

WORLD AGENDA

MAY 2021



1 May 15, U.S.: President **Joe Biden** welcomes South Korean President **Moon Jae-in** to the White House for talks including how to keep pressure on North Korea to stem the totalitarian state's nuclear programme

2 May 6, UK: First Minister **Nicola Sturgeon** says an outright victory for her Scottish National Party in elections to Scotland's parliament would give her a mandate to demand a second independence referendum. The British government argues that the issue was settled in 2014, when Scots voted to remain in the UK

3 May 24-Jun 1, Switzerland: The 74th **World Health Assembly** – held virtually, amid the **Covid-19** pandemic – will be the most pressing in recent history. Access to vaccines, waiving of patents and the vaccine-manufacturing capacities of low and middle-income countries, will be high on the agenda

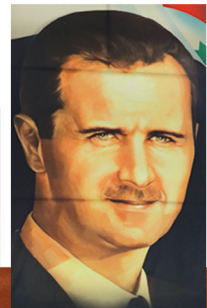
4 May 2, Pakistan: Ten years ago, U.S. commandos raided a compound in Abbottabad and killed al-Qaeda leader **Osama bin Laden**.

The death of the mastermind of the 9/11 terror attacks weakened his movement, but it remains a threat



5 May 26, Syria: Syria is to hold a presidential election that is virtually certain to maintain President **Bashar al-Assad's** grip on power, despite continuing conflict and a growing economic crisis. Washington and the Syrian opposition say the poll is a farce, designed to cement Assad's autocratic rule

7 May 30-June 13, France: **Rafael Nadal** is looking to win his 14th title at Roland Garros, in a tournament pushed back a week by ongoing coronavirus restrictions. Another win would give him his 21st Grand Slam, taking him past **Roger Federer**



8 May 26, Space: The second shortest total lunar eclipse of the 21st century, lasting 14 and a half minutes, will be visible from Australia, parts of the Americas and much of Asia, if the reddened, super "Blood Moon" is not obscured by cloud

6 May 18-22, Netherlands: The **Eurovision Song Contest 2021** takes place in Rotterdam. The city was due to host the event in 2020 before it was cancelled due to the global pandemic

