

Friday, January 2

ON THIS DAY



▲ 1995: Former Somali president Mohamed Siad Barre died in exile. He seized power in a 1969 coup and was toppled in 1991 by forces loyal to warlord Mohamed Farah Aideed

1635: Cardinal Richelieu established the Academie Francaise

1869: The gas lantern powering the world's first traffic lights exploded in London, injuring the policeman who was operating it at the time

1947: Cupro-nickel coins were first issued in Britain to replace silver

2008: Crude oil prices briefly surged past \$100 a barrel for the first time in trading in New York