



**'UNACCEPTABLE MISTAKES'**  
Myanmar army chief, government clash ahead of November 8 election  
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# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

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RABUL AWAL 18, 1442 HIJRI

16 PAGES PLUS SHOUT PRICE : Tk12.00



ELECTORAL VOTE (270 TO WIN)		POPULAR VOTE	USA PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2020	SENATE CONTROL (50)	HOUSE CONTROL (228)
213	237	66,672,225	48	171	
		68,894,617	46	181	



## Too close to call

Premature victory declaration by Trump, looming legal battles push America to edge; Biden leads in key states; mail-in ballot count delays results

## Democratic hopes to flip US Senate dim

AFP, Washington

Despite retaining the House of Representatives, the path for Democrats to flip control of the US Senate narrowed sharply yesterday after three key Republicans facing tough reelection battles claimed victory.

Democrats flipped two US Senate seats in western Colorado and Arizona states on Tuesday, networks projected.

But the blue wave that many Democrats predicted may have crested there,

### BATTLEGROUND STATES

#### PENNSYLVANIA

(20 electoral votes)

**TRUMP 53.2%** **BIDEN 45.5%**  
Difference 448,129 with 81% votes in

#### MICHIGAN

(16 electoral votes)

**BIDEN 49.5%** **TRUMP 48.8%**  
Difference 37,350 with 94% votes in

#### ARIZONA

(11 electoral votes)

**BIDEN 51.0%** **TRUMP 47.6%**  
Difference 93,518 with 86% votes in

#### GEORGIA

(16 electoral votes)

**TRUMP 50.2%** **BIDEN 48.5%**  
Difference 89,509 with 93% votes in

#### NEVADA

(6 electoral votes)

**BIDEN 49.3%** **TRUMP 48.7%**  
Difference 7,647 with 86% votes in

#### NORTH CAROLINA

(15 electoral votes)

**TRUMP 50.1%** **BIDEN 48.6%**  
Difference 76,737 with 95% votes in

SOURCE: CNN

### AGENCIES

The excruciatingly close US presidential election hung in the balance yesterday, with Democrat Joe Biden leading in two critical Midwestern states that could tip the contest in his favor even as President Donald Trump falsely claimed victory and made unsubstantiated allegations of electoral fraud.

In boost to Biden's presidential bid, CNN yesterday projected the former vice president to win Wisconsin. Biden also extended his narrow lead in Michigan, according to Edison Research. Trump won both the battleground states in 2016.

Together with Nevada, another state where Biden held a small advantage with votes still left to be tallied, those states would deliver Biden the 270 votes needed in the state-by-state electoral college to win the White House. But Trump still had a path to victory with those states officially undecided.

In dueling conference calls with reporters, officials from each campaign insisted their candidate would prevail.

"If we count all legal ballots, we win," Trump campaign manager Bill Stepien said, potentially setting the stage for post-election litigation over the counting of mail-in ballots.

Biden campaign manager Jennifer O'Malley Dillon told reporters the former vice president was on track to win the election, while senior legal adviser Bob Bauer said there were no grounds for Trump to invalidate lawfully cast ballots.

"We're going to defend this vote, the vote by which Joe Biden has been elected to the presidency," said Bauer, adding that the campaign's legal team was prepared for any challenge.

Biden is expected to deliver an address today.

Trump continued to make baseless attacks on the vote-counting process on Twitter yesterday, hours after he appeared at the White House and declared victory in

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Ballots are counted at the TCF Center in Detroit, Michigan yesterday. Mail-in ballots were causing a long wait for results in key battlegrounds states.

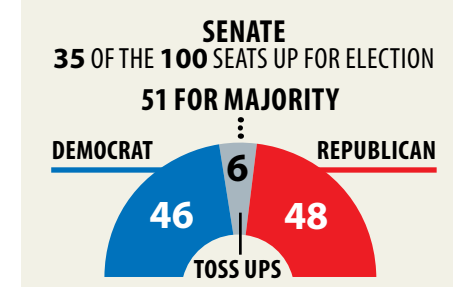
PHOTO: AFP

"Frankly, we did win this election. This is a major fraud on our nation... We'll be going to the US Supreme Court. We want all voting to stop."

DONALD TRUMP

"We believe we're on track to win this election. Keep the faith, guys, we're going to win this."

JOE BIDEN



potentially falling short of the three to four seat gains they needed to take control of Congress's upper chamber.

Republicans ousted a vulnerable Democrat in Alabama, and the GOP stood their ground in other key races, often defying polls that warned how President Donald Trump could be a drag on GOP incumbents defending vulnerable Senate seats.

Senator Lindsey Graham -- under intense pressure after overseeing the controversial confirmation process of a Supreme Court justice weeks before the presidential vote -- fought back a fierce challenge from

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## Ensure hassle-free justice for people

PM to judges, lawyers

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged judges and lawyers to ensure people's right to quick and hassle-free justice.



"Getting justice quickly, less expensively and hassle-free is the right of the people. This can boost people's confidence and trust. Although we have our confidence and trust in the judiciary, I would request all to pay special attention to the matter," she said.

The PM was addressing a programme marking the inauguration of the newly-built Chief Judicial Magistrate Court Building in Dhaka. She joined the event virtually from the Gono Bhaban.

Hasina said some 3,794,908 cases were pending trial in courts till June this year. She requested the judges and lawyers to find a way to ensure delivery of verdicts in cases quickly.

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## Migrants' crisis mishandled

Govt initiatives lacked proper planning and coordination after workers returning from abroad got stuck home during pandemic

JAMIL MAHMUD and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The migrant workers' crisis, which emerged after the outbreak of novel coronavirus, further deepened with the government response marred by inappropriate decisions coupled with delayed and inadequate actions.

Thousands of migrant workers, mostly from Gulf countries, came home on holidays early this year and subsequently got stuck amid the pandemic.

The authorities concerned did not chalk out adequate plans to ensure that the workers return to the workplaces smoothly once normalcy returns.

As a result, a huge number of the workers with expired re-entry visas and residence permits endured untold sufferings when Saudi Arabia, the biggest labour market for Bangladesh, stopped automatic visa extension but resumed air communications.

They had to take to streets for plane tickets and extension of the tenure of visa and iqama (residency permit), forcing the authorities concerned to hold meetings to resolve the problems.

On the other hand, the government initiative, taken in April to provide special loan facilities to returning migrants who lost jobs abroad amid the pandemic, got delayed due to bureaucratic tangles at the expatriate welfare ministry.

Labour migration experts say the government lacked farsightedness in the absence of coordinated efforts between ministries and agencies.

The expatriates' welfare ministry could have played a pivotal role, they said and warned that migrant workers' crisis may deepen further if comprehensive steps are not taken, as more workers are expected to return to the country in coming months.

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## COVID VACCINES Govt set to import '3cr' doses from Indian firm

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will import "three crore" doses of novel coronavirus vaccines from India's Serum Institute, a top health ministry official told The Daily Star last night.

Each dose of the vaccine will cost \$5, the official added.

Earlier in the evening, the ministry's Public Relations Officer Maudul Islam said a ceremony on the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in this regard would be held at the ministry at noon today.

He, however, didn't disclose details of the MoU. Health Services Division Secretary Md Abdul Mannan said details of the deal would be shared with the media after the signing ceremony.

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## Dropped calls irk phone users

Carriers say drop rate within BTRC threshold

MAHMUDUL HASAN

Frequent call drops and disruptions have been a bane for a large chunk of the country's more than 16 crore mobile subscribers in the first eight months of the year.

There were 112.95 crore call drops between January and August, according to the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC).

That translates to an average of about 47 lakh call drops per day. Other than call drops, weak reception causes disruptions in conversations, causing many subscribers to end the call and start a new one.

This has been especially problematic during the Covid-19 pandemic, when smooth mobile connections are imperative as many continue to work from home.

Dhaka city resident Adnan Faisal -- an Airtel subscriber -- has been facing excessive call drops.

"There were two call drops today while I was in my office in Agargaon. It's become unbearable," Adnan told The Daily Star on Tuesday.

He also said two out of 10 calls drop when he uses his phone in his Mohammadpur residence.

"Sometimes, when I am on a call with my bosses, it gets disconnected. It's really embarrassing," he added.

The 5 crore subscribers of Robi Axiata, which operates under Robi and Airtel brands and has over 5 crore customers, are the worst sufferers as

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PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Seventy-year-old Nannu Mia carries a sack of grass that he has cut from the Bangabandhu National Stadium in the capital, where months of inactivity due to the pandemic resulted in the overgrown weed in the field. Nannu had to work doggedly for several hours in the scorching heat yesterday to get the grass that he sells for about Tk 100. He has no family member to help him out at his vulnerable age.

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