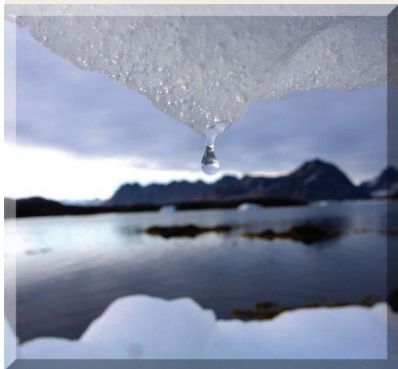


Saturday, September 30

ON THIS DAY



▲ 2004: The Russian government approved the Kyoto Protocol on climate change, making the treaty binding under international law

1949: Mao Tse-Tung formally became chairman of the Peoples' Republic of China

1966: Bechuanaland gained independence from Britain as the Republic of Botswana

1980: Israel introduced the shekel as its currency, replacing the pound

2000: U.S. athlete Marion Jones took her tally of medals won at the Sydney Olympics to five, the most by any woman in a single Olympiad