

Review of the Year 2010

January

4 The **Burj Khalifa**, at 825m the tallest structure ever built, opened in a spectacular firework ceremony in Dubai



12 A catastrophic magnitude 7.0 earthquake hit the impoverished Caribbean island of Haiti, killing over 220,000 people

26 Filmmaker **James Cameron's** sci-fi blockbuster **Avatar** became the highest grossing film of all time

27 Apple unveiled the company's latest must-have gadget, the **iPad**



February

11 EU leaders reached a deal to help Greece tackle its debt crisis, later agreeing a €120bn bailout package



12 The Winter Olympics began in Vancouver, Canada, but the first day was marred when Georgian luger **Nodar Kumaritashvili** died in a training crash

27 A massive 8.8 earthquake and tsunami struck off the coast of central Chile, killing over 500 people

March

7 Hundreds died when inter-religious violence re-erupted in central Nigeria between the mainly Muslim north and the largely Christian south of the country



28 An explosion, believed caused by a North Korean torpedo, sank a South Korean naval vessel in disputed waters, killing 46 sailors



10 Mexican billionaire **Carlos Slim** replaced **Bill Gates** as the world's richest person, the first non-U.S. citizen to top Forbes' list since 1994

April

10 Polish President **Lech Kaczynski** was killed in an air crash in Russia along with his wife and many senior figures in government and the armed forces



14 Hundreds of flights were grounded and passengers stranded after an ash cloud spewing from an Icelandic volcano closed much of European airspace for days

20 An explosion and fire on a BP oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico killed 11 workers and triggered the largest ever maritime oil spill



May

6 The UK general election produced a hung parliament, resulting in Britain's first coalition government since World War II



20 Thai army troops forced the surrender of 5,000 anti-government "red shirt" protesters in Bangkok. At least 65 people died in the two-month protest

31 Nine Turkish citizens were killed after Israeli commandos stormed a Gaza-bound aid convoy. Israel's action was widely condemned and severely strained Israel-Turkey relations

June

11 The **FIFA World Cup** got underway in South Africa, Spain eventually emerging victorious



24 **Julia Gillard** was sworn in as Australia's first female prime minister after a surprise leadership vote in the Labor Party ousted **Kevin Rudd**

24 At Wimbledon **John Isner** beat **Nicolas Mahut** 4-6, 6-3, 7-6, 6-7, 70-68 in the longest match in tennis history, spanning three days



July

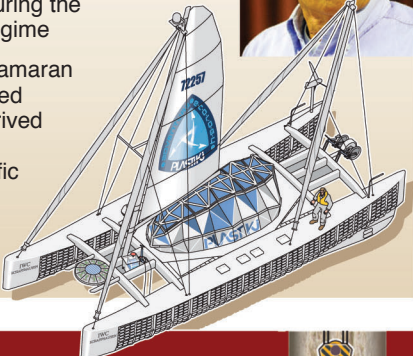
8 10 Russian agents, including **Anna Chapman**, were deported from New York in the biggest spy swap since the Cold War



26 Former prison chief **Kaing Guek Eav** was Cambodia's first senior Khmer Rouge figure tried and jailed for atrocities committed during the regime



26 **Plastiki**, a catamaran made from recycled plastic bottles, arrived in Sydney after crossing the Pacific Ocean to raise awareness of maritime pollution



August



1-31 Extreme weather events saw a record heatwave and wildfires in Russia and deadly floods in China and Pakistan, which suffered its worst ever monsoon flooding



with over 1,600 people killed, 15 million affected and over a fifth of the country underwater

19 France began deporting thousands of Roma people, mainly from Romania and Bulgaria

September

10 Mexico's drug wars claimed multiple victims over the year, with the city of Ciudad Juarez recording as many as 25 murders in a single day



20 The cleanup of BP's **Deepwater Horizon** oil spill was completed as the well was sealed with cement



21 Coalition deaths in Afghanistan exceeded last year's total of 521, and reached 700 by December, making 2010 the deadliest year of the war to date

October

8 North Korea confirmed that ailing leader **Kim Jong-il's** youngest son, **Kim Jong-un**, would succeed his father



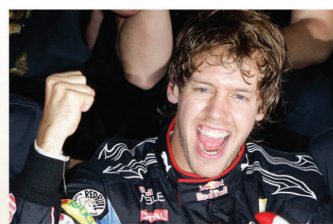
13 All 33 Chilean miners trapped underground for 69 days after a cave-in at the San Jose mine were winched safely to the surface, watched live on television by 1 billion people worldwide

31 **Dilma Rousseff** was elected as the first female President of Brazil



November

13 Burmese opposition leader **Aung San Suu Kyi** was released after 15 years of house arrest



14 Germany's **Sebastian Vettel** became the youngest ever Formula 1 Driver's Champion

23 North Korea shelled a South Korean island, prompting a military response



28 The European Union approved an €85 billion rescue deal for Ireland as the eurozone continued to struggle

December

7 WikiLeaks founder **Julian Assange** was arrested in London days after the website began publishing confidential U.S. embassy cables



10 The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded in absentia to jailed Chinese dissident **Liu Xiaobo**



14 Italian premier **Silvio Berlusconi** narrowly survived a no-confidence vote, sparking riots in Rome