

TRUMP V BIDEN

The bookmakers' \$1b election

AFP, London

The US presidential election is proving a boon for bookmakers, with estimates that more than \$1 billion has already been bet on the winner around the world even before polling day.

Matthew Shaddick, head of political betting at British sports betting and gambling firm GVC, said that is double the amount in 2016, when Donald Trump upset the odds and polls to beat Hillary Clinton.

Republican party candidate Trump is once again the outsider, with his Democratic challenger Joe Biden the favourite with GVC's gaming brands, which include Labrokes, Coral and BWIN.

Its rival, William Hill, also has former vice-president Biden tipped for victory.

"This is a huge market," Shaddick told AFP. "It is twice as big as 2016, easily making it the biggest political event ever."

"It might be the biggest ever market on anything pretty much and outstrip football worldwide. I guess a billion pounds (\$1.3 billion, 1.1 billion euros) is being bet."

William Hill said they also expect the election to be easily its biggest event of the year, given the cancellation of money-spinners such as the Grand National due to Covid-19.

"We are already over £3 million and expect to take £10 million," said Hill's international spokesman Rupert Adams.

For Adams, the huge amounts laid on Tuesday's vote are largely down to the love-him-or-loathe-him personality of Trump.

"There is no doubt the fact he is such a colourful character makes it appealing for people who would otherwise be uninterested," he added.

"If it was Jeb Bush versus Biden, we would be taking a third of the turnover."

Biden may be favourite but Shaddick said 70 percent of bets placed this week have been for Trump, calling the level of confidence in him winning "astonishing".

"A whole new universe of bettors won last time. These are people who go for their gut feelings and instincts," he said.

Biden is a clear bookies' favourite still with about a 65 percent chance to win but it is way out of line with polling forecasting which would give Trump a 10 percent chance.

Shaddick, though, said it is a misnomer that opinion polls favouring Clinton over Trump were way off in 2016.

"The polls were not far off and Trump needs much bigger polling to win this time round. The bettors do not seem to care," he said.

"They believe there are millions of shy Trump voters."



(From left) Donald Trump applauds during a campaign rally in Green Bay, Wisconsin and Joe Biden speaks during a drive-in campaign stop, in St. Paul, Minnesota. Photos were taken on Friday.



PHOTO: REUTERS

Presidents who lost out on 2nd term

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The office of the US president was established in 1789, and in the 231 years since the first man was elected to the highest office in the country, 45 have people have held the title.

US Presidents are only allowed to sit for a maximum of two, four year terms, but although any gender can hold the position, every president so far has been a man.

Of the 45 who have held office, only ten presidents have failed to win re-election for a second term, when they have attempted to.

One US presidents, John F Kennedy was assassinated before he could run for re-election.

The longest period the US has experienced without a president failing to complete two terms, was between 1932 and 1976. The last president to have failed to win re-election was George H W Bush, who lost to Bill Clinton in 1992.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

The first US president to fail to win re-election for a second term, was John Adams, who also served as the country's first vice president. When the position was created in 1789, George Washington was the first to have the honour, and Adams

served under him. After Washington completed his two terms, took his place as president. He came third in the next election, behind the two candidates the Republican party ran, with Thomas Jefferson eventually becoming the new US president.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

Another of the Adams family, John Quincy Adams, was unable to win re-election for a second term as US president. Adams was the eldest son



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of the second US president, and was the sixth man to hold the position. During his time as president, there were big rifts in his party, the Democratic-Republican party, and it stopped him from making much progress.

GROVER CLEVELAND AND BENJAMIN HARRISON

Martin Van Buren was the next president to fail to win re-election in 1840, but Grover Cleveland proved that a lost election does not stop you from getting your second term. Cleveland, a Democrat, was the 22nd and the 24th president of the United States, after he won both the 1884 and 1892 elections. He won

the popular vote in 1888, but lost the election to the Republican Benjamin Harrison, who served for the next four years. In 1892, Cleveland defeated Harrison, to win back the presidency and cause Harrison to become the fifth president to fail to win re-election.

WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT

William Howard Taft was the next US president to fail to win re-election, 20 years later in 1912. Taft,

a Republican, is the only person in US history to have held both the position of president and chief justice of the United States. He served as president from 1909 to 1913 and lost the 1912 presidential election to Woodrow Wilson.

HERBERT HOOVER

Herbert Hoover was elected as US president in 1928, and was faced with helping the country rebuild after the stock market crash of 1929. The US had not recovered by the time of the 1932 election, and he lost to Franklin D Roosevelt.

GERALD FORD AND JIMMY CARTER

Gerald Ford not only failed to win

re-election as the US president, but also never won a presidential election. Ford, a Republican, became the president after Richard Nixon resigned, following the Watergate scandal. He served from 1974 to 1977, when Jimmy Carter defeated him in the 1976 election. Carter, a Democrat served as the US president from 1977 to 1981, but lost the 1980 election to Ronald Reagan. Despite the fact Gerald Ford never won a presidential election, Carter's loss, meant that for the first time, two US presidents in succession failed to win re-election.

GEORGE H W BUSH

George H W Bush was the last president to fail to win re-election, when he was beaten by Democrat, Bill Clinton, in the 1992 election. Bush was the 41st US president and was the director of the CIA from 1976 to 1980. He served as Reagan's vice president from 1981 until 1989, when he was elected to take his position. As president, Bush engaged in the Gulf War and signed the Americans with Disabilities act 1990 into law. In 2000, his son, George W Bush was elected as president and completed two full terms, before Barack Obama took over as US president.

Texas: Biden vies for GOP stronghold

AFP, Houston

Vincent Siewit just dropped off his vote at a polling place in Houston -- one of nine million people in Texas who have already voted, racing past the state's presidential election turnout from 2016.

The 30-year-old voted in the historically conservative state, where polls this time around suggest Democratic candidate Joe Biden has a fighting chance of winning.

Larger than France and home to 29 million people, Texas is the second most populous state in the US after California but has voted republican in every presidential polls since 1980.

To the winner of the vast state go 38 electoral votes -- a large prize and a possibly decisive bloc for Biden if he were to gain it.

The number of registered voters in the state has risen 12 percent since 2016 -- more than 1.9 million additional people, many of them Latinos.

With the electorate changing and a high turnout over the last few days, Democrats are dreaming of a Biden win, a possible earthquake for US politics that would shake up the political map.

Queues were short at the polling station in the center of Houston on Friday -- the last day for early voting in the state.

Lily, 31, became a US citizen last year and had just voted for the first time in a US election when she spoke to AFP. "The hate for President Trump drew me to the polls," she said.



Rescue operations take place on a site yesterday after an earthquake struck near the the coastal province of Izmir, Turkey Killing at least 27 people. At least 20 buildings in Izmir were destroyed, authorities said, and the rescue work was taking place as hundreds of aftershocks hit the area.

PHOTO: REUTERS

TYPHOON GONI Philippines evacuates nearly 1m

AFP, Legazpi

Nearly a million people in the Philippines were evacuated from their homes yesterday as the most powerful typhoon of the year so far barreled towards the country, with authorities warning of "destructive" winds and flooding.

Typhoon Goni is expected to slam into Catanduanes Island today morning with wind speeds of up to 205 kilometres per hour before crossing the main island of Luzon.

It comes a week after Typhoon Molave hit the same region of the natural disaster-prone archipelago, killing 22 people and flooding low-lying villages and farmland, before crossing the South China Sea to Vietnam.

Free speech has limits

Says Trudeau; France bolsters security after killings

AGENCIES

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau defended free speech on Friday, but added that it was "not without limits" and should not "arbitrarily and needlessly hurt" certain communities.

"We will always defend freedom of expression," Trudeau said in response to a question about the right to show cartoons deeply sensitive to Muslims, as France's Charlie Hebdo magazine did.

"But freedom of expression is not without limits," he added. "We owe it to ourselves to act with respect for others and to seek not to arbitrarily or unnecessarily injure those with whom we are sharing a society and a planet."

"We do not have the right for example to shout fire in a movie theatre crowded with people, there are always limits," he argued.

His comments came days after a man killed 3 people in a Church in France. The attack came after French President Emmanuel Macron's controversial decision to show the cartoons across the country after a teacher was killed for showing those in classroom.

Distancing himself from the position of French Macron, Trudeau pleaded for a careful use of free speech.

"In a pluralist, diverse and respectful society

like ours, we owe it to ourselves to be aware of the impact of our words, of our actions on others, particularly these communities and populations who still experience a great deal of discrimination," he said.

Meanwhile, the French government has vowed to send thousands more police onto the streets to ensure security as investigators sought to uncover what motivated a young Tunisian to kill three people inside a church in the southern city of Nice.

The bloodshed inside Nice's Notre-Dame basilica on Thursday morning added new tension in a country already on the highest alert after a string of attacks blamed on suspected Islamists in recent weeks.

The 21-year-old Tunisian arrived in France this month via Italy before carrying out what the government described as an act of "Islamist" terror inside the church.

The suspected knifeman, identified as Brahim Issaou, was shot multiple times by police in the aftermath of the attack. He has been in serious condition and was not conscious as of Friday evening, a source close to matter told AFP.

A source close to the investigation, who asked not to be named, said the authorities believe Issaou arrived in Nice no more than 48 hours before the attack.

No proof of demeaning Holy Quran

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"He could not have demeaned the Holy Quran. My husband was so pious that it would have been impossible for him to do such a thing. I want a fair trial of those who killed him," she said over the phone.

The family learnt about the murder within hours as photos and distressing video footage of the burning body and torture and went viral in social media.

Jewel's charred remains were taken to Rangpur Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy and DNA test yesterday. His brother provided the DNA samples to confirm his identity.

A Janaza was conducted on the premises of Rangpur Zila School where Jewel was a student. Several hundred people participated in the Janaza.

The family was yet to receive Jewel's remains last night.

Jewel, a father of two, developed a mental health issue after losing his job in March and he used to take medicines prescribed by a doctor, Mukta said.

He went to Burimari with his friend Abu Jubayer Sultan Abbas on a motorcycle to get the medicine that someone was supposed to bring there from India, she added.

Family members said Jewel started working as a librarian at Cantonment Public School and College in Rangpur in 1996 after completing his masters in Information Science and Library Management from the University of Dhaka.

He also imparted lessons for class-VII and -VIII students.

WHAT HAPPENED ON THURSDAY

SP Abida Sultana said in primary investigation they have found that after entering the mosque he engaged in an altercation with one Khadem Jobed Ali. Another devotee at the mosque then slapped Jewel and pushed him out to the balcony from inside the mosque. There were few more devotees on the balcony who then started beating him up.

The SP said Jewel entered the mosque and identified himself as a member of a

law enforcement agency. It was not clear why he made such a claim, Abida said.

Jewel's friend Abbas was away at the time to buy a mobile phone charger. He arrived and apologised and wanted to leave the spot immediately.

Officer-in-Charge of Patgram Police Station Sumon Kumar Mohanta said Jewel offered Asr prayer in the mosque.

After the prayers, he accompanied the caretaker of the mosque, Jobed Ali, to see the Holy Quran and Hadith books in the mosque's bookshelf.

When a Holy Quran fell to the floor from the bookshelf, Jobed and five devotees in the mosque started yelling at Jewel, reports our correspondent in Lalmonirhat.

"The mob beating took place when a rumour of insulting the Holy Quran was spread," the OC said.

SP Abida said after hearing about the mob, a union parishad member went to the mosque and rescued Jewel and his friend and brought them to the UP office where they were locked in a room.

Patgram Upazila Nirbahi Officer Kamrun Nahar reached there with the local UP chairman. A bit later, the OC also reached there, the SP said.

The officers tried to appease some locals who had gathered there and managed to pacify them. But after a few minutes, several hundred stick-wielding people reached there and tried to snatch Jewel and his friend breaking the windows and collapsible gate of the building, she added.

Soon, they managed to break in.

In an attempt to save the duo, the OC then tried to take them to the roof, but the mob snatched Jewel away. The OC managed to take Abbas to the rooftop.

The SP said the mob also vandalised different establishments in the area.

They attacked the law enforcers with sticks, brick chunks, stones and whatever they found around. Police had to open fire, the SP said, adding that after around 15 to 20 minutes they brought the situation under control.

Three separate cases were filed

with Patgram Police Station yesterday afternoon over the killing, burning, vandalism, and preventing the police from carrying out their duties, said OC Sumon.

Police also arrested five people who are named as accused in all the three cases.

The OC, however, refused to disclose the identities.

Jewel's cousin Saiful Alam filed a murder case accusing over a hundred named and hundreds of unnamed people.

Sub-Inspector of the police station Shahjahan Ali filed a case against more than 50 named and hundreds of unnamed people for obstructing police.

Chairman of Burimari Union Parishad Abu Sayeed Newaz Nishat filed the other case against 50 named and hundreds of unnamed persons in connection with the vandalism and arson at the Union Parishad office.

Police are trying to identify the people involved from video footage, local sources and CCTV data.

According to eyewitnesses and video clips, while the agitated people were burning Jewel's body they chanted the slogan "Nara E Takbeer Allahu Akbar".

A three-member investigation team formed by the district administration has been working since Friday afternoon. The team is headed by Additional Deputy Commissioner TMA Momin. The two other members are Additional Superintendent of Police Rabiul Islam and Patgram Upazila Nirbahi Officer Kamrun Nahar.

The investigation team has been asked to submit its report today.

Protesting the killing, people of all walks of life formed a human chain at Rangpur Zila School on Saturday and demonstrated in Cantonment Public School and College.

At a rally in front of Rangpur Press Club on Friday, the speakers threatened to "paralyse Rangpur" if the people involved with the killing were not brought to book.

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