



'UNACCEPTABLE MISTAKES'
Myanmar army chief, government clash ahead of November 8 election
SEE PAGE 6

The Daily Star

www.thedailystar.net

Your Right to Know

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	224	66,672,225	68,894,617	47	171
				46	181

Misinformation swirls in US amid false claims of victory

Online misinformation about the results of the US election continued to spread yesterday as President Donald Trump falsely claimed victory with millions of votes still to be counted and pushed unfounded allegations about the counting of legitimate ballots.

Twitter marked Trump's latest tweet, in which he said "surprise ballot dumps" were aiding rival Joe Biden, as having content that was "disputed and might be misleading about an election or other civic process."

In every US presidential election, officials normally take several days to process provisional and mail-in ballots. The counting of additional ballots is no surprise, and neither is the swing to Biden, which was widely predicted and discussed extensively in the run-up to the vote - including by Reuters.

Facebook Inc and Twitter have flagged multiple posts from the president as votes were still being counted, in a real-time test of their rules on handling misinformation and premature claims of victory.

But even as the companies moved to label posts by the president, his false claims of victory and unsubstantiated allegations of electoral fraud triggered online furor and misinformation.

Social media companies have been under fierce scrutiny over how they police rapidly spreading false information and election-related abuses of their platforms. In the weeks before Tuesday's vote, both

Still swinging

Biden bats away Trump's victory claim, legal challenge threat over major election fraud as mail-in-voting count delay results in 6 states

AGENCIES

Americans woke up yesterday not knowing who the next US president would be as votes were still being counted in six key states that could swing the bitterly contested election to Republican incumbent Donald Trump or Democrat Joe Biden.

President Trump and Joe Biden both still have possible paths to reach the needed 270 electoral college votes to win the White House, as states keep counting mail-in ballots that surged amid the pandemic.

Biden leads 224 to 213 over Trump in the electoral college vote count, according to Edison Research. CNN, Fox networks have put Biden's tally at 238 electoral votes.

Opinion polls had given Biden a strong lead nationwide for months, but they had shown closer races in battleground states, and the vote did not produce the stinging verdict against the Republican president that the Biden camp had hoped for.

Biden, 77, said in the early hours he was confident of winning once the votes are counted, and urged patience.

Trump, 74, appeared at the White House soon after to declare victory and made unsubstantiated allegations of electoral fraud.

"We were getting ready to win this election. Frankly, we did win this election," he said, before launching an extraordinary attack on the electoral process by a sitting president. "This is a major fraud on our nation. We want the law to be used in a proper manner. So we'll be going to the US Supreme Court. We want all voting to stop."

Trump provided no evidence to back up his claim of fraud and did not explain how he would fight the results at the Supreme Court, which does not hear direct challenges.

The Biden campaign slammed Trump's victory claim as "outrageous, unprecedented, and incorrect" and a "naked effort to take away the democratic rights of American citizens."



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

Democratic hopes to flip US Senate dim

Despite retaining the House of Representatives, the path for Democrats to flip control of the US Senate narrowed sharply yesterday after two 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, 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 African-American Jaime Harrison in the conservative bastion of South Carolina.

"We didn't get the result at the ballot box that we wanted, but we showed courage and determination," Harrison, an African American candidate who had raised record amounts of campaign funding, said in a statement.

Republicans fared well elsewhere too, including Kentucky -- where Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell easily prevailed -- Texas and Montana.

Iowa's junior Senator Joni Ernst, a close Trump ally whom Democrats were intensely targeting, then also defeated her challenger, several US networks projected.

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.



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.

Covid death toll crosses 6,000-mark

21 die, 1,517 test positive in a day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-one people died of Covid-19 in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday with which the total death toll in the country crossed 6,000-mark, reported the Directorate General Health Services (DGHS).

With the latest development, the total number of deaths due to this highly transmissible virus rose to 6,004 which is 1.45 percent of total confirmed cases, according to DGHS.

The country now ranks 31st on the list of the highest number of casualties in the world, as per the John Hopkins University.

Bangladesh recorded its first case of coronavirus

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 cell phone conversations with voices breaking up, 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 residence Mohammadpur.

"Sometimes, when I am on a phone call with my bosses, the call 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



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.

NO দাগ ডেমিশন

দেয়ালে লাগানো নতুন বাজার ইঞ্জি ক্রিন। এর উন্নত রেকরন টেকনোলজি দেয়াল ও রঙের বন্ডিং স্ট্রিং করে ওয়াশাবিলিটি বাড়ায় আরও বহুগুণে।

শুধু Beautiful দেয়াল

More powerful with iRecron Technology

FREE CALL 08000-123456