



Today in History

August 17, 1988

▲ **President Zia ul-Haq and the U.S. ambassador to Pakistan were among 32 people killed when their plane exploded after take-off from Bahawalpur airport**

1970: Venera 7, the first spacecraft to land successfully on the surface of another planet, Venus, was launched

1978: Three Americans completed the first crossing of the North Atlantic in a hot-air balloon

1998: Russian president Boris Yeltsin devalued the rouble, despite recent promises to the contrary

2017: A van ploughed into tourists on Las Ramblas in Barcelona, killing 14 people and injuring at least 130 others