Trump loses another election court challenge

The US state of Pennsylvania's supreme court dismissed another legal challenge to the election by supporters of President Donald Trump on Saturday, further reducing his already near-impossible odds of overturning the results.

A Republican lawsuit had sought to invalidate mail-in ballots in the battleground state that President-elect Joe Biden won by about 81,000 votes -- or to throw out all votes and allow the state's legislature to decide the winner.

The court dismissed both claims in a unanimous decision, calling the second one an "extraordinary proposition that the court disenfranchise all 6.9 million Pennsylvanians who voted in the general

The lawsuit argued that a Pennsylvania law from 2019 allowing universal mail-in voting was unconstitutional.

The judges said that their November 21 challenge to the law was filed too late, coming more than a year after it was enacted and with the election results "becoming seemingly apparent."

Pennsylvania officially certified Biden's derail the vote outcome.

victory there on November 24. The lawsuit had also sought to stop certification.

Saturday's decision follows a long line of similar ones, including a ruling the day before in which a federal appeals court flatly dismissed Trump's claim that the election was unfair and refused to freeze Biden's win in Pennsylvania.

Trump has refused to give up on his claims of fraud in the November 3 election despite his repeated court defeats, tweeting bizarre conspiracy theories and vowing to continue his legal fight.

On Thursday, he said for the first time that he would leave the White House if Biden is officially confirmed the winner by the Electoral College on December 14.

But on Friday he tweeted that "Biden can only enter the White House as president if he can prove that his ridiculous '80,000,000 votes' were not fraudulently or illegally

Biden, who is to be sworn in on January 20, won 306 votes in the Electoral College to Trump's 232.

The president-elect has said that Americans "won't stand" for attempts to



Protesters carry inflatable ducks as they march toward the 11th Infantry Regiment during a pro-democracy rally demanding the prime minister to resign and reforms on the monarchy, in Bangkok, Thailand, yesterday.

Baby born with Covid antibodies in S'pore

REUTERS, Singapore

A Singaporean woman, who was infected with the novel coronavirus in March when she was pregnant, has given birth to a baby with antibodies against the virus, offering a new clue as to whether the infection can be transferred from mother to child.

The baby was born this month without Covid-19 but with the virus antibodies, the Straits Times newspaper reported yesterday, citing the mother. "My doctor suspects I have transferred my Covid-19 antibodies to him during my pregnancy," Celine Ng-Chan told the paper.

Ng-Chan had been mildly ill from the disease and was discharged from hospital after two-and-a-half weeks, the Straits Times said.

Tigray fighting 'completed' Says Ethiopia PM; rockets target military installations in Eritrea capital

Rockets launched from Ethiopia's northern Tigray region targeted the capital of Eritrea several hours after Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed declared military operations in the region were over, diplomats told AFP yesterday. Abiy declared military operations in Tigray "completed" after the army claimed control of the regional capital Mekele, a city of half a million before the conflict broke out.

It remained impossible to independently verify whether the regional capital Mekele was completely under federal government control, though a military spokesman told AFP operations were proceeding "very well".

The US embassy in the Eritrean capital Asmara reported early yesterday "six explosions" had occurred in the city "at about 10:13 pm"

Two Addis Ababa-based diplomats told AFP multiple rockets appeared to have targeted Asmara's airport and military installations.

It marked the third time Asmara has come under fire from Tigray since Abiy ordered military operations against leaders of the region's ruling party, the Tigray People's Liberation Front

The TPLF has claimed responsibility only for



the first attack two weeks ago.

It said Asmara was a legitimate target because Ethiopia was enlisting Eritrean military support for its campaign in Tigray, something Ethiopia

As with the previous attacks it was unclear where the rockets landed and what damage they might have caused.

Eritrea is one of the world's most secretive countries and the government has not commented on the strikes.

Abiy, last year's Nobel Peace Prize winner, announced November 4 he was sending federal troops into Tigray in response to attacks by proTPLF forces on federal army camps.

The move marked a dramatic escalation of tensions between Abiy and the TPLF, which dominated Ethiopian politics for nearly three decades before anti-government protests swept Abiy to office in 2018.

Thousands have died in the fighting and tens of thousands of refugees have streamed across the border into Sudan.

Tigray has been under a communications blackout throughout the conflict and media access has been restricted making it impossible to verify Abiy's claim.

Little news filtered out of the city Sunday even through official channels.

A military spokesman, Gen Mohamed Tessema, told AFP that operations were proceeding "very well" and that soldiers were 'doing their work peacefully", but said he could offer no details.

State television stuck to its usual Sunday programming of talk and music shows, while Tigray regional television did not appear to be broadcasting at all. The lack of clarity on the situation in Mekele did not preclude some small-scale celebrations Saturday night in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, and the city of Gondar, in the Amhara region south of Tigray.

Vaccine giant to apply for pandemic licence in '2 weeks'

AFP, Pune

The world's largest vaccine manufacturer by volume said Saturday it would apply for an emergency licence for a coronavirus vaccine within two weeks, and that confusion over the efficacy would not delay its distribution.

Serum Institute of India chief executive Adar Ponnawala also confirmed that the Pune-based giant would be able to produce at least 100 million doses a month from early 2021 of Covishield, which was developed by Astrazeneca and Oxford University.

Poonawalla spoke after a visit to the plant by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whose government wants 300-400 million doses by July next year as the country battles a new surge in the pandemic.

India, the second worst hit country after the United States, is expected to pass 10 million cases in early December. AstraZeneca has said further research was

needed on the vaccine after scientists raised confusion about Covishield's efficacy. It revealed that trials had indicated an

average 70 percent success rate but said it

jumped to 90 percent when an initial halfdose then a full dose was given.

It did not immediately say that the higher efficacy rate applied only to a sample of patients aged 55 or less. But Astrazeneca has insisted the results will not affect regulatory approval.

"There was a bit of confusion in the communication which will be explained in the coming days," Poonawalla said.

"But it is not going to affect the emergency use licence in the UK and it should not affect here in India at all."

"Even if the approval comes maybe two weeks later or something like that, it will not make much difference to the delivery and the quantum of doses that we will be able to distribute."

Poonawalla said the institute was already producing 50-60 million doses a month and after January-February that will be scaled up to 100 million doses per month.

Serum Institute will concentrate first on production for India and the 150-plus countries in the Covax alliance that have agreed to work together on distributing the

Demonstrators set a bus on fire during a protest demanding the resignation of Guatemalan

President Alejandro Giammattei, in Guatemala City Saturday night. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Boko Haram kills at least 70 farm workers in Nigeria

Boko Haram fighters killed at least 70 farm workers and injured six in rice fields near the northeastern Nigerian city of Maiduguri on Saturday, an anti-jihadist militia told AFP. The assailants tied up the agricultural workers and slit their throats in the village of Koshobe, the militia said. Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari condemned the attack, saying: "The entire country has been wounded by these senseless killings.""We have recovered 43 dead bodies, all of them slaughtered, along with six others with serious injuries," said militia leader Babakura Kolo, who helped the survivors. "It

is no doubt the handiwork of Boko Haram who operate in the area and frequently attack farmers." The victims were labourers from Sokoto state in northwestern Nigeria, roughly 1,000 kilometres (600 miles) away, who had travelled to the northeast to find work.

Army never put pressure over foreign policy: Pak PM

Claiming that there is "no pressure" on him from the military in running the government affairs, Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday forcefully defended all his appointments at the Centre as well as in Punjab, declaring them to be on merit.



GD-1900

GD-1898

During an exclusive interview to Express News, the prime minister stated the army had never asked him for appointing any person to any position and all those ex-military

persons, including retired Lt Gen Asim Saleem Bajwa, working in different organisations were appointed on merit. Khan said it was believed that the army interfered in foreign policy matters, but his government's foreign policy was exactly as per the manifesto of the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI).

Montenegro, Serbia expel each other's ambassadors

Montenegro and Serbia on Saturday expelled each other's ambassadors, both countries' foreign ministries said, in a move likely further to strain already tense relations between two former Yugoslav republics. Podgorica declared Serbian ambassador Vladimir Bozovic persona non grata for "interfering in Montenegro's internal affairs", a foreign ministry statement

said citing remarks he had made about history. Serbia then said Montenegrin envoy Tarzań Milosevic had been given 72 hours to leave. Montenegro proclaimed independence from Serbia in 2006, but tensions around national identity are still haunting the tiny Balkans nation.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার পরিবেশ, বন ও জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন মন্ত্রণালয় বাংলাদেশ বন গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (বিএফআরআই) (বন ও বনজ সম্পদের উনুয়ন ও সুষ্ঠু ব্যবহার বিষয়ক গবেষণার একমাত্র জাতীয় প্রতিষ্ঠান) Website: www.bfri.gov.bd আদর্শ মাতৃ বৃক্ষ হতে বীজ সংগ্রহ করুন ভাল বীজ সুস্থ ও সবল চারার নিশ্চয়তা দেয় অধিক উৎপাদন নিশ্চিত করে। বিস্তারিত তথ্য, কারিগরি পরামশ ও প্রশিক্ষণের জন্য যোগাযোগ করুন পরিচালক বাংলাদেশ বন গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট প্রশিক্ষণ ও প্রযুক্তি হস্তান্তর ইউনিট ডাকঘর ঃ আমিন জুট মিলস্ বাংলাদেশ বন গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট ষোলশহর, চট্টগ্রাম। ডাকঘর ঃ আমিন জুট মিলস Email:director_bfri@ctpath.net ষোলশহর, চট্টগ্রাম টেলিফোন নং: ০৩১-২৫৮০৩৮৮ Email:ttu@bfri.gov.bd

Office of the Monirampur Pourashava

Monirampur, Jashore

উন্নয়নের গণতন্ত্র

Memo No. Moni/Pouro/02-1/2020-817 Date: 29/11/2020

e-Tender Notice: 02/2020-2021 Ref. Memo No. 46.00.0000.064.15.092.18-416 Date: 22.03.2020

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for procurement of the following work described below:

Package No. e-TID No. SI No. Name of scheme MONI/GOB/2019/01 | Construction of Pouro Bhaban Type 518817 B, at Monirampur Pourashava.

1) 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.

2) To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.

3) The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to 23 December 2020, Time: 13.00.

4) Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and also from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

> Shaikh Sayadul Haque Executive Engineer (In-charge)

> > Chairperson TEC

Monirampur Pourashava, Jassore Phone No. 01715218717

SOURCE: **AFP, DAWN**

MIGRANT CRISIS French ship pulls 64 from Channel

AFP, Lille

Sixty-four migrants "including a pregnant woman and children" were rescued Saturday in the English Channel after their improvised boat found itself "in trouble" off Dunkirk, French authorities

said. Several of the people "appeared to be in a state of hypothermia" after being brought aboard a patrol ship, the French prefecture in charge of the Channel and North Sea

said in a statement. First responders and border police took charge of the migrants, who were "all safe and sound" when they were put ashore in Calais in the early evening, it added. Calm weather prompted fears among rescuers that larger numbers would attempt the crossing to Britain.

Mysterious monolith in US desert 'disappears'

A mysterious metal monolith found in the remote desert of the western United States, sparking a national guessing game over how it got there, has apparently disappeared, officials said.

The Bureau of Land Management in Utah said Saturday it had received "credible reports" that the object had been removed "by an unknown party" on Friday evening.

The bureau "did not remove the structure which is considered private property," it said in a statement. We do not investigate crimes involving private property which are

handled by the local sheriff's office. The shiny, triangular pillar which protruded some 12 feet from the red rocks of southern Utah, was spotted on November 18 by baffled local

officials counting bighorn sheep from the air. After landing their helicopter to investigate, Utah Department of Public Safety crew members found "a metal monolith installed in the ground"

but "no obvious indication of who might have put the monolith there." News of the discovery quickly went viral, with many noting the object's similarity with strange alien monoliths that trigger huge leaps in human

progress in Stanley Kubrick's classic sci-fi film "2001: A Space Odyssey." Others remarked on its discovery during a turbulent year that has seen the world gripped by the Covid-19 pandemic, and optimistically

speculated it could have a different function entirely. This is the 'reset' button for 2020. Can someone please press it quickly?" joked one Instagram user.

"Somebody took the time to use some type of concrete-cutting tool or something to really dig down, almost in the exact shape of the object, and embed it really well," Nick Street, a spokesman for the Department of Public Safety told the New York Times.

"It's odd," he added. "There are roads close by, but to haul the materials to cut into the rock, and haul the metal, which is taller than 12 feet in sections -- to do all that in that remote spot is definitely interesting.