaire, **Tiger Woods**, temporarily gave up golf after admitting to multiple affairs