

Final debate will feature 'mute' button

REUTERS
Donald Trump and Joe Biden will have their microphones muted for parts of their final debate tomorrow to allow each candidate a block of uninterrupted time to speak and avoid the rancour of the two candidates' first encounter. For this week's 90-minute debate, the organisers will give each candidate two minutes of uninterrupted time at the beginning of each 15-minute segment of the debate. NBC News correspondent Kristen Welker will moderate. Trump objected to the change, but said he would still take part. "I will participate but it's very unfair that they changed the topics and it's very unfair again that we have an anchor who's totally biased," he claimed. Family issues, climate change and race have been proposed as topics, but Trump's camp said it should include foreign policy.

Battle for swing states heats up

Trump seeks campaign boost in Pennsylvania; Harris tours Florida to win undecided voters

AGENCIES
US President Donald Trump was heading to the battleground state of Pennsylvania yesterday with hopes of rekindling the 11th-hour surge of support that powered his surprise 2016 victory. But with more than 30 million early ballots already cast with less than two weeks to go before voting ends on Election Day Nov. 3, time is running short in his contest against Democratic challenger Joe Biden. National polls show former Vice President Biden holding a wide lead on Republican Trump, though the contest is closer in swing states including Pennsylvania, Florida and North Carolina. Trump has gained some ground on Biden in Pennsylvania, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll released on Monday, which showed the challenger leading by 49% to 45%, slightly narrower than a week earlier. Trump is due to hold a rally in Erie, in the state's northwest corner, at 7 pm Eastern Time (2300 GMT). Biden has no events planned. Trump's handling of the coronavirus pandemic, which has killed more than 219,000 Americans and thrown



Wearing a coat reading "I Really Care So I Vote", a woman votes in the 2020 US elections in California on Monday. The coat is a reference to one worn by US First Lady Melania Trump which read "I Really Don't Care Do You?". PHOTO: AFP

millions out of work, has taken a heavy toll on his re-election prospects. The battle has played out in eight or nine swing states for months, but perhaps nowhere more intensely than Florida, the largest up-for-grabs prize of them all, delivering 29 of the state-by-state Electoral College votes that decide who wins the presidency. Reuters/Ipsos polling also shows Trump trailing in Wisconsin and Michigan, the two other Rust Belt states that he narrowly carried four years ago. Trump also trails in Arizona and the

Carolina -- another state Democrats want to flip -- dispatched Harris to Florida for a drive-in rally in Orlando and a voter mobilization event in Jacksonville. The events are key for Democratic efforts in larger, more urban areas to offset the advantages Trump has in smaller counties across Florida. Early returns show registered Democrats outpacing Republicans in most states that track party affiliation. Trump has repeatedly characterized absentee voting as unreliable, though experts say it is as secure as any other method. His campaign and the Republican Party have sought, with mixed success, to limit mail voting in states that expanded it in response to fears of spreading COVID-19 at crowded polling places. In Pennsylvania, his campaign has failed to prevent officials from setting up ballot drop boxes, a popular option in many other states. On Monday, the US Supreme Court also allowed state officials to count mail ballots that arrive up to three days after the Nov 3 election, rejecting a Republican effort to reject all those that arrive after Election Day. Early in-person voting, already underway in many states, will begin in Wisconsin, Utah and Hawaii on Tuesday.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel, UAE agree visa-free travel for nationals

Israel and the United Arab Emirates agreed Monday to reciprocal visa-free travel, making Emirati citizens the first in the Arab world to not require Israeli entry permits. The deal was signed after the first ever official delegation from the UAE landed in Israel for a day of talks following an agreement to normalise ties signed at the White House last month. The two states signed four agreements on Monday.

Pompeo to visit Sri Lanka, Maldives this month

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will visit Sri Lanka and the Maldives this month, officials of both Indian Ocean nations said yesterday, as Washington seeks to counter China's growing influence in the region. Pompeo will hold two-way talks in Colombo on Oct. 28, a spokesman for Sri Lanka's foreign ministry said, but gave no details. Two people familiar with arrangements for the trip said Pompeo was likely to stop in the Maldives' capital of Male for several hours on the same day.

Indonesia rejected US request to host spy planes

Indonesia rejected this year a proposal by the United States to allow its P-8 Poseidon maritime surveillance planes to land and refuel there, according to four senior Indonesian officials familiar with the matter. US officials made multiple "high-level" approaches in July and August to Indonesia's defence and foreign ministers before Indonesia's president, Joko Widodo, rebuffed the request, the officials said. Indonesia has never allowed foreign militaries to operate there. The P-8 plays a central role in keeping an eye on China's military activity in the South China Sea, most of which Beijing claims as sovereign territory.

Australia to join 'quad' drill with US, Japan, India

Australia will take part in a large-scale military drill off the coast of India next month that will bring together a quartet of countries concerned by rising Chinese influence. India, Japan, the United States and -- for the first time since 2007 -- Australia will take part in this November's Malabar naval exercise, a move that will likely spark Chinese protest. India's Ministry of Defence said the naval drill would take place in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, which has been a hotspot for Indo-Chinese strategic competition. The drill comes at a time when diplomatic tensions between China and Australia, economic tensions between China and the US and military tensions between China and India are boiling. At a Quad meeting in Tokyo earlier this month, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called on Asian allies to unite against China's "exploitation, corruption and coercion" in the region.

India seals off Kashmir newspaper's office

UN 'dismayed' at arrests, NGO restrictions

AGENCIES
The regional administration of Indian-administered Kashmir has sealed the office of a leading English newspaper, whose publisher said the action was "vendetta for speaking out". Separately, UN rights chief Michelle Bachelet yesterday voiced her dismay at the arrest of activists in India and restrictions to the work of non-governmental organisations. The local administration's estates department on Monday sealed the office of Kashmir Times -- one of the oldest newspapers in the region -- located in the Press Enclave in the disputed region's main city of Srinagar. Anuradha Bhasin, the owner and executive editor of Kashmir Times, told Al Jazeera "no due process" was followed by the authorities in sealing their office. The authorities came in and ordered workers to leave and locked the office, she alleged. Defending the move, an official of the region's estates department told Al Jazeera that they have not closed the office of Kashmir Times, but took possession of a state property. Media watchdog, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPI), and Kashmir journalists and politicians condemned the move. Meanwhile, The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights yesterday appealed to New Delhi to safeguard the rights of human rights defenders and NGOs. Bachelet took aim at the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, which prohibits the receipt of foreign funds "for any activities prejudicial to the public interest". Bachelet said that activists and human rights defenders had come under mounting pressure in recent months, particularly those involved in mass protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act. India ranked 142 on the World Press Freedom Index this year.



People visit a makeshift memorial outside the Armenian embassy for the victims of a military conflict over the breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh in Moscow, Russia, yesterday. The foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan will meet separately this week with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo as world powers seek to halt the fighting, the two sides said yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

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REGIONAL LAWMAKERS' REPORT ON ROHINGYA

Crisis exposes Asean weaknesses

AL JAZEERA ONLINE
The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) has failed to respond effectively to the Rohingya crisis in Myanmar thanks to a lack of leadership and the 10-member organisation's inability to grasp the scale of the human rights abuses, a report from a group of regional lawmakers said yesterday. Asean Parliamentarians for Human Rights said Asean had been hampered by its own institutional structure, which allowed member state Myanmar the space to "set the parameters of Asean's engagement". It noted a lack of leadership within the Asean Secretariat in Jakarta, and among member states themselves. "Caught between respect for its key principles of consensus and non-interference on the one hand, and (an) international and domestic

outrage on the other, the regional bloc has struggled to respond to the crisis and articulate a clear vision and strategy that would help end the cycle of violence and displacement," the group said in the report, which examined the reasons for Asean's weak response to the crisis. Some 750,000 mostly Muslim Rohingya fled Myanmar for neighbouring Bangladesh in the face of a brutal military crackdown that is now the subject of a genocide investigation at the United Nations' top court. While those who fled now live in sprawling refugee camps, those left behind in Rakhine are in camps for displaced people that rights groups have described as "open prisons". "Asean has chosen to look at it from a humanitarian point of view, which is Myanmar's approach," Charles Santiago, a Malaysian MP who chairs the APHR board, told a

press conference to release the report, noting that the organisation had not addressed key concerns including citizenship, religious rights and land issues. "Asean literally got cornered. The critical issues were ignored." The situation there has deteriorated since the Rohingya exodus, with more people forced from their homes as a result of the escalating conflict between the Myanmar military and the Arakan Army, an ethnic Rakhine armed group. "How can we talk about Rohingya refugees returning to Rakhine State, when that area remains an active war zone?" said Santiago. "Until Asean and other international actors acknowledge the situation that led the Rohingya to flee in the first place, there's no hope of peace for any of the people who call Rakhine State home," said Laetitia van den Assum, a former member of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State.

PROTEST COVERAGE

Thai court suspends TV station

REUTERS, Bangkok
A Thai court yesterday ordered the suspension of an online TV station critical of the government, which has accused it of violating emergency measures aimed at ending three months of protests. Voice TV had also been found to have breached the Computer Crime Act by uploading "false information," digital ministry spokesman Puchapong Nodthaisong told reporters. Thailand has drawn criticism from rights groups for banning demonstrations and the publication of news seen as damaging by the government as it tries to end the protests against Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha and the powerful monarchy. Rittikorn Mahakhachabhorn, Editor-in-Chief of Voice TV, said it would continue broadcasting until the court order arrived. Thailand said on Monday that three other media organisations are under investigation. Voice TV is owned in part by the Shinawatra family of former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra and his sister Yingluck, who was overthrown by Prayuth in a 2014 coup. Both fled Thailand to escape corruption cases they branded political. Street protests since mid-July are the biggest challenge in decades to the monarchy under King Maha Vajiralongkorn and to Prayuth, who rejects accusations of engineering an election last year to keep power. The PM has said he has no intention to quit in the face of the protests.



Pro-democracy protesters make a three-finger salute at 6:00 Pm, at the time the national anthem is usually played in all public transport stations in Bangkok, Thailand, yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Pabna University of Science and Technology
Office of the Chief Engineer
Memo No : PUST/Engg Office/egp/ FY 2019-2020/06 & 07 Date: 19/10/2020
e-Tender Notice (FY/2019-20)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of following works of Pabna University of Science & Technology, Pabna.

Sl No	Tender ID	APP ID	Package No & Invitation Ref. No	Name of Works	Tender Publication Date & Time	Tender Closing Date & Time	Method
1	505973	156085	PUST/Engg office/Civil/egp/06	FINISHING WORKS OF BANGHABANDHU MURAL AT PABNA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PUST. FY 2019-2020.	19-Oct-2020 08:30 PM	04-Nov-2020 12:30 PM	OTM
2	506403	156085	PUST/Engg office/Civil/egp/07	Construction of approach Road to Mural Ampeatheter and Substation area at PUST FY-2019-2020.	19-Oct-2020 08:30 PM	04-Nov-2020 16:30 PM	OTM

This is an online Tender where only e-tender will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks branches. Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Engr. Md. Aminul Islam
Chief Engineer
Pabna University of Science & Technology, Pabna.

কুমিল্লা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
কোটবাড়ী, কুমিল্লা-৩৫০৬
ফোন নং ০৮১-৭০০২২-২৫
Ref No. CoU/Eng./Comp. Off.Equip/2020-21/242/3453 Date: 19/10/2020

Invitation of Tender (Goods) e-Tender Notice

Tender ID No.	Description of works	Tender closing & opening (date & time)
Tender ID: 503983	Supply & Installation of Computer lab item for Faculty and Department of Comilla University.	04.11.2020; 12:15
Tender ID: 504750	Supply & Installation of Computer and related item for Department/Office of Comilla University.	04.11.2020; 12:45
Tender ID: 504759	Supply & Installation of Office Equipment item for Faculty & Department of Comilla University	04.11.2020; 12:30

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches within the mentioned time in tender notice. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Signed
Engr. S.M. Shahidul Hasan
Superintending Engineer
Comilla University, Comilla