

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two of seven candidates pull out of Iran election

Two days before Iran's presidential election, which is expected to be won by an ultraconservative cleric, two of the seven men vying for the post pulled out of the race yesterday.

China to launch first crew to new space station today

Astronauts blasting off yesterday for China's first crewed mission to its new space station will have a choice of 120 different types of food and "space treadmills" for exercise, China's space agency said.

Republicans introduce bill to fire Anthony Fauci

Several Republican lawmakers, eager to blame a US government official for the response to the coronavirus pandemic, introduced a bill Tuesday to fire Anthony Fauci, the face of American efforts to combat Covid-19.

New ICC prosecutor vows to take 'stronger cases' to trial



British barrister Karim Khan, 51, took over as the International Criminal Court's top prosecutor yesterday with a pledge to improve its track record by taking only its strongest cases to trial.

North Korea's Kim admits food situation 'tense'

Kim Jong Un has admitted that North Korea's food situation is "tense", state media reported yesterday, sounding the alarm in a country that suffered a devastating famine in the 1990s in which hundreds of thousands died.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



A helicopter belonging to Nepal army flies past houses hit by flash floods along the bank of Melamchi River during a rescue mission in Sindhupalchok, Nepal, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

PUTIN-BIDEN GENEVA SUMMIT US, Russia to resume arms control talks

Agree to return respective ambassadors

REUTERS, Geneva

US President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday agreed at their first summit to resume arms control talks and to return ambassadors to each other's capitals after they were withdrawn earlier this year.

The summit at the lakeside Villa La Grange in Geneva lasted less than four hours - far less than Biden's advisers had said they expected.

The scheduling of separate news conferences meant there was none of the joviality that accompanied a 2018 meeting between Putin and Biden's predecessor, Donald Trump. There was also no joint meal.

Putin, 68, who was first to brief reporters, said the meeting had been constructive, without hostility.

He also said Russia and the United States shared a responsibility for nuclear stability, and would hold talks on possible changes to their recently extended New START arms limitation treaty.

But he showed little appetite for compromise on a range of other issues, dismissing Washington's concerns about the arrest of opposition figurehead Alexei Navalny, about Russia's increased military presence near Ukraine's eastern border, and about US suggestions that unidentified Russians are responsible for a series of cyber-attacks in the United States.

The Kremlin leader said Washington and Moscow would start consultations on cybersecurity, adding that most cyber-attacks on Russia came from the United States.

Arms control is, however, one domain where progress has historically been possible despite wider disagreements. In February, Russia and the US extended for five years the New START treaty, which caps the number of strategic nuclear warheads they can deploy and limits the land- and submarine-based missiles and bombers to deliver them.

The talks were also attended by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.



One in five asymptomatic patients develop long Covid

AFP, Washington

Almost a fifth of Covid patients without symptoms went on to experience conditions consistent with long Covid a month after their initial diagnosis, according to a huge study published Tuesday.

The analysis by non-profit FAIR Health encompassed insurance claims from 1.96 million Americans -- the largest population of patients ever studied for long Covid -- from February 2020 to February 2021.

"Long Covid" refers to symptoms of the disease that persist more than four weeks after being diagnosed.

The study found that across all ages, the most common post viral conditions were in order of frequency: pain, breathing difficulties, high cholesterol, general discomfort and fatigue, and high blood pressure.

The odds of dying 30 days or more after initially being diagnosed with Covid were 46 times higher for patients who were hospitalized with Covid and discharged compared to those who weren't. Most long Covid conditions were associated more with females than males. A quarter of all such cases occurred among individuals aged 19-29.

The causes of long Covid remain unknown.

Bosnian woman awarded 'Green Nobel' for fighting to save river

REUTERS, Krusica

Maida Bilal endured being beaten and harassed when she spent more than 500 days guarding the site of a planned mini hydropower plant on Bosnia's Krusica River with a team of women from her village before the building permits were annulled.

That battle in central Bosnia may have been won back in December 2018, but she is still on the frontline in the fight against other proposed plants across the Balkan country and has now been honoured with a so-called "Green Nobel".

The 40-year-old was the named European winner of the 2021 Goldman Environmental Prize, that honours grassroots environmental pioneers from six regions around the world.

"We have defended the river for 503 days, physically 24 hours a day," Bilal told Reuters. "If needed, we'll guard her for another 5,300 days."

In the summer of 2017, the villagers prevented heavy machines from



crossing a wooden bridge on the route to the building site, saying the project would ruin the environment.

She said they endured an attack by police who she says forcibly moved them for violating public peace and order.

But they fought on till the permits were revoked a year and a half later.

"I lost my job, I lost my friends, my daughter was bullied in school," Bilal, a trained economist, said. But she said it was worth the fight.

The virtual prize-giving ceremony hailed the winners: "These everyday heroes demonstrate the power of grassroots activism in the fight to protect our planet."

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বাংলাদেশ শিল্পকলা একাডেমী সংস্কৃতি বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়. ১৮তম জাতীয় চলচ্চিত্র উৎসব ২০২১. ১৮তম জাতীয় চলচ্চিত্র উৎসব ২০২১. ১৮-২৫ জুন ২০২১. ১১৮টি চলচ্চিত্র.

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