

1788

US Constitution comes into effect when New Hampshire is the 9th state to ratify it

1948

Lord Mountbatten resigns as Governor General of India (formerly the last Viceroy)



1990

7.7 Manjil-Rudbar Earthquake with hundreds of aftershocks hits Iran; killing about 50,000

1993

English mathematician Andrew Wiles proves last theorem of Fermat

0 deaths amid

Taliban say 'Islamic system' only way to Afghan peace, women's rights

AFP | Kabul

The Taliban said yesterday they remain committed to peace talks but insisted a "genuine Islamic system" in Afghanistan was the only way to end the war and ensure rights -- including for women.

Talks between the militants and the Afghan government have been deadlocked for months and violence has surged across the country since May when the US military began its final withdrawal.

Despite the rise in violence, Taliban co-founder and deputy leader Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar said yesterday that the group was committed to the peace talks.

"Our very participation in the negotiations... indicates openly that we believe in resolving issues through (mutual) understanding," Baradar said in a statement.

He said the only way to end the conflict in Afghanistan was to establish an Islamic system after the departure of all foreign forces.



Taliban co-founder Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar (C) has said the group remains committed to peace talks

"A genuine Islamic system is the best mean for solution of all issues of the Afghans," Baradar said.

His statement acknowledged the fears in Afghanistan and abroad about the kind of system that would emerge -- and its impact on women -- saying that fell

"within the ambit of the intra-Afghan negotiations".

Baradar also assured that the rights of all Afghans including women would be accommodated in that system, according to "the glorious religion of Islam" and Afghan traditions.

response and for his scepticism toward vaccines, lockdowns and mask-wearing requirements, which he has sought to loosen.

The outbreak in Brazil has been fuelled by more transmissible variants of the virus, including the one first identified in the Amazon region and now known as Gamma. An average of 70,000 cases has been confirmed daily in the last week.

Netanyahu warns against nuclear weapons "hangmen regime"



Netanyahu's first weekly cabinet meeting of his

Netanyahu's ascent as enabled by Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei rather than by a free and popular vote.

"Raisi's election is, I would say,

"A regime of brutal hangmen must never be allowed to have weapons of mass-destruction. Israel's position will not change on this"

NAFTALI BENNETT

the last chance for world powers to wake up before returning to the nuclear agreement, and understand who they are doing business with," said Bennett in a statement he read out first in Hebrew and then in English.

"A regime of brutal hangmen must never be allowed to have weapons of mass-destruction," he said. "Israel's position will not change on this."

Raisi has never publicly addressed allegations around his role in what Washington and rights groups have called the extrajudicial executions of thousands of political prisoners in 1988.

Bennett, a nationalist atop of a cross-partisan coalition, has hewed to the opposition of his conservative predecessor, Benjamin Netanyahu, to the 2015 Iranian nuclear deal, whose caps on projects with bomb-making potential Israel deemed too lax.

The former US administration of Donald Trump agreed with Israel and quit the deal. Current President Joe Biden wants a US return to the deal. Iran denies seeking nuclear weaponry.

Cuba encouraged by early efficacy results of homegrown COVID-19 vaccine



The Communist-run country has opted not to import foreign vaccines but rather to rely on its own

● Cuba, whose biotech sector has exported vaccines for decades, has five vaccine candidates in clinical trials

● Several countries from Argentina and Jamaica to Mexico and Venezuela have expressed an interest in buying Cuba's vaccines

Reuters | Havana

Cuba's Soberana 2 vaccine candidate has shown 62% efficacy with just two of its three doses, state-run biopharmaceutical corporation BiocubaFarma said on Saturday, citing preliminary data from late phase trials.

Cuba, whose biotech sector has exported vaccines for decades, has five vaccine candidates in clinical trials, of which two - Soberana 2 and Abdala - are in late phase trials.

"In a few weeks we should have the results for the efficacy with three doses which we expect will be superior," said Vicente Verez, director of the state-run Finlay Vaccine Institute, which developed Soberana 2.

The news comes as the Caribbean's largest island is facing

its worst outbreak since the start of the pandemic in the wake of the arrival of more contagious variants, setting new records of daily coronavirus cases.

The Communist-run country has opted not to import foreign vaccines but rather to rely on its own. Experts say it is a risky bet but if it pays off, Cuba could burnish its scientific reputation, generate much-needed hard currency through exports and strengthen the vaccination drive worldwide.

"We know our government has not been able to provide this project all the funding it required, and nonetheless this is a result of global standing," President Miguel Diaz-Canel said at the presentation of the results on state-run television.

Several countries from Argentina and Jamaica to Mexico and Venezuela have expressed an interest in buying Cuba's vaccines. Iran started producing Soberana 2 earlier this year as part of late-phase clinical trials.

Cuba's authorities have started administering the experimental vaccines en masse as part of "intervention studies" they hope will slow the spread of the virus.

Daily cases have halved in the capital since the start of this vaccination campaign, according to official data, although that may also be due to stricter lockdown measures.

Presidential Dog, Dies

specific cause of death for the senior dog. "Wherever we were, he wanted to be, and everything was instantly better when he was next to us."

The Bidens purchased Champ as a puppy in 2008, drawing some criticism for going to a breeder rather than adopting from an animal shelter or rescue. (Their next dog, Major - also a German shepherd - was adopted from a shelter in 2018.)

During Biden's time as vice president, Champ lived with the family at U.S. Naval Observatory.

"He

thinks he's Secret Service," Biden once said of Champ, according to the Presidential Pet Museum, "because he is."

The museum noted that the dog got his name from Biden's granddaughters Finnegan and Maisy, who decided to call him "Champ" because of their grandfather's penchant for saying, "Any time you get knocked down, champ, get back up!"

Although Major's time at the White House has been somewhat checkered with a series of nipping incidents, Champ's life was relatively controversy-free, aside from a bizarre right-wing attack about his appearance and a minor mystery pooping incident.

The news of Champ's death comes just weeks after Barack and Michelle Obama announced the death of former first dog Bo.



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TWEETS

01



Congratulations to His Excellency Ebrahim Raisi on his election as President of the Islamic Republic of Iran. I look forward to working with him to further strengthen the warm ties between India and Iran.
[@narendramodi](#)

02



PM Bennett: "Let every enemy and terrorist who tries to attack us know that the State of Israel will lay its hands on every vile criminal sooner or later and bring him to justice."
[@IsraeliPM](#)

03



The refugees I have met throughout my life have shown me what it means to rebuild your life while finding the strength to enrich the lives of others. This #RefugeeDay, I reiterate my admiration for what displaced people teach us about the power of hope and healing.
[@antonioguterres](#)

04



To honor the true meaning of Juneteenth, we have to continue toward that promise of equality for all.
[@JoeBiden](#)

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