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From today's featured article



SMS *Niobe* was a [light cruiser](#) of the *Gazelle* class, built for the [Imperial German Navy](#). Launched in 1899, *Niobe* was armed with ten [10.5 cm \(4.1 in\) guns](#) and had a top speed of 21.5 knots (39.8 km/h; 24.7 mph). The ship served as a [flotilla leader](#) for [torpedo boats](#), a scout for the fleet, and a station ship with the [East Asia Squadron](#). In World War I, *Niobe* helped defend Germany's [North Sea](#) coast. One of the cruisers permitted Germany by the [Treaty of Versailles](#), *Niobe* was modernized, but was sold in 1925 to the [Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes](#) (later Yugoslavia). Renamed *Dalmacija* the vessel served until April 1941, when she was captured by the Italians. Renamed again as *Cattaro*, she served until the Italian surrender in September 1943. Seized by the Germans, she was used in the [Adriatic Sea](#) until 19 December 1943, when she ran aground on the island of [Silba](#), and was destroyed by British [motor torpedo boats](#). (*This article is part of a featured topic: [Ships of the Royal Yugoslav Navy](#).*)

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Did you know ...

- ... that *[The Horn of Plenty](#)* by [Alexander McQueen](#) satirized the fashion industry with clothing sewn from expensive fabric made to look like household trash (*example pictured*)?
- ... that [Fen Juhua](#) became the "first of the lady knights in the Chinese cinema" after fighting for love in [a 1925 film](#)?
- ... that [the offices](#) of [Hamm's Brewery](#) in [Saint Paul, Minnesota](#), were built on the site of [the city's third cathedral](#)?
- ... that [Miles Rock](#) served as chief of the commission that determined the disputed [Guatemala–Mexico border](#)?
- ... that [the 2025 season](#) of [Inter Miami CF](#) includes matches in the [2025 FIFA Club World Cup](#)?
- ... that [Anthony F. Ciampi](#) fought his superiors to rebuild the [College of the Holy Cross](#) after it was destroyed by fire in 1852?
- ... that [a documentary film](#) built around the final interview of K-pop star [Sulli](#) employs elements of *[The Wonderful Wizard of Oz](#)* as a framing device?
- ... that [Diane Leather](#) was the first woman to run a mile in under five minutes?
- ... that a cat, [Timoshenko](#), joined the British submarine [HMS Unruffled](#) on twenty patrols during the Second World War?



Bubble wrap jacket from *The Horn of Plenty*

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In the news

- [A 7.3-magnitude earthquake](#) hits Vanuatu's capital, [Port Vila](#), leaving at least 19 people dead.
- President of South Korea [Yoon Suk Yeol](#) is [impeached](#) (*signing pictured*) following his declaration of martial law.
- *[Astro Bot](#)* wins Game of the Year at [the Game Awards](#).
- [Gukesh Dommaraju](#) defeats [Ding Liren](#) to win [the World Chess Championship](#).



[Woo Won-shik](#), the speaker of the South Korean National Assembly, signing the impeachment resolution

Ongoing: [Israel–Hammas war](#) · [Israeli invasion of Lebanon](#) · [Russian invasion of Ukraine](#) ([timeline](#)) · [Sudanese civil war](#) ([timeline](#))

Recent deaths: [Wolfgang Becker](#) · [Hugh Cornish](#) · [Igor Kirillov](#) · [Khalil Haqqani](#) · [S. M. Krishna](#) · [Thomas Hertel](#)

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On this day

December 19

- 1828 – Nullification crisis: American vice president John C. Calhoun's **South Carolina Exposition and Protest**, written to protest the **Tariff of Abominations**, was presented to the **South Carolina House of Representatives**.
- 1843 – ***A Christmas Carol*** (*illustration pictured*), a **novella** by **Charles Dickens** about the miser **Ebenezer Scrooge** and his transformation after being visited by ghosts, was published.
- 1983 – The **Jules Rimet Trophy**, awarded to the winner of the **FIFA World Cup**, was stolen from the offices of the **Brazilian Football Confederation**.
- 1997 – **SilkAir Flight 185** crashed into the **Musi River** in Indonesia, killing 104 people.
- 2013 – The **European Space Agency's** spacecraft **Gaia** was launched with the goal of constructing the largest and most precise **star catalogue** ever made.



Frontispiece to *A Christmas Carol*

Adelaide of Susa (d. 1091) · **Sakakibara Kenkichi** (b. 1830) · **Kristina Keneally** (b. 1968) · **Ahmet Emin Yalman** (d. 1972)

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Today's featured picture



The **papaya** (*Carica papaya*), also known as the pawpaw, is a plant species in the family **Caricaceae**, and also the name of the plant's fruit. It was first domesticated in **Mesoamerica**, within modern-day southern Mexico and Central America, and is now grown in several countries in regions with a tropical climate. The papaya fruit is a large berry about 15 to 45 cm (5.9 to 17.7 in) long and 10 to 30 cm (3.9 to 11.8 in) in diameter. The fruit is cultivated for food, being typically consumed when ripe and eaten raw without skin or seeds. The black seeds are also edible and have a sharp, spicy taste. This photograph shows the longitudinal cross section of a papaya fruit lying on its side, with orange flesh and numerous black seeds visible. The picture was **focus-stacked** from seven separate images.

Photograph credit: [Ivar Leidus](#)

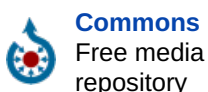
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- **Community portal** – The central hub for editors, with resources, links, tasks, and announcements.
- **Village pump** – Forum for discussions about Wikipedia itself, including policies and technical issues.
- **Site news** – Sources of news about Wikipedia and the broader Wikimedia movement.
- **Teahouse** – Ask basic questions about using or editing Wikipedia.
- **Help desk** – Ask questions about using or editing Wikipedia.
- **Reference desk** – Ask research questions about encyclopedic topics.
- **Content portals** – A unique way to navigate the encyclopedia.

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Free textbooks and manuals


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Free knowledge base

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Free-content news


 **Wikiquote**
Collection of quotations

 **Wikisource**
Free-content library

 **Wikispecies**
Directory of species

 **Wikiversity**
Free learning tools

 **Wikivoyage**
Free travel guide

 **Wiktionary**
Dictionary and thesaurus

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