Trump, Biden supporters duel outside vote-counting centers

Backers of President Donald Trump, some carrying guns, ramped up demonstrations on Thursday night against what he has baselessly called a rigged election, in battleground states where votes were still being counted.

demonstrations largely peaceful, although supporters occasionally shouted with counterprotesters. Trump says the election is being stolen but there has been no evidence of fraud.

In Arizona, one of the closely contested states in the too-closeto-call race between Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden, Trump and Biden supporters briefly scuffled outside the Maricopa County Elections Department in Phoenix.

Several heavily armed right-wing groups assembled on the site as election workers counted votes inside, but the protests remained mostly peaceful despite mounting tension.

In Philadelphia, police said they arrested one man and seized a weapon as part of an investigation into a purported plot to attack the city's Pennsylvania Convention Center, where votes were being counted.

Philadelphia was less confrontational festive, even - where pro-Trump and pro-Biden demonstrators were separated by waist-high portable members fight to count every vote." barriers under a strong police presence.



With the future of the presidency in the balance, restive encounters also unfolded in New York and Washington as well as swing-state cities such as Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Las Vegas, Nevada; Detroit, Michigan; and Atlanta, Georgia.

In Phoenix, Trump supporters briefly chased a man who held up a sign depicting the president as a Nazi pig behind a stage where right-wing conspiracy theorist Alex Jones was speaking.

As mail-in ballots in Pennsylvania Biden lead, Philadelphia demonstrators danced. Two people wearing postal box costumes bounced Trump and American flags.

But otherwise the scene in to pulsating music while carrying a banner that read, "The battle isn't over." Others, backed by a live drum corps, marched behind the sign, "Union

Trump activists waved flags and carried signs saying, "Vote stops on Election Day," and "Sorry, polls are closed." Biden backers showed their support for the civil servants who were at work inside.

In Milwaukee, some 50 Trump supporters gathered for a "Stop the Steal" rally in front of a city building where votes were being counted, blasting country music, waving flags and carrying signs reading "Recount" and "Rigged". At least one man had a gun in holster.

Roughly a dozen counterprotesters arrived later, shouting "Black lives matter" and "say their names," referring to victims of police brutality. Others threw eggs at the Trump supporters from a passing car.

At least 400 protesters gathered outside the Clark County Election Department in Las Vegas. Loud patriotic anthems blared speakers as people waved

## US TVs break from live Trump address due to 'lies'

Social media purge violent rhetoric

AFP, Washington

Several US TV networks late Thursday halted live coverage of Donald Trump's first public appearance since election night after concluding that the president was spreading disinformation.

Trump unleashed a flood of incendiary and unsubstantiated claims in a 17-minute address, insisting that Democrats were using "illegal votes" to steal the election from us.

The president spoke as late vote counting in battleground states showed Democrat Joe Biden steadily closing in on victory.

"OK, here we are again in the unusual position of not only interrupting the president of the United States but correcting the president of the United States," said MSNBC anchor Brian Williams, as the network quickly ended its live coverage. NBC and ABC News also pulled the plug on their live coverage of Trump.

Facebook Inc removed the fast-growing "Stop the Steal" group in which supporters of Trump posted violent rhetoric, as it and other companies tackled baseless claims and potential violence after a contentious election.

The group, which called for "boots on the ground to protect the integrity of the vote," was adding 1,000 new members every 10 seconds and had grown to 365,000 members in a day.

But social media companies have been signaling less patience with disinformation and calls for violence. Eleven of the president's 32 tweets since Election Day on Tuesday have been placed behind a warning label saying they were disputed, prompting him to use email and other media to voice his claims, researchers said.

Twitter on Thursday suspended an account used by former Trump campaign manager Steve Bannon after he recorded a video in which he called for beheading FBI Director Christopher Wray as well as government infectious diseases expert Anthony Fauci for being disloyal to Trump.

A Twitter spokesman cited company policy against glorifying violence.

### **SLOW VOTING COUNT** IN US EXPLAINED

A slow grind of ballot counting has held the United States and the world in suspense since Tuesday's presidential election. Fresh updates were coming in at a painful rate of a few thousand votes at a time, so why is it taking so long? "Fast is great, and we appreciate fast. We more appreciate accuracy," said Gabriel Sterling, an elections official in Georgia.

THE COVID MAIL-IN

Worries about spreading Covid-19 pushed many to embrace voting by mail for the first time. Some states have been overwhelmed by the volume of mailed-in ballots, which are expected to top 70 million out of more than 150 million votes. The short time available to adapt to largescale mailed ballots created multiple headaches. Election officials needed new kinds of ballot papers, new processing machines, and simply more room, more tables and chairs and workers. The creaking US postal service, hit with cutbacks of workers and machinery, has also been a bottleneck. In preparation for the mail-in surge, a number of states stretched out the time after the November 3 election day that mailed ballots could be received. Some however did not add

much attention is focused on the count, only began on Tuesday itself. **ENVELOPES AND SIGNATURES** 

time on the front end to open the envelopes and

sort the ballots. In Michigan, elections workers

could only start opening envelopes on Monday,

one day before election day. Pennsylvania, where

The process of sorting the mailed ballots is onerous. In many states, though not all, the ballots must be verified by matching the voter's signature on the outer envelope with one in a database. For ballots that arrive after election day, they also have to review the postmark to be certain it was mailed early enough. In the past the postal service did not always postmark envelopes. Many places have machines that can do the initial work, but rejections can be high in number and have to be reviewed by hand. Then the ballots have to be removed from the envelopes, and in many states, also from inner "privacy envelopes," and then stacked into piles to be inserted into voting counters. If counting machines cannot read the ballots, they are checked and the votes logged by hand, with more than one official watching to ensure accuracy.

LEGAL AND TECHNICAL HURDLES

Many other problems can bog down the count. In South Carolina one county had to resort to counting each of 14,600 ballots by hand because a printing error led to machines not being able to count them. And each ballot has far more than presidential candidates: candidates for Congress, state and local government, police chiefs, judges, and even coroners. Allegheny County, Pennsylvania -where Pittsburgh lies -- had to temporarily halt the manual counting of some 30,000 problem ballots. Trump's campaign and the Republican Party are also pursuing counting freezes, recounts and vote disqualifying rulings in court in several states, aiming to slow the process and hopefully turn it in their favor.

## Americans reject Trump's victory claims

REUTERS

A bipartisan majority of Americans do not accept Trump's premature victory declaration in the US presidential election and most are willing to wait for all votes to be counted before deciding who won, according to a Reuters/ Ipsos opinion poll.

The Nov 4-5 survey also showed that the public has largely brushed aside Trump's assessment of the election result as rigged.

According to the poll, few Americans agree with the president's view on the race: 16% of US adults, including 7% of Democrats and 30% of Republicans, accept Trump's victory declaration. Another 84%, including 93% of Democrats and 70% of Republicans, said that "candidates should not be declaring victory until all of the votes are counted.







(From left) Supporter of US President Donald Trump argues with a man holding a Democratic Party flag during a "Stop the Steal" protest at Clark County Election Center in North Las Vegas, Nevada; supporters of Joe Biden dances on the streets of Philadelphia; Trump followers listen to Trump speak in a broadcast during a protest about the early results of the 2020 presidential election in the Westchester neighborhood in Miami, Florida. Photos were taken on Thursday.

PHOTO: RELITERS

## **NEWS IN BRIEF**

**Trump administration advances** 

\$2.9 b drone sale to UAE The US State Department gave Congress notification it plans to sell 18 sophisticated armed MQ-9B aerial drones to the United Arab people briefed on the notification said. The move comes on the heels of last week's notification of a eastern country. This would mark the first armed drone export since the Trump administration reinterpreted a Cold War-era arms agreement between 34 nations to allow US defense contractors to sell more drones to allies.

### **Greece makes animal abuse** punishable by up to 10 yrs jail The Greek parliament on Thursday voted

unanimously to make serious animal abuse a crime that can lead to a maximum 10-year prison sentence. Until now, cruelty to animals had been a less severe offence in the eyes of the law, punishable by a mere fine. According to a law voted Thursday, people who mistreat animals will also have to pay "a fine ranging from 5,000 to 15,000 euros."The minimum jail term will be one year. The law defines abuse as "poisonings, hanging, burning, mutilating animals." Last month, a 55-year-old man in Heraklion on the island of Crete hung and castrated a dog. Photos of the act appeared online and in Greek media. Such was the

### **UN calls special General Assembly session on pandemic**

The UN General Assembly moved Thursday to hold a special session focused on international coordination to the coronavirus pandemic from December 3-4 in New York. Discussed since June, the meeting is intended to bring together heads of state and government according to a resolution adopted by 150 of the 193 General Assembly members. No country voted against the measure, while the US, Israel and Armenia abstained. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres hoped the session would be "an opportunity for member states to move forward together," his spokesman Stephane Dujarric said. Leaders will be able to submit five-minute pre-recorded statements to be

sworn in for second term New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern was sworn in for a second term yesterday, as final election results showed her landslide victory was even bigger than previously thought. The charismatic leader and her ministers made their oaths of office in English and Maori during a

Ardern, 40, leveraged her success battling Covid-19 into an unprecedented majority at the October 17 election, leading her centre-left Labour Party to its biggest win since World War II. Final results released Friday showed Ardern won 50.0 percent of the vote, up from 49.0 on election night, giving her 65 seats in the

Emirates in a deal worth as much as \$2.9 billion. potential sale of F-35 fighter jets to the middle-

outrage that the man was fined 30,000 euros.

broadcast in the General Assembly Hall.

### **New Zealand's Ardern**

ceremony at Wellington's Government House.

120-strong parliament, rather than 64.

over anger management taunt

'Chill Donald, Chill!'

Thunberg hits back at Trump

REUTERS

Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg hit back at Donald Trump on Twitter late on Thursday saying the US president should "chill"



the teenager over what he called her anger management

Commenting on Trump tweeting "STOP THE COUNT!" on Thursday, as the election race in the United States went to the wire, 17-year-old Thunberg tweeted: "So ridiculous. Donald must work on his Anger Management problem, then go to a good old fashioned movie with a friend! Chill Donald, Chill!"

The tweet has been liked 1.2 million times so far and re-tweeted 266,000 times.

Trump took to Twitter in December last year after Thunberg was named Time's Person of the Year for 2019, mocking the 17-year-old in exactly the same manner for her impassioned pleas to governments to act to stop global warming. "So ridiculous. Greta must work on her Anger Management problem, then go to a good old fashioned movie with a friend! Chill Greta, Chill!" Trump wrote.

## TRUMP CAMPAIGN'S USE OF WHITE HOUSE Probe launched

REUTERS

The US Office of Special Counsel has opened an investigation into allegations that the Trump campaign's use of the White House as an Election Day command center violated federal law, Democratic Representative Bill Pascrell said on Thursday.

In a statement, Pascrell said the federal watchdog responded on Thursday to his call for a probe, telling him a special unit "has opened an investigation into these allegations to determine if the Hatch Act was

President Donald Trump monitored election returns in the living room of the White House residence on Tuesday, later addressing some 200 supporters gathered in the East Room. Pascrell had asked the special counsel, Henry Kerner, to investigate reports suggesting that Trump used space in the adjacent Eisenhower Executive Office Building - on the grounds of the White House - as a campaign "war room."

The New Jersey lawmaker said Trump was also expected to be briefed in the White House residence and the Oval Office throughout the day by campaign officials, which he said put executive branch officials at risk of violating federal law.

The White House denied any violation of the federal

## Not 'a one-man show'

German FM says on US vote crisis

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas on Friday urged both sides in the US election to show restraint until the results were available, adding it was irresponsible to aggravate tensions.



"America is more than a one-man show. Anyone who continues to pour oil on the fire in a situation like this is acting irresponsibly," Maas told Germany's Funke media in unusually blunt language.

"Now is the time to keep a cool head until an independently determined result is available," he added in some of his first comments on the situation. "In order for the result - which has not yet been

determined - to be accepted, everyone must first show restraint," Maas told Funke media in an interview, extracts of which he tweeted. "That includes us."

"Decent losers are more important for the functioning of a democracy than radiant winners," he added.

Maas said he expected that once the election result is settled, "the USA will probably not return to the international stage with full energy for the time being", but he added: "The world needs the USA as a force for order, not as a factor of chaos."

# 'Worst storm in decades'

Central America reels as death toll shoots past 100

The death toll from the calamitous storm Eta in Central America soared yesterday after the Guatemalan military reached a remote mountainous village where torrential rains had triggered devastating mudslides, killing about 100 people. Many of the dead were buried in their homes in

the remote Queja village in central region of Alta Verapaz, where about 150 houses had been swallowed by mudslides, Guatemalan army spokesman Ruben Tellez told Reuters, citing preliminary figures. Guatemalan President Alejandro Giammattei

indicated the death toll could jump even higher, with the number of dead and missing in Queja village estimated to total about 150. One of the fiercest storms to hit Central America in years, Eta yesterday dumped more torrential rain across large parts of Central America and the

"catastrophic flooding" in the region would continue. Rescue operations across Honduras and Guatemala have been slowed by destroyed roads and bridges, forcing authorities to draft in the military and use helicopters and speedboats to rescue people stranded on top of their houses.

US National Hurricane Center (NHC) warned

Eta wrought chaos after plowing into Nicaragua as a Category 4 hurricane on Tuesday with winds of 150 miles per hour (241 kph), before weakening to a tropical depression and unleashing torrents of rain on regions of Honduras and Guatemala.



This is the worst storm Honduras has seen in decades. The damage will undoubtedly be significant," said Mark Connolly, UNICEF Representative in Honduras, who estimated about 1.5 million children there will be impacted by Eta.

A further eight people were killed in Honduras, where Max Gonzalez, the minister of the National Risk Management System (SINAGER), said about 4,000 people had been rescued but many others remained trapped on their roofs.

Across swathes of Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala and Costa Rica, high winds and heavy rain have damaged hundreds, if not thousands, of homes, forcing people to take cover in shelters.

On Friday morning, the eye of the storm was on the edge of Belize's coast and heading out to the Caribbean Sea, charting a course to Cuba and Florida this weekend, the US National Hurricane Center (NHC) said.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, RHD Barishal Zone, Barishal Phone & Fax No. 64651/2175022 Email: acebar@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No. 35.01.0651.015.07.009.20-2468

Dated: 04/11/2020

**Tender Notice** 

e-Tender Notice (Open Tendering Method)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the					
Tender ID	Package No.	Name of work	Last selling date & time for tender /proposal	Tender closing date & time	Tender/ proposal opening date and time
509730	07/e-GP/ADP/ RHBhola/PW-06 /2020-2021	Construction of Flexible Pavement, Road Embankment, Rigid Pavement, Bus Bay, Protective work, RCC Drain, Saucer Drain, Sign Signal & 9 Nos. RCC Box Culvert at 79th km to 97th km of Bhola (Porantalukderhat)-Borhanuddin-Lalmohon-Charfession-Charmanika Regional Highway (R 890) under Bhola Road Division during the year 2020-2021	07-Dec- 2020 17:00	08-Dec- 2020 13:50	08-Dec-2020 13:50

- This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and 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
- The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branch
- Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

Sushil Kumar Saha ID No. 005435 Additional Chief Engineer (C.C), RHD Barishal Zone, Barishal

GD-1773

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS