

Friday, March 12

ON THIS DAY



▲ **2001: Afghanistan's Taliban rulers confirmed they had blown up two giant statues of Buddha in central Bamiyan province**

1889: Test cricket was played in South Africa for the first time, at Port Elizabeth

1940: Finland signed a peace treaty with the Soviet Union, ending the 14-week "Winter War"

1947: U.S. President Harry Truman used the phrase "Cold War" in a speech to Congress urging against the global spread of Communism

2009: U.S. businessman Bernard Madoff pleaded guilty to 11 charges relating to his \$65bn Ponzi scheme