

US ELECTION 2020

3 DAYS TO GO

VOTE-BY-MAIL
US SC deals blow to Republicans in Pennsylvania, North Carolina
 The US Supreme Court on Wednesday dealt setbacks to Republicans by allowing extended deadlines for receiving mail-in ballots in next Tuesday's election in Pennsylvania and North Carolina, states pivotal to President Donald Trump's re-election chances. The action by the justices means a Sept 17 ruling by Pennsylvania's top court allowing mail-in ballots that are postmarked by Election Day and received up to three days later to be counted will remain in place for now. The conservative-majority court on Wednesday also rejected a request by Trump's campaign to block North Carolina's extension of the deadline for receiving mail-in ballots, in another key battleground legal loss for Republicans. Trump has repeatedly attacked the integrity of mail-in voting.

US TARIFFS ON CHINA
Biden, if elected, would consult allies: advisers
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 Democrat Joe Biden would immediately consult with America's main allies before deciding on the future of US tariffs on China, seeking "collective leverage" to strengthen his hand against Beijing if he is elected president, Biden top advisers said on Wednesday. In an interview with Reuters, the two Biden aides said the starting point would be to not repeat the mistakes of Trump when he slapped tariffs on European and Canadian goods as part of his "America First" agenda, antagonizing key US partners. The advisers declined to say whether the Biden, if elected, would be inclined toward lifting the massive tariffs on China that Trump has imposed. The bitter trade dispute is just one of the main sources of tensions between Washington and Beijing, whose relations have sunk to the lowest point in decades over a range of issues, including the coronavirus, Hong Kong, intellectual property theft, human rights, Taiwan and the South China Sea.
 SOURCE: REUTERS

Trump's potential paths to victory

Surveys indicate the incumbent may be a one-term president, but those can be proved wrong again

AGENCIES

Democrat Joe Biden leads President Donald Trump in the polls with few days to go before the US election.

The debates are over, tens of millions of Americans have cast their ballots already and the 77-year-old former vice president would appear to be on a glide path to the White House.

Not so fast. The 74-year-old Trump has several potential routes to victory on November 3 and the most likely ones wind through the battleground states of Florida and Pennsylvania.

Trump lost the popular vote to Hillary Clinton in 2016 by nearly three million votes and is likely to lose it to Biden also. But US presidential elections are not decided by the popular vote. They are decided by the 538-member Electoral College and Trump could find a way to scrape together enough electoral votes to win.

Each of the 50 US states plus Washington DC has a number of electoral votes equal to their number of members of the House of Representatives plus their two Senators.

California, with 55 electoral votes, is the biggest prize followed by Texas with 38, Florida and New York with 29 each



and Pennsylvania with 20. Except for in Maine and Nebraska, all of a state's electoral votes are allotted to the winner of the popular vote in the state.

A candidate needs 270 electoral votes to win the White House.

According to the polls and the pundits, Trump is virtually assured of winning 163 electoral votes from the solidly Republican states that voted for him last time. Biden looks poised to scoop up at least 260 electoral votes including two states that Trump won last time --

Michigan and Wisconsin.

But Trump can afford to lose those two midwestern states and still carve out a victory on November 3.

"If Donald Trump wins all of the states he won last time with the exception of Wisconsin and Michigan and maintains Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Arizona and Florida, he wins," said Capri Cafaro, a former Democratic member of the Ohio state senate.

"He gets to 270," said Cafaro, who is now an executive in residence at American

University. "And that's plausible. It's very, very possible."

The political tracking website RealClearPolitics (RCP) shows extremely tight races in Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Arizona and Florida.

RCP's average of state polls has Biden up by 2.4 points over Trump in Arizona, trailing by 0.4 points in Florida, leading by 0.7 points in North Carolina and up by 3.8 points in Pennsylvania.

"Pennsylvania is key because it's going to be difficult for Trump to chisel together enough electoral votes otherwise," said Cafaro.

Trump held three campaign rallies in Pennsylvania on Monday and stressed the importance of winning the Keystone state. "We win Pennsylvania, we win the whole ballgame," he said.

And in a sign that the president faces an uphill climb this time the RCP polling averages also show close races in several states which Trump won in 2016 including Georgia, Iowa, Ohio and Texas.

If Trump loses Texas, which has 38 electoral votes, all equations will be in vein.

The path is tight, but the mercurial, unpredictable man with an anti-establishment aura around him has done it in 2016. Who knows he might pull up a bigger surprise this time.

Cases resurging in South Asia

India passes 8m cases; Colombo, Pak cities announce lockdowns

AGENCIES

India passed eight million coronavirus cases, Colombo imposed a lockdown and Pakistan extended curbs yesterday as South Asia braces for a new wave of the pandemic.

The novel coronavirus has killed at least 1,175,992 people since the outbreak emerged in China last December, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP at 11:00 GMT yesterday. At least 44,561,260 cases of coronavirus have been registered.

On Wednesday, 6,979 new deaths and 479,389 new cases were recorded worldwide. Based on latest reports, the countries with the most new deaths were United States with 1,000 new deaths, followed by India with 517 and Brazil with 510.

Despite the huge number of cases, India has one of the world's lowest death rates and the government has highlighted the slowing number of new infections in recent weeks.



But authorities are preparing for a new surge after Diwali, the country's most important religious festival on November 14. Textiles Minister Smriti Irani has become the latest of several cabinet members to test positive.

Experts have said crowds gathering for Diwali and other festivals, colder temperatures and the annual winter pollution crisis could worsen the impact of coronavirus cases across the country.

In Sri Lanka, Colombo will go back into lockdown from today following a surge in coronavirus cases, authorities said yesterday.

The South Asian island nation of 21 million people has reported more than

9,200 Covid-19 infections, with over half detected in the past three weeks after more than a thousand garment factory workers tested positive.

Around 5.5 million people living in the capital Colombo and two neighbouring districts would be only allowed to move around for essential services, health officials said.

The lockdown for three days could be extended depending on the pace of infections, they added.

In Pakistan, a mandatory mask order came into force in cities yesterday.

Pakistani health officials on Wednesday unveiled a string of new measures that began from Thursday, including mandatory mask orders in the country's major urban areas, lockdowns in hotspots, and restrictions on some businesses' operating hours.

Pakistan has confirmed more than 331,000 cases including over 6,700 deaths since the virus entered the country in late February.

Pompeo says China 'gravest threat' to religious freedom

AFP, Jakarta

China is the "gravest threat" to the future of religious freedom, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said yesterday, in his latest verbal assault on Beijing during a whirlwind Asian tour.

Pompeo has made attacks against China the focus of his trip this week which kicked off in India and included visits to Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Indonesia and, later Friday, Vietnam.

In Indonesia -- which has the world's biggest Muslim population -- Pompeo took aim at China's treatment of its Uighur Muslim minority.

"The gravest threat to the future of religious freedom is the Chinese Communist Party's war against people of all faiths: Muslims, Buddhists, Christians alike," Pompeo said in a speech yesterday.

"The atheist Chinese communist party has tried to convince the world that its brutalisation of Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang is necessary as counter-terrorism or poverty alleviation," he added, saying their effort failed.

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Moderate to strong' La Nina this year: UN

Global temperatures boosted by climate change will still be higher than usual despite the cooling effect of a "moderate to strong" La Nina weather phenomenon, the UN said yesterday. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said La Nina "has developed and is expected to last into next year, affecting temperatures, precipitation and storm patterns in many parts of the world." La Nina is considered the stormy sister of El Nino, which occurs every two to seven years when the prevailing trade winds that circulate surface water in the tropical Pacific start to weaken. El Nino, which has a major influence on weather and climate patterns and associated hazards such as heavy rains, floods and drought, has a warming influence on global temperatures, whilst La Nina tends to have the opposite effect.

Karabakh city hit by heaviest shelling in month of fighting

Azerbaijan yesterday launched its heaviest missile strikes in a month of fighting on the largest city in its Armenian-populated breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh, separatist officials said. At least 1,252 people from both sides have been reported dead in the recent flare-up that began last month between Azerbaijani and Armenian forces over their decades-long conflict for control of the disputed territory. Both sides have accused each other of failing to respect three separate ceasefire agreements mediated this month by Russia, France and the United States.

S Korean ex-president Lee Sent to prison for 17 years

Former South Korean president Lee Myung-bak was ordered back to prison yesterday as the country's Supreme Court upheld a 17-year jail term for bribery and embezzlement offences. The conservative Lee, who served as president from 2008 to 2013, had been out on bail awaiting the ruling and was not in court for the decision. The ruling is not subject to further appeal and at age 78 means Lee is likely to die in prison unless he receives a presidential pardon. Lee was first convicted in late 2018 and jailed. The Supreme Court yesterday upheld his conviction for embezzling 25.2 billion won (\$22 million) and accepting bribes totalling 9.4 billion won, as well as the 17-year sentence.

Vietnam hunts for survivors after typhoon kills 31

Vietnam hunted for survivors yesterday after landslides triggered by Typhoon Molave, one of its strongest storms in decades, lashed a central region already reeling from weeks of heavy rains that have killed at least 160 people. Hundreds of soldiers with heavy equipment were deployed to landslides in remote areas of Quang Nam province, where 19 people were killed and 12 were missing. The bodies of 12 fishermen were found at sea yesterday and the navy was searching for 14 others missing.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

Special Supplement

Breast Surgery: Fresh Hope in Oncoplastic Surgery

Oncoplastic breast surgery removes the stigma of patients having to live with deformity of the breast after tumour removal. National Cancer Centre Singapore (NCCS) gives an insight into this emerging technique.

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Breast cancer patients have greater choice to conserve their breasts using oncoplastic surgery.

Another option is oncoplastic breast surgery, an emerging discipline in which breast conservation surgery combines oncologic or cancer treatment principles with plastic surgical techniques. "The goal is to completely remove the cancer, with good surgical margins, while maintaining or improving cosmesis," said Assoc Prof Veronique Tan, Head and

Senior Consultant, Department of Breast Surgery at National Cancer Centre Singapore (NCCS) and Singapore General Hospital (SGH), and Head of the SingHealth Duke-NUS Breast Centre.

Established plastic surgical techniques to reduce or lift breasts may be used with cancer surgery to reshape a breast, resulting in a cancer-free breast that is of normal shape, albeit of a smaller size. A breast reduction on the opposite breast may be performed at the same

time for better symmetry.

Women with smaller breasts can opt for volume-replacement breast-conserving surgery or partial breast reconstruction, where the soft fatty tissue from the side of the chest is rotated to fill the space created in the breast after the cancer is removed.

"Oncoplastic breast surgery isn't for everyone, but it extends the option of breast-conserving surgery to more patients," said Prof Tan.

The philosophy behind oncoplastic breast surgery is that "we want good cancer removal, we want survival, and we want a good long-term aesthetic outcome -- because our patient is going to live", said Prof Tan, who recently completed a one-year oncoplastic training programme at the United Kingdom's Nottingham Breast Institute.

The key, said Assoc Prof Benita Tan, Senior Consultant at the SingHealth Duke-NUS Breast Centre, is for patients to

consider carefully what they want to do. "Many patients think that if they are diagnosed with cancer, they must have surgery immediately and have the whole breast removed."

"It's not true. Breast cancer surgery is never truly an emergency. Unless you have a cancer that is growing very fast, which is uncommon, or have complications of a very advanced cancer, you can usually take a few weeks to decide," she said.

Keeping the breast with oncoplastic surgery

Oncoplastic breast surgery is an emerging discipline that combines plastic surgical techniques with breast-conserving surgery. If conservation surgery is found to be appropriate, the option can help the patient avoid a mastectomy and the disadvantages associated with a full breast removal -- the need for breast reconstruction, numbness and sensory loss of the breast mound and nipple. The conserved breast is warm, soft, has sensation and feels and moves as part of the patient's body.

In oncoplastic surgery, the cancer and a rim of surrounding normal breast tissue are removed, and the remaining breast is then reshaped. The aim is to avoid distortions and recreate a normal-shaped breast, albeit of smaller size. Alternatively, adjacent fatty tissue may be used to fill a defect in the breast that had resulted from the removal of the cancer. In instances where the cancer is large, its removal will cause a dent in the breast and alter the position of the nipple.



www.singhealth.com.sg

SingHealth is Singapore's largest healthcare group providing quality care across 4 hospitals, 5 national specialty centres and a network of primary care clinics. With over 40 medical specialties and a faculty of 3700 doctors, it is recognised for the high quality of its healthcare services. An academic medical centre, SingHealth institutions are recognised centres of excellence, integrating clinical care with research and education to transform care for its patients.

Singapore General Hospital (SGH), one of the tertiary hospitals of the SingHealth Group, is Singapore's largest hospital. It offers multidisciplinary and seamless integrated care over a comprehensive range of clinical specialties. As a testament to its standard of quality and safety, SGH is accredited by the Joint Commission International. SGH also accounts for about one-fifth of acute beds in Singapore.

The fatty tissue is moulded to occupy the space created from cancer resection. The patient then receives radiation therapy to the remaining part of the breast.

SingHealth Duke-NUS Breast Centre

The One-Stop Multidisciplinary Centre for Breast Cancer Care

The SingHealth Duke-NUS Breast Centre is the largest centre in Singapore treating the full spectrum of breast conditions. The Centre serves its patients at 5 key SingHealth institutions, namely, National Cancer Centre Singapore (NCCS), Singapore General Hospital (SGH), Changi General Hospital (CGH), Sengkang General Hospital (SKH) and KK Women's and Children's Hospital (KKH). Annually, the Centre handles about 70,000 outpatient visits and manages over 1,300 breast cancer patients.

The Centre offers various treatment options including oncoplastic breast surgery, sentinel node biopsy and intraoperative radiotherapy.

ANNUALLY, THE CENTRE HANDLES ABOUT 70,000 OUTPATIENT VISITS AND MANAGES OVER 1,300 BREAST CANCER PATIENTS.

Treatment is individualised for each patient, and at the SingHealth Duke-NUS Breast Centre, every case of breast cancer is discussed at a weekly multidisciplinary

conference to ensure the most appropriate treatment options are recommended.

Patients have full access to warm, supportive care from the team of experts focused on breast cancer throughout their duration of treatment; working together in unison to achieve seamless positive outcomes for patients.

The Centre's dedicated breast surgeons work closely in a multidisciplinary team to provide a full range of integrated services for the assessment and management of benign and malignant breast conditions in a caring and friendly environment.

Each case of breast cancer is different, and is reviewed in detail by a multidisciplinary team to come up with a treatment plan suited for each patient. The personal treatment team for each breast cancer patient includes a radiologist, pathologist, medical and radiation oncologist, surgeons and specially-trained support staff.