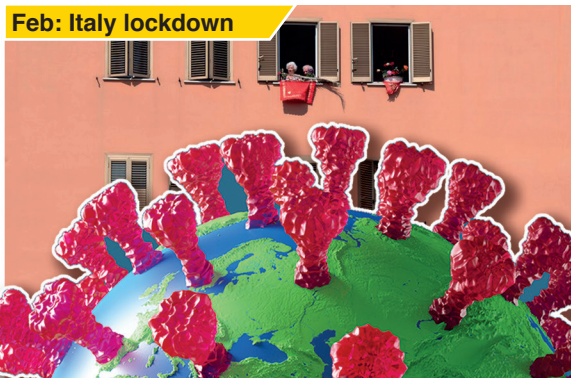


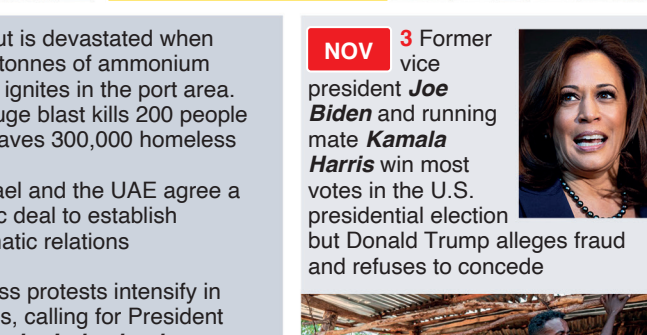
# 2020 – a year dominated by the coronavirus pandemic



Feb: Italy lockdown



Mar: Rise of Zoom



**JAN 14** Australia's most intense bushfire season on record destroys 24m hectares of land and kills or displaces three billion animals

**JAN 23** Wuhan and several other Chinese cities are placed under quarantine as a new strain of coronavirus spreads widely

**JAN 31** The UK formally leaves the European Union

**FEB 5** The U.S. Senate votes to acquit President **Donald Trump** of abuse of power at his impeachment trial

**FEB 9** South Korea's **Parasite** is the first non-English language film to win a Best Picture Oscar

**FEB 23** Italy, with one of the highest coronavirus rates outside China, imposes a strict lockdown



**MAR 11** The WHO recognises the **Covid-19** coronavirus outbreak as a pandemic

**MAR 11** Former movie mogul **Harvey Weinstein** is jailed for 23 years for sex offences

**MAR 23** Shares in video conference company **Zoom** reach record highs as ever more countries encourage social distancing

**FEB 26** The U.S. Senate passes a \$2.2 trillion relief package to combat the Covid-19 pandemic

**APR 8** Chinese authorities lift the lockdown in Wuhan after 11 weeks

**APR 20** Israeli leaders **Benjamin Netanyahu** and **Benny Gantz** agree to share power after three indecisive elections

**MAY 6** The discovery of the first black hole visible to the naked eye is announced

**MAY 20** **Cyclone Amphan** forces the evacuation of four million people in eastern India and Bangladesh

**MAY 26** **Black Lives Matter** protests break out across the U.S. over the death of **George Floyd** after his arrest in Minneapolis



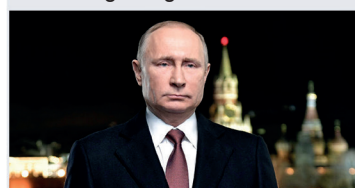
**JUN 30** Two U.S. astronauts blast into space atop a Falcon-9 rocket, in NASA's first use of a rocket from private company **SpaceX**

**JUN 3** An emergency is declared in Siberia after 20,000 tonnes of diesel oil leak into a river inside the Arctic Circle

**JUN 8** New Zealand lifts almost all coronavirus restrictions after no new cases are reported

**JUN 15** India and China conduct the fiercest border clashes in the Himalayas for 40 years

**JUN 30** China formally adopts a controversial security law giving Beijing unprecedented powers over Hong Kong



**JUL 1** Russia's constitutional referendum clears the way for President **Vladimir Putin** to run for two more six-year presidential terms



**JUL 20** The UAE's **Hope** probe is one of three missions to Mars launched in July

**JUL 23** Comet **NEOWISE** makes its closest approach to Earth

**JUL 28** Former Malaysian premier **Najib Razak** is found guilty of corruption in the first trial related to the 1MDB scandal



**AUG 3** Spain's former King **Juan Carlos I** goes into exile after a series of scandals

**AUG 4** Beirut is devastated when 2,750 tonnes of ammonium nitrate ignites in the port area. The huge blast kills 200 people and leaves 300,000 homeless

**AUG 13** Israel and the UAE agree a historic deal to establish diplomatic relations

**AUG 16** Mass protests intensify in Belarus, calling for President **Alexander Lukashenko** to step down following his controversial re-election

**AUG 22** Russian opposition leader **Alexei Navalny** is airlifted to Germany after falling ill on a flight from Siberia to Moscow – doctors identify novichok poisoning



**SEP 27** Intense fighting erupts between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the disputed Nagorno Karabakh region, resolved after six weeks by a Russian-brokered peace agreement

**SEP 29** The global death toll from Covid-19 passes one million. The U.S., Brazil and India account for nearly half of the total

**OCT 17** Prime Minister **Jacinda Ardern** wins a landslide election victory in New Zealand

**OCT 20** NASA's **OSIRIS-REx** probe successfully touches down on the asteroid Bennu to collect samples for analysis

**NOV 3** Former vice president **Joe Biden** and running mate **Kamala Harris** win most votes in the U.S. presidential election but Donald Trump alleges fraud and refuses to concede



**NOV 4** Heavy fighting flares in the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia between the forces of Prime Minister **Abiy Ahmed** and the former ruling **Tigray People's Liberation Front**

**NOV 9** Peru's President **Martin Vizcarra** is impeached and removed from office on corruption charges, sparking deadly protests



**NOV 19** Positive clinical trial results from three Covid-19 vaccines offer grounds for optimism

**DEC 17** China's **Chang'e 5** mission aims to return moon rock samples to Earth

**DEC 31** Hopes for 2021 are focused on vaccination programmes to bring Covid-19 under control