

Saturday, November 20

ON THIS DAY



▲ **2009:** The *Oasis of the Seas*, the world's biggest cruise ship – 40% bigger than any other and costing \$1.4bn – was officially unveiled

1752: German physicist Otto von Guericke was born

1805: Beethoven's opera *Fidelio* was first performed in Vienna

1975: General Franco, dictator of Spain since the end of the Spanish Civil War, died in Madrid

2009: A policeman was swept to his death when a bridge over a river in Cumbria, in northern England, collapsed as more than the average monthly rainfall fell in just 24 hours