

TRUMP'S FIRST TERM

A SCORECARD

'AMERICA FIRST'

"America first" is Trump's nationalist slogan describing a policy of unilateral diplomacy, protectionism, trade wars and forcing the world to "respect" the United States. The work is in progress. While China is sticking to an agreement to buy more US agricultural goods, tariffs on Chinese imports are still six times higher than before the trade war started in 2018. That means part of the US-based companies. Also, trade partners have angrily retaliated to US protectionism with counter duties on goods like bourbon and farm produce, obliging the US government to give farmers millions in aid. The US trade deficit hit nearly \$577 billion last year -- an increase of over \$100 billion from the last year of Barack Obama's administration. A similar approach in the broader diplomatic field again brought mixed results. Most notably, Trump's scrapping of Iran nuclear deal has infuriated European allies and has not achieved what many suspect was Trump's real goal -- regime change in Teheran.



ENDING 'STUPID' WARS

Part of Trump's appeal to voters has been his promise to end post-9/11 US military adventures or what he calls "stupid" wars. He got a mixed success on this field. Critics feared the inexperienced and temperamental leader would blunder into conflicts. He didn't. Despite an early exchange of insults with North Korea's Kim Jong Un, Trump not only avoided war but made unprecedented moves toward reconciliation, including entering North Korea to meet Kim. US-backed peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban are underway, raising chances for a complete US pullout after two decades. Added to this is a spate of agreements by majority-Muslim states like the UAE and Sudan to establish relations with Israel -- all part of an Israel-pleasing push to isolate Iran and the Palestinians. On the negative side, North Korea has not backed off its nuclear weapons program. Violence continues at high levels in Afghanistan and full withdrawal from Iraq is not imminent. In Syria, the pullout of a small but strategically located number of US troops allowed Russia to cement its influence over the Syrian regime.

GREATEST ECONOMY IN HISTORY

Trump promised to bring business sense to the White House and repeatedly claims to have built the "greatest economy" in history. Some experts say he has delivered and others say he failed. The stock market has seen repeated highs, even largely recovering from a steep plunge after the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic. But the strongest growth measured by GDP was three percent, which is on a par with performance under Obama and nowhere near historic US records.

JUDGES

Trump likes to say that the most important function of a president may be to appoint federal judges -- lifetime positions that shape politics and society in every aspect. According to Pew Research, Trump has appointed 24 percent of all currently active judges. In particular, he has appointed 53 powerful appeals court judges -- one step below the Supreme Court. With Amy Coney Barrett's Senate confirmation Monday, he filled a third Supreme Court seat, tilting the nine-justice panel firmly to the right, potentially for many years to come.

SOURCE: AFP

Mike Pence: calm to Trump's storm

AFP, WASHINGTON

Vice President Mike Pence is the calm to Donald Trump's storm, bringing a sedate demeanor and the religious, conservative ballast the men hope will spare them from losing the White House.

Pence has served as a pillar of stability in an administration that has churned through top officials, and a steady campaigner ahead of next week's election.

Over the past four years he has also been a lure for a part of the Republican base dubious of a thrice-married reality TV star from New York.

Trump publicly bellows and tweets controversy that Pence is often called in to smooth over or dial back in private, all while never expressing overt disagreement with the president.

Republicans have characterized it as the work of a loyal deputy, but critics have branded him a servile "sycophant-in-chief" more interested in keeping his job.

A lawyer by training and former radio talk show host who served in Congress for 12 years, Pence was plucked from his post as Indiana's governor by Trump's 2016 campaign.

The 61-year-old brought credibility as a traditional evangelical Christian who could appeal to church-going Americans and farm-belt conservatives.

He's been the yin to the president's yang: where Trump plays the unorthodox outsider, Pence is reserved and courteous; where Trump flouts tradition, Pence is deeply pious.

Born June 7, 1959 in Columbus, Indiana, he grew up idolizing liberal icons like John F Kennedy before veering right in adulthood.

Pence is staunchly anti-abortion and while Indiana's governor he signed into law some of the nation's strictest restrictions on terminating pregnancies.

"I'm a Christian, a conservative, and a Republican, in that order," Pence has said.

Trump has had three wives and many more

girlfriends, but Pence is famous for his self-imposed proscription on being alone with any woman who is not his wife.

"Trump's got the populist nationalists," former Trump aide Steve Bannon told the New Yorker. "But Pence is the base. Without Pence you don't win."

After taking office, Pence let Trump hold the entire stage. He toiled quietly on important jobs such as liaising with Congress and Republicans, and undertaking significant diplomatic missions. And he adapted his earlier political stances



to Trump's antagonistic approach to trade, diplomatic relations and immigration.

In early trips to Europe and Asia, he set the stage for Trump's policy resets while reassuring allies worried about the president's threats.

Pence has remained a team player over his term, never betraying differences with Trump or promoting himself -- sins that cut short the careers of others in Trump's cabinet.

Earlier this year, there was speculation that Trump -- facing a fierce fight for reelection -- would replace Pence with someone who might excite more voters, such as former UN ambassador Nikki Haley or Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. In the end, the odd couple stuck together, with Trump hailing his number two as "solid as a rock" in August.

Kamala Harris: rewriting history

AFP, WASHINGTON

Kamala Harris is on the verge of what would be a double-dream for US Democrats: becoming the nation's first woman vice president and ending Donald Trump's turbulent rule.

Harris comes into the November 3 election already a repeat trailblazer as California's first Black attorney general and the first woman of South Asian heritage elected to the US Senate.

But winning the vice presidency, a heartbeat away from leading the United States, would be the most significant barrier she has broken yet and a stepping stone to the ultimate prize.

With the 77-year-old Biden expected to serve only a single term if elected, Harris would be favored to win the Democratic presidential nomination four years from now.

That could give her a shot at more history-making -- as the first female president of the United States.

"My mother raised me to see what could be, unburdened by what has been," Harris, 56, wrote on Twitter.

Since being tapped as Biden's running mate in August, she has slammed President Donald Trump on his chaotic handling of the Covid-19 pandemic, but also racism, the economy and the president's crackdown on immigration.

Harris was born to immigrants to the United States -- her father from Jamaica, her mother from India -- and their lives and her own have in some ways embodied the American dream.

She was born on October 20, 1964 in Oakland, California, then a hub for civil rights and anti-war activism.

Her diploma from historically Black Howard University in Washington was the start of a steady rise that took her from prosecutor, to two elected terms as San Francisco's district attorney and then California's attorney general in 2010.

However, Harris's self-description as a "progressive prosecutor" has been seized upon

by critics who say she fought to uphold wrongful convictions and opposed certain reforms in California, like a bill requiring that the attorney general probe shootings involving police.

Yet Harris's work was key to forging a platform and profile from which she launched a successful Senate campaign in 2016, becoming just the second Black female senator ever.

A veteran campaigner, Harris oozes charisma but can quickly pivot from her megawatt smile to her prosecutorial persona of relentless interrogation and cutting retorts.



Clips went viral of her sharp questioning in 2017 of then-attorney general Jeff Sessions during a Capitol Hill hearing on Russia.

Harris also clashed with Biden during the first Democratic debate, chiding the former senator over his opposition to 1970s busing programs that forced integration of segregated schools.

That clash didn't stop him from picking Harris, who has brought that feisty energy to Biden's carefully stage-managed campaign.

During her only debate against Vice President Mike Pence, Harris raised her hand as he tried to interrupt her.

"Mr. Vice President, I'm speaking. I'm speaking," she said with a glare, silencing Pence.

Within hours of the debate, T-shirts bearing her words were being offered for sale online.

Fears of transition 'chaos' if Trump loses

AFP, WASHINGTON

Donald Trump said on the campaign that he wants a "smooth, beautiful transition" after Election Day, but he offered an ambiguous follow-up caveat: "But it's got to be an honest vote."

For months, the US president -- who on Tuesday will battle Joe Biden at the polls to win another four years in the White House -- has planted seeds of doubt about the legitimacy of the election.

The Republican incumbent has questioned the validity of mail-in ballots, demurred on whether he will accept the results if he loses to the veteran Democrat, and been vague about what a transition to his rival would look like.

The transition between election and inauguration is a quirk of American politics: the more than two-month gap is particularly long. After a campaign marked by its unrelenting nastiness, and amid a health crisis of a magnitude never before seen in modern times, what would a transition from Trump to Biden look like?

WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE TRANSITION?

During a presidential transition, the team entering the White House -- though they still don't have the keys -- prepares to take power alongside the outgoing administration. The Center for Presidential Transition has prepared a how-to guide for government agencies that summarizes the enormity of the task at hand:

-- Staffing the White House and the Executive Office of the President

-- Making more than 4,000 presidential appointments, about 1,200 of which require



Senate confirmation -- Learning the ins and out of more than 100 federal agencies

-- Preparing the first 100 days of the new administration

Biden has put in place a transition team that, following tradition, is raising funds to be able to get up and running. According to Politico, it hopes to have at least \$7 million in hand by Election Day, and a staff of at least 350 people by Inauguration Day in January 2021.

HOW WILL TRUMP ACT IF HE LOSES?

It's hard to say what the 45th president of the United States will do if he loses to Biden. The question has forced observers to look back at what the 74-year-old Trump has said in recent months -- and whether to take him at his word or assume some of those comments were for shock value.

For veteran political analyst Larry Sabato at the University of Virginia, that "depends heavily

on the margin of Biden's victory (assuming he wins)."

"If Trump loses by a wide margin, he will grumpily do the minimum to pass the torch to Biden," Sabato told AFP.

If the result is close, all bets are off and anything -- even violent protest -- is possible, the expert added. If the last four years are any indication, some observers say, there is cause for concern.

A coalition of 12 non-governmental organizations wrote to the National Archives to express their fears.

"We are alarmed and deeply concerned by the Trump administration's failure to honor its legal responsibility to create and preserve records," they said in a letter.

TRADITION AND TENSIONS

US law stipulates that the incoming president should have wide access to whatever is needed during the transition, but of course, some of

that depends on the goodwill of the ousted administration, especially the president.

Sometimes, the heat of the campaign is hard to forget.

One anecdote remains the stuff of Washington lore: during the transition from Bill Clinton to George W. Bush in late 2000 and early 2001, the letter "W" was damaged or removed from numerous White House computer keyboards...

When Bush ceded the Oval Office to Barack Obama in 2009, the transition was smooth and gracious, despite the vastly different politics of the two men. Of course, that is easier when the president leaving had two terms in office.

"When a president is doing transition planning at the end of eight years in the presidency, it is easier to begin the planning well ahead of time," said Martha Kumar, a presidential scholar and head of the White House Transition Project.

"Additionally, it becomes part of the departing president's legacy so he has a stake in doing a good job."

Among recent one-term presidents, George HW Bush stands out for his poise in handing over to Clinton. His letter to the Democrat who defeated him is often cited as one of the most elegant and gracious.

"Dear Bill... I wish you great happiness here. I never felt the loneliness some Presidents have described," Bush wrote.

"I'm not a very good one to give advice; but just don't let the critics discourage you or push you off course," he said.

"Your success now is our country's success. I am rooting hard for you. Good luck."

If Trump loses, will he leave a letter for Biden? And what will it say?

Turkey quake death toll hits 60

REUTERS, Izmir

A 70-year-old man was pulled from the rubble of a collapsed building in the Turkish city of Izmir yesterday, after being buried for 33 hours following a powerful earthquake struck Turkey's Aegean coast and Greek islands.

Turkish authorities reported more deaths yesterday, bringing the toll to 58, all in Izmir, while two teenagers died on the Greek island of Samos.

The man, identified as Ahmet Citim, was rescued from one of 20 residential buildings destroyed in Izmir's Bayrakli district, which was in the process of urban transformation due to lack of earthquake resistance.

"So far, we know that 58 of our citizens were killed in the quake, and 896 people were injured," the Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan told reporters yesterday.

Erdogan added that the government was "determined to heal the wounds of our brothers and sisters in Izmir before the cold and rains begin."

Some 702 victims have so far been discharged from hospitals, while eight remain in intensive care units, according to Health Minister Fahrettin Koca.

Turkey is crossed by fault lines and is prone to earthquakes. In 1999, two powerful quakes killed 18,000 people in northwestern Turkey.



A man looks at his house buried under the pile of rubble and sand following flash floods brought by Typhoon 'Goni' in Barangay Busay, Daraga town, Albay province, Philippines, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Macron seeks to calm tensions with Muslims

AFP, Paris

President Emmanuel Macron sought to calm flaring tensions with Muslims around the world on Saturday, telling an Arab TV channel he understood that derogatory cartoons to Muslims could be shocking while lashing out at "lies" that the French state was behind them.

France is on edge after the republication in early September of the cartoons by the Charlie Hebdo weekly, which was followed by an attack outside its former offices, the beheading of a teacher and an attack on a church in Nice Thursday that left three dead.

The country was further shaken by a new incident on Saturday, when an attacker armed with a sawn-off shotgun shot an Orthodox priest in Lyon, a police source said. The priest was taken to hospital in a serious condition, sources said. A suspect was arrested later Saturday, Lyon's public

prosecutor said, with the motive of the attack remaining unclear.

Macron sparked protests across the Muslim world after the murder earlier this month of teacher Samuel Paty -- who had shown his class one of those cartoons -- by saying France would never renounce its laws permitting blasphemous caricatures.

But in an apparent bid to reach out to Muslims, Macron gave a long interview setting out his vision to Qatar-based TV channel Al-Jazeera, seeking to strike a softer tone.

"I can understand that people could be shocked by the caricatures, but I will never accept that violence can be justified," he said. "I understand the feelings that this arouses, I respect them." He added: "I will always defend in my country the freedom to speak, to write, to think, to draw."

He also denounced calls for a boycott of French goods as "unworthy" and "unacceptable".

Ten killed as typhoon slams Philippines

REUTERS, Manila

At least 10 people died and three others were missing after Typhoon Goni, the world's strongest typhoon this year, barreled through the south of the Philippines' main island of Luzon yesterday, an initial government report showed.

More than 300 houses were buried under volcanic rocks and mud flows from Mayon Volcano in severely hit Albay province in the Bicol region, a lawmaker said.

Storm surges hit some coastal towns, while rivers overflowed and dikes were destroyed, submerging several villages in Bicol.

The dead and missing were all in Bicol, including nine in Albay, the Office of Civil Defence said.

The world's strongest storm this year, Goni, weakened further after making landfall for a third time in Quezon province and a fourth time in Batangas before heading towards the South China Sea.

In Quezon province, Governor Danilo Suarez said power supplies were cut in 10 towns as Goni toppled trees.

Over 390,000 people had fled to safer ground, including more than 345,000 to evacuation centres, raising concerns about compliance with coronavirus-related health protocols.

Dozens of flights were cancelled as Manila's main gateway, the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, was ordered shut for one day.

Zila Parishad

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Memo No. 46.00.3800.102.14.190.2019.98

Date: 01.11.2020

e-Tender are invited for 15 (Fifteen) No. Package in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works.

e-Tender Notice No. 04/2019-20 (LTM)

S.I	Package No.	Tender ID No.	Tender last selling (date & time)	Tender opening (date & time)
01.	JOYPUHATZP/ADP/2018-19/50	482682	17.11.2020, 16:00pm	18.11.2020, 13:00
02.	JOYPUHATZP/ADP/2018-19/51	482718	17.11.2020, 16:00pm	18.11.2020, 13:00
03.	JOYPUHATZP/ADP/2018-19/52	482863	17.11.2020, 16:00pm	18.11.2020, 13:00
04.	JOYPUHATZP/ADP/2018-19/53	482873	17.11.2020, 16:00pm	18.11.2020, 13:00
05.	JOYPUHATZP/ADP/2018-19/54	482920	17.11.2020, 16:00pm	18.11.2020, 13:00
06.	JOYPUHATZP/ADP/2018-19/55	483381	17.11.2020, 16:00pm	18.11.2020, 13:00
07.	JOYPUHATZP/ADP/2018-19/56	483404	17.11.2020, 16:00pm	18.11.2020, 13:00
08.	JOYPUHATZP/ADP/2018-19/57	483409	17.11.2020, 16:00pm	18.11.2020, 13:00
09.	JOYPUHATZP/ADP/2018-19/58	483416	17.11.2020, 16:00pm	18.11.2020, 13:00
10.	JOYPUHATZP/ADP/2018-19/59	483643	17.11.2020, 16:00pm	18.11.2020, 13:00
11.	JOYPUHATZP/ADP/2018-19/60	483869	17.11.2020, 16:00pm	18.11.2020, 13:00
12.	JOYPUHATZP/ADP/2018-19/61	483876	17.11.2020, 16:00pm	18.11.2020, 13:00
13.	JOYPUHATZP/ADP/2018-19/62	483880	17.11.2020, 16:00pm	18.11.2020, 13:00
14.	JOYPUHATZP/ADP/2018-19/63	483893	17.11.2020, 16:00pm	18.11.2020, 13:00
15.	JOYPUHATZP/ADP/2018-19/64	509640	17.11.2020, 16:00pm	18.11.2020, 13:00

This is online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal & 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-Tendering documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to last selling date & time as mentioned above. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Delower Hossain PK

Assistant Engineer

Zila Parishad, Joypurhat

Mail: zjoypurhat@gmail.com

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