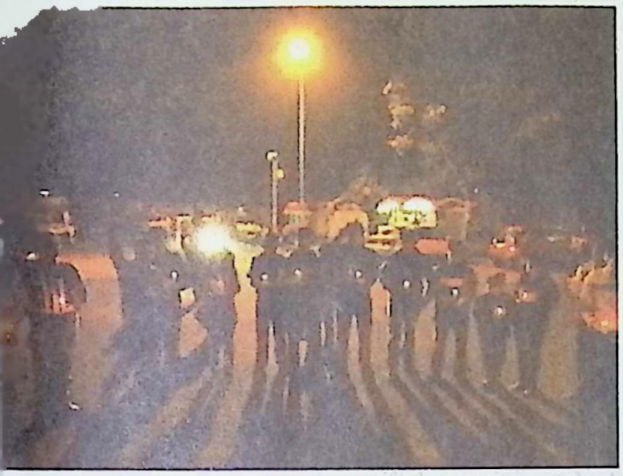


Lesson Not Learnt

Pondicherry, India. It's been a year since the 23-year-old 'braveheart' of India lost her battle after she was brutally gang-raped on a moving bus in New Delhi. Despite the heavy protests and condemnation of the law and order system of the Delhi administration, reports of sexual assaults in the country keep making the headlines. Police arrested 10 people and charged six of them with allegedly gang-raping a 21-year-old woman on Christmas Eve in southern India.



Polio Activists Targeted

Peshawar, Pakistan. Even health workers are not safe from the wrath of militants. Gunmen shot dead a health officer supervising an anti-polio vaccination campaign after storming a hospital where children were being immunised in Pakistan's troubled northwest Saturday, officials said. Nobody immediately claimed responsibility for the killing, but Taliban militants have been targeting health workers and security personnel during vaccination campaigns. The Taliban imposed a ban on polio vaccinations last year as they view inoculation campaigns as a cover for espionage. According to the World Health Organization, Pakistan recorded 72 cases of polio this year compared with 58 in 2012.



Recep Tayyip Erdogan

The Symbol of Corruption

Ankara, Turkey. The obvious purpose of a shoebox is to keep shoes in them. But for people in Turkey, this innocuous object has become a symbol of a corruption scandal after police earlier this month found $4.5 million stashed in shoeboxes in the home of an ally of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Pensioner Nurhan Gul was detained on December 30 after brandishing a shoebox in an anti-government protest over a sweeping graft probe that has ensnared allies of the Prime Minister. Gul said she was interrogated and then released pending trial. The Turkish premiere has faced a wave of demonstrations since the raids against several key allies, calling for him to step down after 11 years in power.

Bringing in the New Year



Hérault, France. Now this is quite the tradition! People take part in a customary sea bathing to mark new-year's end on December 31, 2013 on a nudist beach in Le Cap d'Agde in southern France.