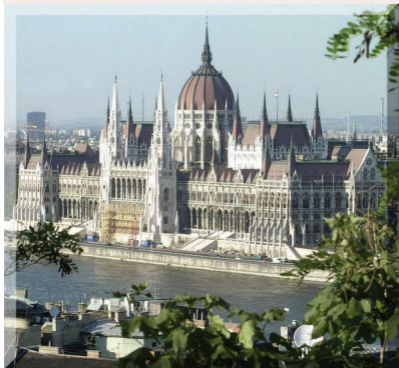


**Monday, November 20**

# ON THIS DAY



▲ **1873:** The rival cities of Buda and Pest were linked together to form the capital of Hungary

**1805:** The first performance of Beethoven's opera *Fidelio* was staged in Vienna

**1910:** Russian author Leo Tolstoy died at the age of 82

**1979:** Armed Shiite militants seized the Great Mosque in Mecca, the holiest of all Islamic shrines

**2004:** NASA launched its Swift spacecraft to gather data on gamma-ray bursts, brief, intense flashes of radiation that could reveal clues about the creation of the universe