

**Monday, February 16**

# *ON THIS DAY*



▲ **1959: Fidel Castro was sworn in as prime minister of Cuba after his overthrow of Fulgencio Batista**

**1821:** German geographer Heinrich Barth, one of the great explorers of Africa, was born

**1937: Dupont patented its new “miracle” fibre, named nylon**

**1993:** Up to 1,700 people are thought to have drowned when a heavily overloaded ferry sank in stormy conditions off the coast of Haiti

**2007: A Turkish court sentenced seven Al Qaeda associates to life imprisonment for their involvement in the 2003 Istanbul bombings**