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The Costa Concordia, seen on January 14, 2012, after the cruise ship ran aground off the Isola del Giglio. Thirty-two passengers and crew members were killed after the Italian ship with some 4,200 people on board hit a reef only a few hours into its voyage.

A riot policeman is engulfed by flames during clashes with protestors in Athens on February 12, 2012. Greek police used tear gas on petrol bomb-throwing protesters outside parliament where lawmakers were debating a new austerity plan aimed at avoiding bankruptcy.

A Russian flag with Prime Minister Vladimir Putin's image on it flies above his supporters as they celebrate Putin's victory at the central Manezhnaya Square just outside the Kremlin in Moscow. Some 15,000 people took part in the rally on March 4.

Norwegian mass killer Anders Behring Breivik gestures as he arrives for his terrorism and murder trial in a courtroom in Oslo, on April 16, 2012. He was later found guilty, and sentenced to preventive detention, a special form of prison sentence, with a term of 21 years and a minimum of 10 years, with the possibility of extension.

Half of a clock face on Modenesi's Towers of Finale Emilia, destroyed following a Magnitude 6.0 earthquake on May 20, 2012 in Ferrara, Italy.

Venus moves across the Sun in this image captured by Japan's satellite Hinode, on June 6, 2012. On that day, Venus passed directly between the sun and Earth, a transit that won't occur again until 2117.

Actors portraying the Queen of England and James Bond arrive via parachute after jumping from a helicopter during the Opening Ceremony of the London 2012 Olympic Games, on July 27, 2012.

Jamaica's Usain Bolt crosses the finish line to win gold in the men's 100-meter final in the Olympic Stadium at the 2012 London Summer Olympics, on August 5, 2012.

People run for cover as smoke rises from the site of a fire at a fireworks factory on the outskirts of Sivakasi, about 500 km southwest of Chennai, India, on September 5, 2012. Police in southern India said they arrested six employees of the fireworks factory for a massive blaze that killed 40 workers and injured 60 others.

Pilot Felix Baumgartner of Austria jumps from a capsule on Sunday, October 14, 2012. In a giant leap from more than 24 miles up, Baumgartner broke the sound barrier while making the highest jump ever.

Newly re-elected President Barack Obama and his wife Michelle are showered with confetti after his acceptance speech in Chicago, on November 7, 2012.

On December 14, a horrific bloodbath took place in the small town of Newtown, some 100 kilometers northeast of New York. Heavily armed Adam Lanza, 20, went into the Sandy Hook Elementary School and, in less than 10 minutes, shot dead 20 children and six adults.