

1886

William Ewart Gladstone introduces the first Irish Home Rule Bill into the British House of Commons.

1898

Battle of Atbara River, Anglo-Egyptian forces crush 6,000 Sudanese

1913

Opening of China's 1st parliament takes place in Peking (now Beijing)



2004

Darfur conflict: The Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement is signed by the Sudanese government and two rebel groups



Reuters

Myanmar troops fired at anti-coup protesters yesterday, killing at least seven people and wounding several, media said, as a Chinese-owned factory was set on fire in the commercial capital Yangon and activists burned the Chinese flag.

The country's military ruler said the civil disobedience movement was "destroying" Myanmar.

More than 580 people have been killed, according to an activist group, in the turmoil in Myanmar since a Feb. 1 coup that ended a brief period of civilian-led democracy. Nationwide protests and strikes have persisted since then despite the military's use of lethal force to quell the opposition.

Security forces opened fire on protesters in the northwestern town of Kale as they demanded the restoration of Aung San Suu Kyi's civilian government, a res-

ident told Reuters. News outlets cited witnesses saying there were casualties and repeated gunfire. The Mizzima and Irrawaddy news outlets said five people were killed and several wounded.

The Kale resident said the information was provided to him by witnesses, who took pictures of five bodies.

Reuters could not independently verify the toll.

Two protesters were killed in the town of Bago near Yangon, the Myanmar Now news outlet said.

#### Factory fire

A fire broke out in the Chinese-owned JOC Garment Factory in Yangon yesterday, news reports and the Fire Department said. There were no reports of casualties and no details on the extent of damage.

In another Yangon neighbourhood, activists set fire to the Chinese flag, according to pictures

posted on Facebook.

China is viewed as being supportive of the military junta and last month there were arson attacks against 32 Chinese-invested factories in Yangon.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the head of the junta, said in a statement published on Wednesday that the civil disobedience movement or CDM had halted the working of hospitals, schools, roads, offices and factories.

"Although protests are staged in neighbouring countries and the international community, they do not destroy businesses," he said. "CDM is an activity to destroy the country."

According to the Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) advocacy group, 581 people, including dozens of children, have been shot dead by troops and police in almost daily unrest since the coup, and security forces have arrested close to 3,500 people, with 2,750 still detained.

## Produced 55 kg of 20% uranium since January



Deputy Secretary General Enrique Mora and Iranian Deputy at Ministry of Foreign Affairs at a meeting of the JCPOA Joint Commission in Vienna, Austria

The law required Iran to start enriching to 20% and stipulated that at least 120 kg (265 pounds) of uranium refined to that level be made each year, which amounts to 10 kg a month.

Iran's production rate is already "up to 40%" faster than that, Atomic Energy Organisation spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi indicated.

"In less than four months we have produced 55 kg of 20% enriched uranium ... in around eight months we can reach 120 kg," Kamalvandi told state TV.

#### 20% a big step

Uranium is considered highly enriched as of 20%. Enriching to 20% is a big step towards enriching to weapons-grade.

A quarterly report on Iran's nuclear activities by the UN nuclear watchdog in February said that as of Feb. 16, Iran had produced 17.6 kg of uranium enriched up to 20%, with the next level down being enriched between 2%-5%.

A senior diplomat said at the time that Iran was producing uranium enriched to 20% at a rate of 15 kg per month.

As part of a recent acceleration of its breaches of the nuclear deal, in January Iran began enriching uranium to 20% at Fordow, an underground uranium enrichment site that was built in secret inside a mountain possibly to withstand any aerial bombardment.



According to nuclear deal, Iran's uranium stockpile will be reduced by 98% to 300 kg (660 lbs) for 15 years. The level of enrichment must also remain at 3.67%. Iran will retain no more than 6,104 out of almost 20,000 centrifuges it possesses.



Iran began construction upon the Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant as early as 2006, hiding the work from the rest of the world. The Fordow Enrichment Plant was completed in 2009, to the surprise of the international community. Upon its initial creation, Iran refused to divulge the location of the plant, worrying the US and other Western powers about what Iran intended to do with the facility

## A third of COVID survivors suffer neurological or mental disorders: study

Reuters | London

One in three COVID-19 survivors in a study of more than 230,000 mostly American patients were diagnosed with a brain or psychiatric disorder within six months, suggesting the pandemic could lead to a wave of mental and neurological problems, scientists said yesterday.

Researchers who conducted the analysis said it was not clear how the virus was linked to psychiatric conditions such as anxiety and depression, but that these were the most common diagnoses among the 14 disorders they looked at.

Post-COVID cases of stroke, dementia and other neurological disorders were rarer, the researchers said, but were still significant, especially in those who had severe COVID-19.

"Although the individual risks for most disorders are small, the effect across the whole population may be substantial," said Paul Harrison, a professor of psychiatry at Oxford University who co-led the work.

Max Taquet, also an Oxford psychiatrist who worked with Harrison, noted that the study was not able to examine the biological or psychological mechanisms involved, but said urgent research is needed to identify these "with a view to preventing or treating them".

Health experts are increasingly concerned by evidence



Nurses react as they treat a COVID-19 patient in the ICU (Intensive Care Unit) at Milton Keynes University Hospital

of higher risks of brain and mental health disorders among COVID-19 survivors. A previous study by the same researchers found last year that 20% of COVID-19 survivors were diagnosed with a psychiatric disorder within three months.

The new findings, published in the Lancet Psychiatry journal, analysed health records of 236,379 COVID-19 patients, mostly from the United States, and found 34% had been diagnosed with neurological or psychiatric illnesses within six months.

The disorders were significantly more common in COVID-19 patients than in comparison groups of people who recovered from flu or other respiratory infections over the same time period, the scientists said, suggesting COVID-19 had a specific impact.

Anxiety, at 17%, and mood disorders, at 14%, were the most

common, and did not appear to be related to how mild or severe the patient's COVID-19 infection had been.

Among those who had been admitted to intensive care with severe COVID-19 however, 7% had a stroke within six months, and almost 2% were diagnosed with dementia.

Independent experts said the findings were worrying.

"This is a very important paper. It confirms beyond any reasonable doubt that COVID-19 affects both brain and mind in equal measure," said Simon Wessely, chair of psychiatry at King's College London.

"The impact COVID-19 is having on individuals' mental health can be severe," said Lea Milligan, chief executive of the MQ Mental Health research charity. "This is contributing to the already rising levels of mental illness and requires further, urgent research."

## Dubai orders deportations for naked balcony photo shoot

Reuters | Dubai

Dubai will deport a group of people involved in a naked photo shoot on a high-rise balcony in the emirate, authorities said after criticising the incident as out of line with the values of the United Arab Emirates.

The group of naked women posing for a photographer last week along a balcony railing in the upscale Dubai Marina area was visible from neighbouring buildings. Images of the shoot circulated on social media.

"The individuals involved will be deported from the United Arab Emirates. No further comment shall be made on the matter," Dubai's Attorney General Essam Issa Al Humaidan said in a statement published by Dubai Media Office on Tuesday.

The statement did not provide details on the nationalities of those involved.

Dubai Police had on Saturday announced the arrest of those involved and warned against "such unacceptable behaviours which do not reflect the values and ethics of Emirati society".



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TWEETS

01



It is no great secret that wages have been stagnant in America for many decades. The rich are getting richer, while many workers are working longer hours for lower wages. We've got to grow the union movement.

@BernieSanders

02



Our national economy is fine .. and is progressing well .. We have assets in state banks exceeding 3000 billion dirhams to push our economy to new horizons .. We welcome everyone to make their dream in the United Arab Emirates ..

@HHSkMohd

03



I'm proud to share that yesterday, we crossed 150 million shots in just 75 days of my Administration — on our way to hitting our goal of 200 million shots by my 100th day in office.

@JoeBiden

04



"This #WorldHealthDay, we are calling on all people to raise your voice and for a fairer, healthier world"-@DrTedros #HealthEquity @WHO

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