



Clinton takes 3-point lead

Early voting offers clues to election's outcome

AGENCIES

With four days to go before election day, one new poll gives Hillary Clinton a three point national lead over Donald Trump. The poll also suggests that the majority of voters have already made up their minds and that the latest revelations and accusations about both candidates has made marginal difference.

The poll published by New York Times/CBS News gives a small lead to the Democrats, saying 45 per cent of voters are supporting Clinton, with 42 backing Trump. While that lead may be leapt on by supporters of Clinton, experts point out that it is within the poll's margin of sampling error.

The website FiveThirtyEight gives Clinton a 67.6 per cent chance of winning, with Trump a 32.3 per cent chance of securing his ambition of becoming president.

More than 27 million people have already voted in the US presidential election, and early trends are offering some hints of the outcome. Voters had cast 6.7 million more early ballots compared to the same period in 2012, the data analytics firm Catalist said.

Early voting tallies indicate Democrats are turning out in greater numbers than Republicans in some states, an advantage for Clinton, experts say.

But turnout is lagging among young people and African Americans, key constituencies that lifted a triumphant Barack Obama into the White House in 2008.

More significantly, the poll found the number of Clinton supporters who were enthusiastic about her candidacy dropped from 51 to 43 percent, while Trump's numbers remained unchanged at 53 percent.

So far, there are signs of enthusiasm among early voters who are Latino, women and white liberals, a good sign for Clinton.

Trump faces bigger hurdles. They include Clinton's early vote lead in the swing states of Nevada, Virginia and Colorado. Polls have put Clinton and Trump in virtual tie in Florida, a must win state for the Republican if he wants to be president.

Experts says this has made compulsory for Trump to win almost every other battleground states.

On top of that, Latino voters overwhelmingly support Clinton, with a record 27.3 million of them eligible to vote in this election -- four million more than during the last presidential race, according to the Pew Research Center.



FBI to indict Clinton!

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Fox News claimed that an indictment is "likely" for Hillary Clinton in the alleged "pay-for-play" scandal surrounding the Clinton Foundation.

The reports remain unverified, as Fox News has continued to call Clinton's credibility into question.

Anchor Brett Baier claimed that "barring some obstruction in some way" that the FBI will pursue an indictment for the Democratic presidential nominee.

The FBI came under fire last week for the timing of director James Comey's announcement that investigators discovered a new trove of possibly pertinent emails linked to a previous investigation into Ms Clinton's use of a private server -- only 11 days before the presidential election.

But agents in the New York field office wanted to keep a separate investigation into alleged corruption within the Clinton Foundation alive, according to the Wall Street Journal. The agents were reportedly in preliminary stages of examining allegations of conflicts of interest and corruption that surrounded the charitable organisation during Clinton's time as Secretary of State.

The news station has been a major proponent of Trump's candidacy. The network's top pundit, Sean Hannity, has actively supported the GOP candidate.

TRAGEDY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

239 die off Lybia coast

REUTERS, Geneva

At least 239 migrants, believed to be from West Africa, have died in two shipwrecks off Libya, a spokesman for the United Nations migration agency, said on Thursday.

One group of migrants, including about 20 women and six children, set off in a rubber dinghy from Libya around 3 a.m. on Wednesday, but their boat collapsed after a few hours, said Flavio di Giacomo, a spokesman for the UN's International Organisation for Migration, who cited accounts by survivors.

By the time rescuers arrived, most had drowned. Twelve bodies were



recovered, including three babies. About 27 survived.

Another two women reported surviving a separate disaster that happened at about the same time. Their rubber dinghy was carrying about 130 people.

The International Organization for Migration said the latest deaths meant 4,220 lives had been lost in the Mediterranean so far this year, compared with 3,777 in the whole of 2015.

October saw a surge in migrant arrivals in Italy, with 27,388 arriving, more than the two previous Octobers combined, and bringing

this year's total arrivals to over 158,000, di Giacomo said.

The smugglers who arrange the journeys have told migrants that European training of Libyan coastguards means the rescue missions will soon be handed over to Libya and any rescued migrants will be taken ashore in Libya rather than Italy, di Giacomo said.

That was possibly causing the rush to board boats now, he said, although the information, gleaned from rescued migrants, was not confirmed.

Meanwhile, Amnesty International yesterday accused

Italy of committing human rights abuses that may amount to torture as it tries to process tens of thousands of boat migrants.

The report included allegations of beatings, electric shocks and sexual humiliation in a handful of cases involving mainly African migrants who resisted having their fingerprints taken.

Italian police chief Franco Gabrielli dismissed the accusations, saying his officers, who work alongside EU officials and human rights groups in the migration centres, had shown enormous responsibility in dealing with the crisis.

Brexit plans in disarray

UK court says govt must get parliament's approval

AFP, London

The High Court yesterday struck a blow to the British government's plans for leaving the EU, ruling it must seek parliament's approval before starting exit talks in a landmark judgement that could delay Brexit.

Three senior judges said Prime Minister Theresa May's government does not have the power on its own to trigger Article 50 of the European Union's Lisbon Treaty, the formal notification of Britain's intention to leave the bloc.

May has promised to begin the process by the end of March but the ruling raises the prospect of a protracted parliamentary debate before then, in a chamber which overwhelmingly opposed Brexit and may seek to soften the break with the EU.

The case challenged the government's right to use "historic prerogative powers" -- a type of executive privilege -- to trigger Article 50, which begins a two-year countdown to exiting the EU.

"We hold that the secretary of state does not have power under the crown's prerogative to give notice pursuant to Article 50... for the United Kingdom to withdraw from the European Union," the judgement said.

May's Downing Street office said it was "disappointed" at the decision and would

appeal, with the case now expected to be heard in the Supreme Court in early December.

"The country voted to leave the European Union in a referendum approved by act of parliament. And the government is determined to respect the result of the referendum," it said in a statement.

A spokeswoman added: "Our plans remain to invoke Article 50 by the end of March."

Nigel Farage, the interim leader of the UK Independence Party who led the campaign for Brexit, warned there would be public outrage if parliament used its power to block the referendum result.

Fellow Brexit campaigner and former Conservative minister Iain Duncan Smith accused the judges of triggering "a constitutional crisis".

Most members of the House of Commons wanted to stay in the EU, but commentators believe there is no majority support for reversing the referendum result, which was backed by 52 percent of British voters.

May has so far declined to outline her negotiating strategy, insisting that showing her hand would damage her chances of achieving the best outcome.

But she has indicated she will prioritise cutting immigration, a move that EU leaders have warned is incompatible with staying part of the European single market.



Global climate deal kicks off

AGENCIES

As clocks passed midnight into Friday, remote islands in the Pacific Ocean, many in danger of rising seas from global warming, kicked off a rolling start as last year's global agreement to slow climate change took effect.

The 2015 Paris Agreement formally started on Nov 4 after winning support from major greenhouse gas emitters led by China and the United States, but legal texts do not specify a time zone where it begins.

As a result, it came into effect first in the Pacific region, home to low-lying island states on the front lines of storm surges, disruptions to rainfall and a creeping rise in sea levels.

The eastern islands of Kiribati were among the first, followed by countries such as Tonga, Tuvalu and the Marshall Islands.

Maldives will chair the alliance of small island states at talks among almost 200 nations in Marrakesh from Nov 7-18 to try to find ways to implement the Paris Agreement, partly by working out rules for an often vague text.

The Paris Agreement seeks to wean the world economy off fossil fuels in the second half of the century and limit a rise in average world temperatures to "well below" 2.0 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) above preindustrial times.

Yesterday, however, the United Nation said greenhouse gas emissions in 2030 will exceed by 12 billion to 14 billion tonnes what is needed to keep global warming to the agreed target.

US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS: FEW INTERESTING FACTS

WORST CAMPAIGN SLOGAN

The worst campaign slogan in history belongs to Al Smith, who was against prohibition. To show his support for the creation, distribution, and sale of alcohol, he advertised: "Vote for Al Smith and he'll make your wet dreams come true."



THE ULTIMATE "WHOOOPS" MOMENT

The ultimate "whoops" moment in a US presidential election happened when the Chicago Daily Tribune mistakenly declared that Dewey beat Truman in 1946.

WINNING 100% OF ELECTORAL COLLEGE VOTE

George Washington is the only US president in history to win 100% of the Electoral College vote. This is mainly because organized parties weren't yet formed, and he ran unopposed. George Washington blew his entire campaign budget on 160 gallons of liquor to serve to potential voters.



George Washington

YES, ELECTION CAN KILL

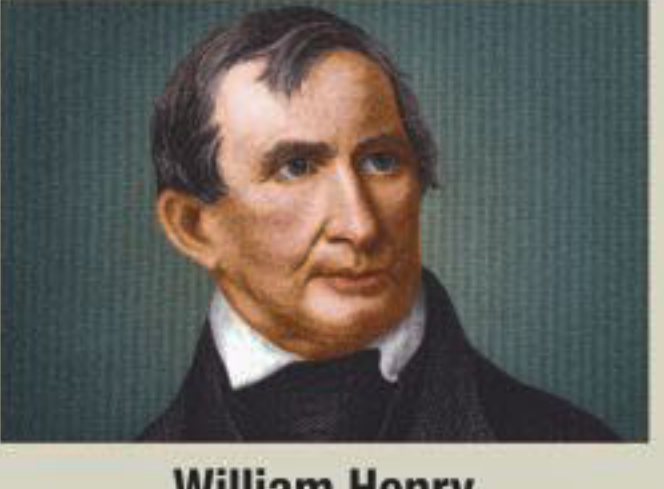
The 1800 election year was so heated that vice president Aaron Burr ended up killing Alexander Hamilton in a duel.



Aaron Burr

FATAL VICTORY SPEECH

George Washington gave the shortest inauguration speech at 135 words. William Henry Harrison's was the longest, at 8,445 words. He spoke for over two hours in a heavy snowstorm, which made him catch a cold and ultimately die from pneumonia one month later.



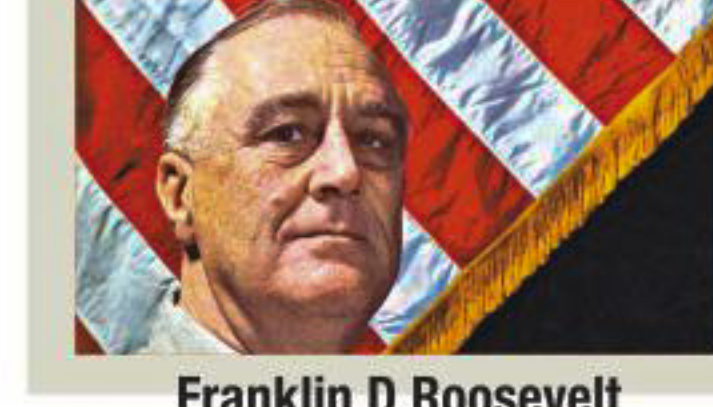
William Henry

WILD CELEBRATION

Andrew Jackson's inauguration party was so wild that Jackson snuck out of the White House and spent the night at a hotel. Finally, servants dragged tubs of punch out on the lawn to lure out the crowds.

4 TIMES AS PRESIDENT

Franklin D Roosevelt was elected president an astonishing four terms before the 22nd Amendment set term limits. Barack Obama was the 17th president to be elected to at least two terms.



Franklin D Roosevelt

MOST RESILIENT CANDIDATE

Norman Thomas of the Socialist Party ran for president more times than anyone in history. He ran for 6 times but was never elected.

VOTING RIGHTS OF NATIVE AMERICANS

Congress gave Native Americans the right to vote in presidential elections in 1924; however, some states banned them from voting until the 1940s.

ABSURD PROPERTY LAW

The first US presidential election was in 1789. Only white men who owned property could vote, a stipulation that prohibited 94% of the population from casting a ballot.

DIRTIEST CAMPAIGN!

During the John Quincy and Andrew Jackson election year, American politics sounds more like bathroom graffiti than political commentary. For example, Jackson called John Quincy a pimp, and Quincy called Jackson's wife a slut and his mother a prostitute. Now Donald Trump has a rival!

FIRST WOMEN AND BLACK CANDIDATE

The first woman to run for US President was Victoria Woodhull in 1872, nearly 50 years before the 19th Amendment allowed women to vote in presidential elections. Her running mate, Frederick Douglass, was the first African-American ever nominated for Vice President.



Victoria Woodhull

DEAD OPPONENT

During the 1872 election, presidential incumbent Ulysses S Grant ran against a corpse. His opponent, Horace Greeley, died before the election was finalized. Grant won the election.

VOTING DAY CONTROVERSY

The US Constitution does not state when Election Day should be, which meant that in the early 1800s, people could vote from April to December. In 1845, Congress decided that voting day would be the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

DONKEY AS DEMOCRAT'S MASCOT

Democrats use a donkey as their mascot thanks to Andrew Jackson. When his critics called him a "jackass" because of his populist views, he embraced the image, even using it alongside his slogan, "Let the people rule."

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Application deadline
8 December, 2016
Thursday, 5:00 PM

Admission test
9 December, 2016
Friday, 10:00 AM

Scholarship & Financial Support
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Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences
North South University
Bashundhara, Dhaka - 1229; Tel: +8802-55668200 Ext: 1967, 1973
Email: pharmacy@northsouth.edu; Web: www.northsouth.edu