

Thursday, August 6

ON THIS DAY



▲ **1660:** Influential Spanish painter Diego Velazquez died; famous works include *Las Meninas* (*above*)

1806: The Holy Roman Empire ceased to exist when Francis II renounced the crown and became Emperor of Austria

1881: Sir Alexander Fleming, the Scottish bacteriologist who discovered penicillin, was born

1962: Jamaica gained independence after 300 years of British rule

2008: President Sidi Mohamed Ould Cheikh Abdallahi of Mauritania was ousted in a coup by a group of high ranking generals he had dismissed from office earlier that day