

**Thursday, January 1**

# *ON THIS DAY*



▲ **2002:** In the biggest monetary change in history 12 European Union countries consigned their national currencies to the past in favour of the euro

**1804:** Jean-Jacques Dessalines declared Haiti independent after leading a rebellion against the French

**1919:** J.D. Salinger, U.S. author of *The Catcher in the Rye*, was born

**1995:** The World Trade Organisation came into effect, succeeding GATT

**2008:** A fire in a church in Eldoret, western Kenya, killed 50 people who were sheltering from violence after the disputed presidential election