

NEWS IN BRIEF



Japan formally proclaims Crown Prince Akishino heir to throne

Japan formally proclaimed Crown Prince Akishino the first in line as heir to the throne on Sunday, the last of a series of ceremonies after his elder brother, Emperor Naruhito, became monarch last year following their father's abdication. The day-long ceremonies at the palace had been scheduled for April but were postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic and have been scaled back as infection keeps rising, although Japan has escaped the explosive outbreak seen in many other countries. Under Japanese law, only males can inherit the throne, so Naruhito's only offspring, 18-year-old Princess Aiko, is ineligible.

Moves to amend the law lost steam when Akishino's wife bore a son, Hisahito, in 2006.

India court bans firecrackers in cities ahead of Diwali

India's environmental yesterday court ordered a ban on firecrackers during the country's biggest annual festival in cities battling hazardously poor air quality, citing a link between pollution and a coronavirus surge. The National Green Tribunal said the role of pollution in the Covid-19 crisis meant that the ban was needed ahead of Diwali celebrations on Saturday. Traditionally, millions of firecrackers are set off during Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Light, but the practice has been blamed for worsening air pollution -- especially in northern India which suffers from serious smog every winter. The court said a general ban in all cities with rising air pollution should last until November 30. India has the second-highest number of coronavirus infections in the world, and experts have raised concerns about air pollution worsening the symptoms of respiratory illnesses such as Covid-19.

Eta makes landfall in Florida Keys after lashing Cuba

Tropical Storm Eta made landfall at the Florida Keys late Sunday and was set to bring hurricane conditions after slamming Cuba and earlier cutting a deadly path through Central America and southern Mexico. Eta made landfall at 0400 GMT in Lower Matecumbe Key in the Florida Keys, the NHC said, adding the "strong tropical storm" was blowing maximum sustained winds of 65 miles (100 kilometers) per hour. Heavy rains were reported in the eastern half of Cuba, where authorities have evacuated thousands of people due to the risk of flooding. Eta hit Nicaragua on Tuesday as a powerful hurricane before losing strength. It caused torrential rains that have left some 200 victims dead or missing in Central America. The most affected country has been Guatemala, where about 150 people are missing.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

Biden begins post-polls transition

Trump to launch barrage of lawsuits, plans campaign-style rallies to protest rigging

AGENCIES

US President-elect Joe Biden has taken the first steps towards moving into the White House in 73 days, as Donald Trump again refused to admit defeat and tried to sow doubt about the election results.

With congratulations pouring in from world leaders and supporters nursing hangovers after a night of celebrations, Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris announced they would receive a joint briefing Monday in Wilmington, Delaware from their transition Covid-19 advisory team.

Biden would then deliver remarks on coronavirus and economic recovery.

Biden's transition website lists four priorities: Covid-19, economic recovery, racial equity and climate change.

"The team being assembled will meet these challenges on Day One," it said in a reference to January 20, 2021, when Biden will be sworn in as the 46th president of the United States.

Meanwhile, Trump played golf at his course near Washington, the same place where he was Saturday when news broke that Biden had secured enough Electoral College votes for victory.

"Since when does the Lamestream Media call who our next president will be?" Trump complained in a tweet on Sunday.

Trump, who has no public events scheduled for Monday, plans to file a string of lawsuits in the coming week, according to his lawyer Rudy Giuliani, who said he had "a lot of evidence" of fraud.

But former president George W Bush said the "outcome is clear" and added that he had called "President-elect" Biden and Harris to extend his congratulations.

According a report by Axios and confirmed by Fox News, Trump's campaign plans to take less traditional path to challenging the



Pictures tell it all. While a group of friends celebrate in New York on Sunday after Biden was declared the winner of the US election, Trump's supporters keep on protesting alleged irregularities in voting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

PHOTO: REUTERS



results of the election, including holding "a series of Trump rallies" focused on the campaigns ongoing legal efforts in numerous states across the country.

Biden, who turns 78 on November 20, is the oldest person ever elected to the White House. Harris, 56, a senator from California, is the first woman, first Black person and first South Asian person to be elected vice president.

Biden has pledged to reassert the United States' leadership role on the global stage through a series of day-one executive actions that would mark a drastic turn from Trump's policies.

Biden repeatedly promised on his first day in office to rejoin the Paris climate accord, a landmark international deal to combat climate change that Trump exited in 2017. He has also said he would rejoin the World Health Organization, which Trump moved to withdraw from this year.

Biden has also said he will repeal Trump's ban on travel from some Muslim-majority countries and reinstate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, which allows "dreamers" -- undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States

as children -- to remain in the country.

Biden has vowed to name a cabinet that reflects the diversity of the country, although he may have trouble gaining approval for more progressive appointees if Republicans retain control of the Senate -- an outcome that will depend on two runoff races in Georgia in January.

Biden received nearly 74.6 million votes to Trump's 70.4 million nationwide and has a 279-214 lead in the Electoral College that determines the presidency. Biden also leads in Arizona, which has 11 electoral votes, and Georgia, which has 16. If he wins both, he would finish with 306 electoral votes.

Trump aides and allies have acknowledged privately the legal fights would -- at best -- forestall the inevitable, and some had deep reservations about the president's attempts to undermine faith in the vote.

Meanwhile, Chin and Russia yesterday said they would congratulate Biden after official results. Saudi Arabia, after refraining from congratulating Biden, yesterday sent its greetings to the president-elect.

UK PM's Brexit laws face House defeat

AGENCIES

Prime Minister Boris Johnson is expected to suffer a heavy defeat in parliament's upper chamber yesterday over laws allowing him to breach Britain's EU exit treaty - a proposal which has been criticised by US president-elect Joe Biden.

The Internal Market Bill is designed to protect trade between Britain four nations after Brexit. It contains clauses ministers say are needed to protect Northern Ireland, but would also break international law in a "specific and limited" way.

The House of Lords will vote around 1900 GMT on whether to strip those clauses from the bill. Johnson's government is widely expected to lose.

The publication of the bill in September provoked criticism with some saying it would wreck Britain's international standing.

Many saw the bill as a negotiating gambit to win concessions from the EU in wider negotiations on a trade deal. Brussels has launched legal action against Britain over the proposals.

Kushner, Melania advise Trump to concede

CNN ONLINE

President Donald Trump's inner circle is beginning to split over his ongoing refusal to accept the results of the 2020 election, as Jared Kushner and first lady Melania Trump advised him to come to terms with President-elect Joe Biden's victory and his adult sons pressed him and allies to keep fighting.

Kushner, the President's son-in-law and senior adviser, has approached him to concede, two sources told CNN. The first lady, according to a separate source familiar with the conversations, has privately said the time has come for him to accept the election loss.

Meanwhile, Trump's two adult sons, Donald Jr. and Eric, have urged allies to continue pressing on and they have pushed Republicans and supporters to publicly reject the results even as CNN and other news organizations projected the race for



Biden on Saturday.

Trump's campaign is planning a messaging blitz to fuel its argument -- unsupported by any evidence to date -- that the President's second term is being stolen from him through corrupt vote counts in battleground states, three sources familiar with the matter told CNN on Sunday evening.

Trump campaign spokesman Jason Miller in a tweet Sunday morning denied that Kushner has approached Trump, although CNN stands by its reporting.

"This story is not true," said Miller.

"Jared has advised @realDonaldTrump to pursue all available legal remedies to ensure accuracy."

Meanwhile, some members of Trump's party on Sunday vocalized their opposition to the President conceding the election, urging him not to do so.

Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, one of the President's closest allies in the Senate, said "the President should not concede" during an interview on Fox News.

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, who was also Trump's one-time primary rival, also advised against concession, saying it would be "premature."

And Sen. Roy Blunt of Missouri, a member of Republican leadership in the Senate, would not acknowledge on Sunday that Biden is the President-elect, citing both the legal challenges initiated by Trump's lawyers in states across the country and the ongoing vote counting process as reasons.

Special Supplement

Lump in the breast? It may not be cancer

A rare but treatable benign breast lump, granulomatous mastitis may be easily mistaken for cancer. by Annie Tan

PATIENTS. AT THE HEART OF ALL WE DO.®



Not many women get it or have even heard of it. But when granulomatous mastitis suddenly occurs, it can cause panic and fear.

This is because the condition shows up as a firm lump in the breast — a symptom that is similar to breast cancer. However, unlike cancerous tumours in the breast, which are usually painless, granulomatous mastitis lumps often cause pain.

"Women who seek attention for breast lumps usually come with the concern that they may be cancerous," said Dr Julie Liana Hamzah, Associate Consultant, Department of Breast Surgery, Singapore General Hospital (SGH).

Besides pain, other symptoms can include skin inflammation and redness, and fever. In more serious cases, there may be ulceration or even enlarged lymph nodes.

The condition is rare. According to Dr Julie, her department sees a handful of women with granulomatous mastitis a year. It is unclear what causes granulomatous mastitis, although some conditions such as tuberculosis and sarcoidosis, an inflammatory disease, can lead to it. Most cases, however, are idiopathic, meaning no cause can be found to explain its occurrence, said Dr Julie.

Idiopathic granulomatous mastitis tends to show up in women of childbearing age between their late 20s and 40s, especially those who have had children. Nevertheless, the condition has also been known to occur in women in this age group who have not given birth before, Dr Julie added.

Pain management
Diagnosis is made by exclusion of other diseases.

"Normally, we will perform a physical examination of the woman in the clinic and send her for breast imaging," said Dr Julie. If the scan points to an infection, oral antibiotics will be prescribed as the first course of treatment.

A follow-up ultrasound will be ordered three months later. At this point, if this condition persists, doctors may recommend a core needle biopsy to sample and examine tissue from the lesion to rule out cancer or some other disease. A biopsy is usually not done at the start.

In cases where the lump is accompanied by an abscess, the pus is surgically drained. At the same time, a tissue sample will be taken for diagnosis. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs will be prescribed for pain management. If the pain is not well-controlled, steroids may be prescribed.

Left untreated, idiopathic granulomatous mastitis resolves itself in nine to 12 months. However, treatment is recommended to speed up the recovery process, and reduce pain and discomfort.

Even after the condition resolves itself, it can recur. So the patient may find herself with another lump or infection in the breast sometime down the road.



SingHealth is Singapore's largest healthcare group providing quality care across 4 hospitals, 5 national specialty centres and a network of primary care clinics. With over 40 medical specialties and a faculty of 3700 doctors, it is recognised for the high quality of its healthcare services. An academic medical centre, SingHealth institutions are recognised centres of excellence, integrating clinical care with research and education to transform care for its patients.

Singapore General Hospital (SGH), one of the tertiary hospitals of the SingHealth Group, is Singapore's largest hospital. It offers multidisciplinary and seamless integrated care over a comprehensive range of clinical specialties. As a testament to its standard of quality and safety, SGH is accredited by the Joint Commission International. SGH also accounts for about one-fifth of acute beds in Singapore.

"Having said that, there isn't an increased risk of breast cancer or any other disease for these women. Idiopathic granulomatous mastitis isn't a precursor to cancer, but it may be a protracted course and almost always presents with inflammatory or infective changes. So we tend to want to control the pain and treat the infection," said Dr Julie.

SingHealth Duke-NUS Breast Centre

The One-Stop Multidisciplinary Centre for Breast Cancer Care

The SingHealth Duke-NUS Breast Centre is the largest centre in Singapore treating the full spectrum of breast conditions. The Centre serves its patients at 5 key SingHealth institutions, namely, National Cancer Centre Singapore (NCCS), Singapore General Hospital (SGH), Changi General Hospital (CGH), Sengkang General Hospital (SKH) and KK Women's and Children's Hospital (KKH). Annually, the Centre handles about 70,000 outpatient visits and manages over 1,300 breast cancer patients.

The Centre offers various treatment options including oncoplastic breast surgery, sentinel node biopsy and

ANNUALLY, THE CENTRE HANDLES ABOUT 70,000 OUTPATIENT VISITS AND MANAGES OVER 1,300 BREAST CANCER PATIENTS.

intraoperative radiotherapy.

Treatment is individualised for each patient, and at the SingHealth Duke-NUS Breast

Centre, every case of breast cancer is discussed at a weekly multidisciplinary conference to ensure the most appropriate treatment options are recommended.

Patients have full access to warm, supportive care from the team of experts focused on breast cancer throughout their duration of treatment; working together in unison to achieve seamless positive outcomes for patients.

The Centre's dedicated breast surgeons work closely in a multidisciplinary team to provide a full range of integrated services for the assessment and management of benign and malignant breast conditions in a caring and friendly environment.

Each case of breast cancer is different, and is reviewed in detail by a multidisciplinary team to come up with a treatment plan suited for each patient. The personal treatment team for each breast cancer patient includes a radiologist, pathologist, medical and radiation oncologist, surgeons and specially-trained support staff.