



'CHILL DONALD, CHILL!'
Thunberg hits back at Trump over anger management taunt
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ELECTORAL VOTE (270 TO WIN)	POPULAR VOTE	USA PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2020	SENATE CONTROL (51)	HOUSE CONTROL (218)
253	73,984,885	ELECTION 2020	48	208
213	69,880,568		47	196

On the verge of VICTORY

White House in reach for Biden as he takes lead in Pennsylvania, Georgia; Trump says he won't concede

AGENCIES

Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden took the lead over President Donald Trump in the battleground states of Pennsylvania and Georgia for the first time yesterday, putting him on the verge of winning the White House.

Three days after polls closed, Biden has a 253 to 213 lead in the state-by-state electoral college vote that determines the winner, according to Edison Research. Winning Pennsylvania's 20 electoral votes would put the former vice president over the 270 he needs to secure the presidency.

Biden would also win the election if he prevails in two of the three other key states where he held narrow leads yesterday: Georgia, Arizona and Nevada. Like Pennsylvania, all three were still processing ballots yesterday.

In both Pennsylvania and Georgia, Biden overtook Trump on the strength of mail-in ballots that were cast in urban Democratic strongholds like Philadelphia and Atlanta.

As Biden inched closer to triumph, he



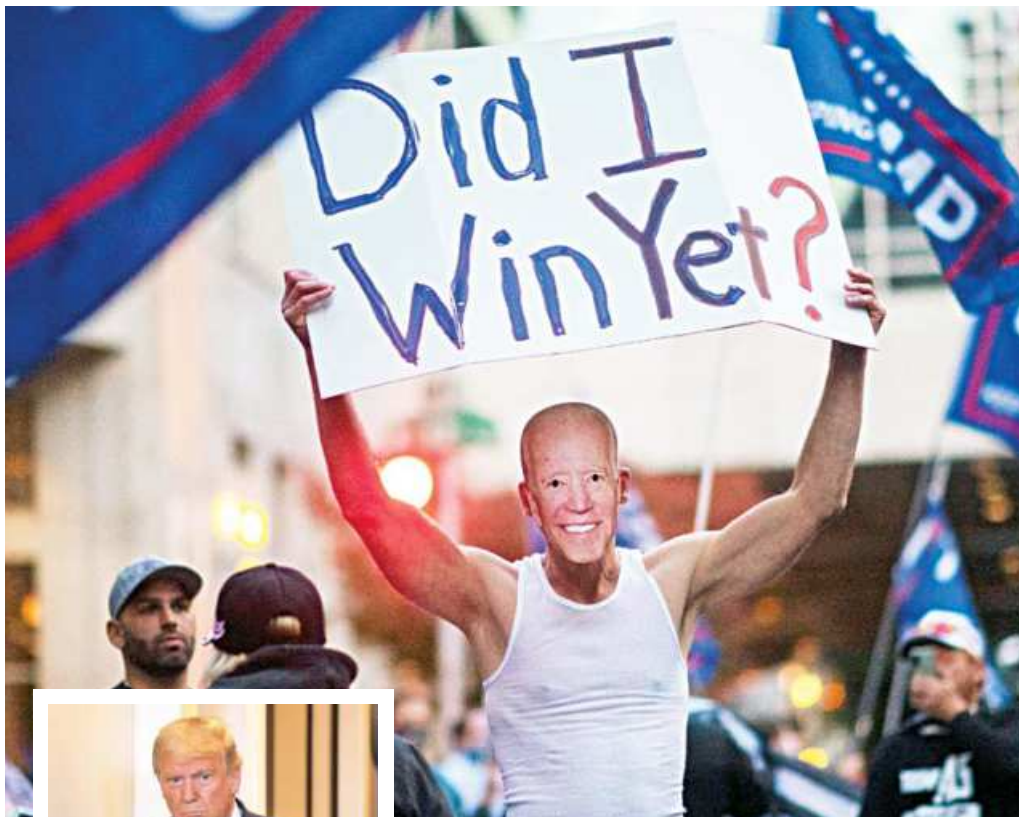
is expected to address the nation this morning (BST), according to a person familiar with his plans. The remarks could be a victory speech; a Biden aide said he could be declared the winner within hours.

With his re-election chances fading, Trump escalated his baseless attacks on the results, appearing at the White House early Friday (BST) to falsely claim the election was being "stolen" from him. His campaign is pursuing a series of lawsuits across battleground states that legal experts described as unlikely to succeed in altering the election outcome.

Even as vote totals now show him trailing Biden in key battleground states, Trump has not prepared a concession speech and in conversations with allies in recent days, he has said he has no intention of conceding the election, people familiar with the matter told CNN and Fox.

Trump's campaign made clear in a statement yesterday that it will contest the election.

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A Trump supporter carries a sign while wearing a mask of US Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden during a protest outside of the Philadelphia Convention Center, where votes are still being counted days after the presidential election. *Left*, President Donald Trump arrives at the White House press briefing room where he spoke of polls fraud without providing any evidence.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Trump loses legal fight in battlegrounds

Vows Nevada lawsuit

AGENCIES

President Donald Trump's campaign has lost court rulings in the closely contested states of Georgia and Michigan and Pennsylvania, even as it vowed to bring a new lawsuit challenging what it called voting irregularities in Nevada.

In the Georgia case, the campaign alleged

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PENNSYLVANIA (20 electoral votes)
BIDEN leads by 13,662 votes
96% ballots tabulated

GEORGIA (16 electoral votes)
BIDEN leads by 1,553 votes
99% votes counted

NORTH CAROLINA (15 electoral votes)
TRUMP leads by 76,737 votes
95% votes counted

ARIZONA (11 electoral votes)
BIDEN leads by 40,942 votes
93% votes counted

NEVADA (6 electoral votes)
BIDEN leads by 20,137 votes
92% ballots tabulated

SOURCE: CNN

Shakib causes delight and concern

Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan's return from the US early yesterday was a cause for celebration, but it also caused a coronavirus-related controversy.

The prime minister and health authorities have asked people returning to the country to be in quarantine for 14 days as the country braces for a second wave. Shakib, however, went out in public to be at the launching ceremony of a super shop within 12 hours of his arrival.

There were pictures of the all-rounder -- whose one-year ICC ban ended on October 29 -- and those surrounding him without masks.

The BCB said Shakib came with a Covid-19 negative certificate, but health experts said it still poses a risk as the returnee could be infected in-flight.

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REINTEGRATION OF RETURNEES

Little response to loan scheme

Migrant workers now stuck home find some terms and conditions difficult to fulfil

JAMIL MAHMUD

Shahidul Islam of Cumilla returned home on September 10 from Saudi Arabia after losing a restaurant job there.

Worried about his future, the 37-year-old was thinking of doing something to earn a decent living in the country as he saw no prospect of going back to the Gulf nation anytime soon.

Then a few weeks ago, he came to know about the "special reintegration loan" for the migrant workers. He then visited Probashi Kallyan Bank's branch office in Cumilla for the loan, only to get frustrated. The bank officials told him that he could get a Tk 5 lakh loan only if he agrees to launch a trade. For this, he must have to submit papers of a property where he will run the business.

"I don't own such a property. I don't have enough capital to rent a store at this moment either," Shahidul said. As he enquired about Tk 2 lakh loan for a dairy farm, the bank officials said he could get the loan for maximum one year.

"It means I have to repay about Tk 20,000 a month in instalment, which is impossible considering my present financial condition," he told The Daily Star by phone.

Shahidul is among the several hundred migrant workers who find some terms and conditions for getting the loan tough to fulfil. As a result,

About 2.25 lakh migrant workers, including 25,436 women, returned between April 1 and October 24. Most of them came home either after losing jobs or there was no prospect of a job in the host countries.

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1,469 more test Covid positive

15 new deaths in 24 hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifteen people died of Covid-19 in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, according to a press release of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

With this, the total number of deaths rose to 6,036 which is 1.45 percent of all confirmed cases in the country.

Besides, a total of 1,469 new infections were recorded in those 24 hours which took the toll of total infected people to 417,475, added the release.

With this, Bangladesh has ranked four fold down -- from 18th last week to 22nd yesterday -- in the list of worst affected countries in the world in terms of the total number of confirmed cases.

The position is one step behind Indonesia and one step ahead of Czechia, according to worldometer.info.

Against a total of 13,521

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Vaccines must be free of cost for all

Says Hasina, urges global leaders to formulate well-coordinated roadmap to face Covid crisis

STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged world leaders to formulate a well-coordinated roadmap to face the crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The Covid-19 pandemic has created a multifaceted global problem and it should be addressed globally. We need a well-coordinated roadmap to face this crisis," she said while opening the 14th ASEM Finance Ministers' Meeting.

The PM expressed optimism that the world is going to get effective vaccines against Covid-19 soon. She called for making the vaccines available free of cost for all countries.

"We are hoping that the world is going to get effective vaccines soon. They must be made available for all countries, especially the LDCs and developing ones, free of cost. The rich countries, multilateral development banks and international financial institutions should come forward with generous support in this regard."

Hasina inaugurated the event, hosted by Bangladesh virtually, by delivering a pre-recorded video message, reports UNB.

The theme of the meeting is "Addressing Covid-19: Ensuring a Strong, Sustainable, Inclusive and Balanced Recovery".

The premier urged the rich countries, multilateral development banks (MDB) and international financial institutions (IFIs) to come forward.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



53 UZI PISTOLS

Detectives looking for users' info

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Detectives are now gathering details of those who own Uzi pistols; military-grade semi-automatic weapons imported in the absence of monitoring by the authorities.

Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has already got the list of the licensed arms holders, who purchased 53 of the weapons from six authorised arms dealers in the country. The dealers imported 111 Uzis in the last five years.

Both dealers and arms holders declared the weapons "rifles" on papers as the import of semi-automatic or automatic weapons for personal use is prohibited in the country, said detectives, adding that each Uzi was sold for Tk 4 lakh to Tk 4.5 lakh.

The "Uzi pistol" looks more like a submachine gun than a rifle or a pistol. The magazine of the Uzi

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Potato prices go beyond control

Many traders stop selling, complains of shortage of supply from wholesalers; govt-fixed rate only on paper

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Many stores in the capital have stopped selling potatoes over the last few days after the authorities fixed the prices and began to penalise overcharging sellers.

The cynical manipulation of the market has resulted in runaway prices of potatoes in the market.

In the weeks following monsoon every year, vegetables become costlier, forcing people to add more potatoes to their diet, said Afzal Hossain, a resident of Moghbazar.

"But this year, potato prices are also rising," he said.

Lutfun Nahar, a house staff member, came to the kitchen market in Karwan Bazar yesterday to buy potatoes at a cheaper rate. But the effort went in vain.



"In my area, potatoes are being sold at Tk 50. But each kg is sold for Tk 48 here. I don't know how we will be able to live amid such high prices of food," she said, adding that the income of her husband, a rickshaw puller, has dipped,

making matters worse.

Wholesalers at kitchen markets in Mirpur-1 and Mohammadpur say they have stopped selling potatoes from October 31.

In Karwan Bazar, Jatrabari and Shyambazar, potatoes are being sold at a handful of stores.

At Kalyanpur Notun Bazar, Mohakhali, Mirpur and Tejgaon on Tuesday, the correspondent found many stores selling different vegetables except potatoes.

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

11th Death Anniversary of Mir Zahir Hossain

Today marks the Death Anniversary of **Mir Zahir Hossain** (1947-2009) former Managing Director of Mir Akhter Hossain Ltd., Mir Cement Ltd., Mir Concrete Products Ltd., Mir Real Estate Ltd. & Mir Telecom Ltd. He was also the former Chairman and one of the founders of NCC Bank Ltd., former president of Bangladesh Association of Construction Industry (BACI) and General Secretary of International Federation of Asian and Western Pacific Contractor's Associations (IFAWPCA).

His hard work, vision, work ethics, perseverance and philanthropic sense has set the path of establishment for Mir Group of Companies. May we all strive to achieve the standard of success that he was able to.

On this occasion we mourn this loss and we remember him at his element: an enthusiastic perfectionist in business and general people welfare. May the Almighty Allah bless him with eternal peace and a place in heaven.

On behalf of Family and Mir Group of Companies

Shama-e Zaheer
Chairman
Mir Group of Companies



স্মরণ

এনসিসি ব্যাংক লিঃ এর
উদ্যোক্তা পরিচালক ও সাবেক চেয়ারম্যান
মীর জাহির হোসেন-এর
৯৯তম মৃত্যুবর্ষিকী আজ।

আমরা তাঁকে গভীর শ্রদ্ধা স্মরণ করছি এবং
তার বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনা করছি।

পরিচালনা পর্ষদ এবং ব্যবস্থাপনা কর্তৃপক্ষ

এনসিসি ব্যাংক
কম্পার সফলতা, সমৃদ্ধি