

TODAY
IN
HISTORY

526

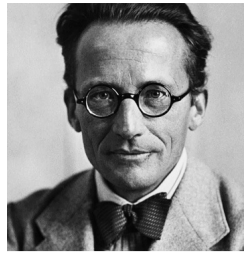
A possible date for the Antioch earthquake in present-day Syria (then the Byzantine Empire)

1745

Bonnie Prince Charlie's army moves into Manchester and occupies Carlisle

1877

US inventor Thomas Edison demonstrates his hand-cranked phonograph for the first time



Physicist Erwin Schrödinger publishes his famous thought experiment "Schrödinger's cat", a paradox that illustrates the problem of the Copenhagen interpretation of quantum mechanics

1935

1951

1st underground atomic explosion at Frenchman Flat in Nevada

How close is Iran to a nuclear bomb?

...between Iran and world powers is being...
...to revive the pact face a new challenge...
...Tehran's top nuclear scientist...
...on Iran's atomic work had one objec...
...t time" for Tehran to produce enough...
...if it decided to make one, to at least a...
...ee months...
...as never sought nuclear weapons and...
...clear work only has civilian aims...
...ing the deal's curbs last year in...
...to President Donald Trump's with-

drawal from the deal in May 2018 and the reimposition of US sanctions.
This has shortened the breakout time but reports by the UN International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which polices the deal, indicate that Iran is not moving ahead with its nuclear work as fast as it could.
European states have sought to save the nuclear deal, pressing Tehran to comply even as Washington has tightened sanctions, and holding out hopes of a change in US policy once President-elect Joe Biden takes office on Jan. 20.
Biden was part of the US administration under Barack Obama that negotiated the 2015 deal.



WHAT HAS IRAN DONE TILL NOW?

...y of the deal's restrictions but is still cooperating with the IAEA and granting inspectors access under one clear verification regimes imposed on any nation.
The deal limits Iran's stockpile of enriched uranium to 202.8 kg, a fraction of the more than eight tonnes it had. The limit was breached last year. The IAEA report in November put the stockpile at 2,442.9 kg.
The deal caps the fissile purity to which Iran can refine uranium at 3.67 per cent, far below the 20pc achieved in the weapons-grade level of 90 pc. Iran breached the 3.67pc cap in July 2019 and the enrichment level has risen to 5pc since then.
The deal allows Iran to produce enriched uranium using about 5,000 first-generation IR-1 centrifuges at its Natanz facility, which was built to house more than 50,000. It can operate small numbers of more advanced models of advanced enriched uranium. Iran had roughly 19,000 installed centrifuges before the deal.
Iran had begun enrichment with advanced centrifuges at an above-ground pilot plant at Natanz. Since then, it has installed cascades, or clusters, of advanced centrifuges to the underground plant. In November, the IAEA said Iran had begun feeding gas into the first of those underground cascades.
Iran has enriched uranium at Fordow, a site Iran secretly built inside a mountain and that was exposed by Western airstrikes in 2009. Centrifuges are allowed there for other purposes, like producing stable isotopes. Iran now has 1,044 centrifuges there.

IRAN TO HAVING A BOMB?

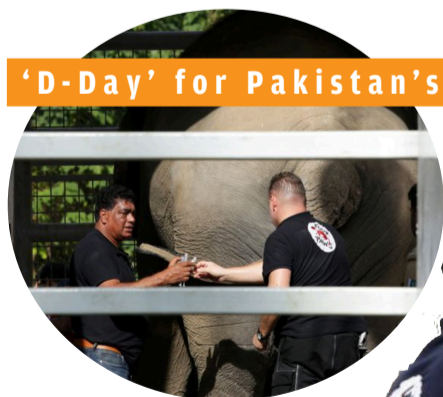
...ed the breakout time but estimates still vary. Many diplomats and nuclear experts say the starting point for Iran to have a nuclear weapon and Iran would need longer. David Albright, a former UN weapons inspector who tends to have a pessimistic view, estimated in November that Iran's breakout time could be "as short as 3.5 months", although this presumes that Iran has enough enriched uranium and centrifuges that were removed under the deal.

WHAT MORE WOULD IRAN NEED TO DO?

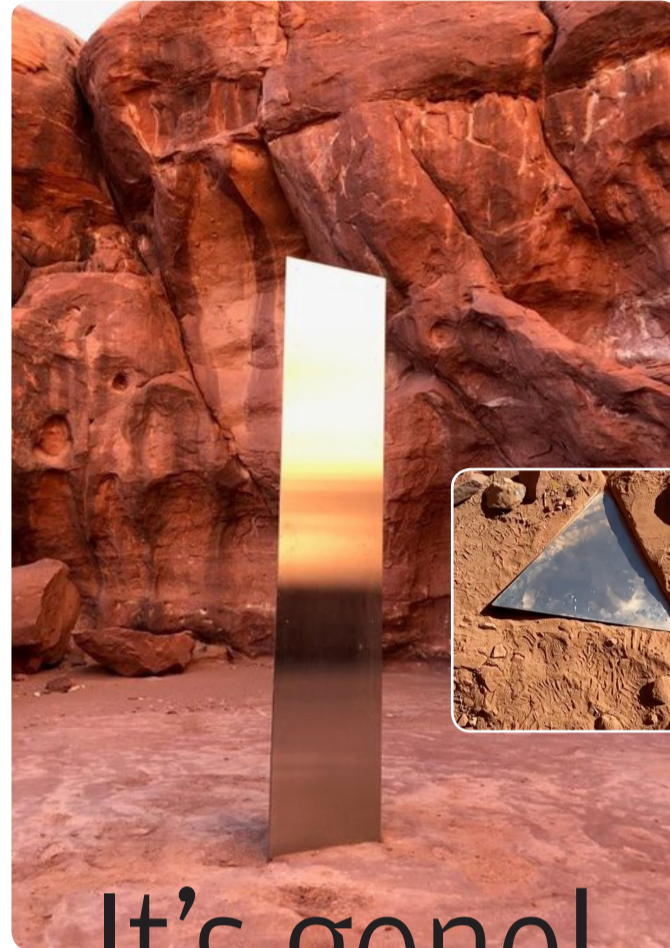
...cient fissile material, it would need to assemble a bomb and probably one small enough to be carried by its own aircraft. The amount of fissile material that would take exactly is unclear, but stockpiling enough fissile material is widely seen as the biggest hurdle.
The IAEA and the US believe Iran once had a nuclear weapons programme that it halted. There is evidence suggesting that Iran had a nuclear weapon and carried out various types of work relevant to making one.
The IAEA access to its declared nuclear facilities and allow snap inspections elsewhere.
Iran had a standoff this year that had lasted several months over access to two suspected former sites.



...grant policy in dock
President Donald Trump's unprecedented and contentious executive order on immigration has drawn the ire of many in the population totals used to allocate US House of Representatives seats. Challengers to Trump's July directive include various states and immigrant rights groups. They have argued that the Republican order would disenfranchise millions of people uncoun... and cause California, Texas and New York to lose a state's population count in the decennial census.



'D-Day' for Pakistan's lonely elephant
A team of animal experts began the task yesterday of airlifting Pakistan's lonely elephant Kaavan on the long journey to his new home at a sanctuary in northwestern Cambodia, marking the culmination of years of campaigning by American singer Cher. Cher, who has written songs calling for Kaavan to be rescued from his grim and lonely conditions at Islamabad Zoo, is due to meet the elephant upon its arrival in Cambodia after she spent the last few days with him in Islamabad.



It's gone!

Mysterious metal monolith in Utah desert suddenly vanishes

Huffpost

A mysterious metallic monolith discovered deep in a Utah desert has suddenly vanished just days after it was first spotted by biologists from the air.

The 12-foot-tall structure apparently disappeared Friday night, according to "credible reports," the Utah Bureau of Land Management said in a statement.

The "illegally installed structure" was removed by an "unknown party," and not by department personnel, according to the BLM. There will be no investigation into its disappearance by the BLM because the monolith is "private property" and not part of the public lands, the statement added.

The monolith, which eerily resembled a mini version of the structure featured in the classic science-fiction movie "2001: A Space Odyssey," was installed in the remote red rock country of southeast Utah.

Biologists from the Utah Department of Wildlife Resources spotted it from a helicopter Nov. 18 as they were counting big-horn sheep in the area.

But internet sleuths, using historical images with the help of Google Earth, discovered that the monolith appeared between August 2015 and October 2016, CNET reported. The futuristic TV series "Westworld" was being filmed nearby at the time, noted CNET, which could be a clue to its origins.

State officials quickly debunked the idea that the monolith was placed by space aliens. But they conceded it would have been difficult to place it in such a remote location. Some speculated it was an elaborate art project by artists unknown.

Tourists were flocking to the site in recent days to view the structure.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



The number of ballots that our Campaign is challenging in the Pennsylvania case is FAR LARGER than the 81,000 vote margin. It's not even close. Fraud and illegality ARE a big part of the case. Documents being completed. We will appeal!

@realDonaldTrump

02



I've always believed we can define America in one word: Possibilities. We're going to build an America where everyone has the opportunity to go as far as their dreams and God-given ability will take them.

@JoeBiden

03



We must recognize that national security isn't simply defined by the planes and ships we buy - but in the values we set for our military and ourselves. It is time to remove the names of Confederate leaders from our nation's military bases.

@RepAnthonyBrown

04



Thomas Piketty is right. At a time when the very rich are becoming much richer while working families are facing economic devastation, we need to address the obscene level of income and wealth inequality. We need to tax the extreme wealth of multi-millionaires and billionaires.

@BernieSanders

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