



*August 12, 1883*

▲ The last quagga, distinguished from other zebras by its pattern of brown and white stripes on the front of the body and plain brown rear, died at a zoo in Amsterdam

**1851:** Isaac Singer was granted a patent on his sewing machine

**1996:** Iran and Turkey struck a huge gas deal a week after the U.S. started to block investment in Iran

**2007:** Trunks from an 8m year-old cypress forest were discovered in Hungary, encased in sand without fossilization

**2011:** Bullet trains on the Beijing-Shanghai High-Speed Railway were withdrawn following a crash