

A close-up portrait of Idi Amin, a Ugandan army major-general, wearing a brown military cap with a red band and a gold emblem. He has a serious expression and is looking slightly to the left. The background is blurred.

Today in History

February 2, 1971

▲ Ugandan army major-General Idi Amin took over as head of state a week after heading a military coup while President Milton Obote was out of the country

1892: The metal bottle cap with cork seal was patented in the U.S. by William Painter

1943: The remnants of the German 6th Army surrendered to the Soviet army at Stalingrad

1994: Venezuelan elder statesman Rafael Caldera was sworn in as president

2011: NASA announced the discovery of a planetary system of six planets orbiting the Sun-like star Kepler-11