

Kanye West announces 2020 US presidential run

● Tesla CEO Elon Musk wrote: "You have my full support!"

● "Kanye" shot to become the top trending term on twitter

AFP | Washington

Kanye West, the entertainment mogul who urges listeners in one song to "reach for the stars, so if you fall, you land on a cloud," claimed Saturday he is challenging Donald Trump for the US presidency in 2020.

"We must now realise the promise of America by trusting God, unifying our vision and building our future. I am running for president of the United States! #2020VISION," the born-again billionaire rapper tweeted as Americans marked Independence Day.

West offered no further details on his supposed campaign, four months before the November election, and it is unclear if he has officially registered to run for office.

Hundreds of thousands of Twitter users reacted to the star's announcement and "Kanye" shot to become the top trending term on the platform, although many questioned whether the volatile rapper would go through with his plan and others claimed it was a publicity stunt.

His wife, reality star Kim



Donald Trump and Kanye West stand together in the lobby at Trump Tower, in New York City, after Trump's election victory -- but West apparently now wants to deny him a second term by running himself

often repeated for the White House press corps.

That year, West also delivered a lengthy soliloquy to a president who many deem racist, telling him he loved him -- to the dismay of many Democrats and fellow artists.

But in 2019, during an interview with Zane Lowe of Apple Music's Beats 1 show, he said his support for Trump had been a way to razz Democrats -- and announced his own presidential ambitions.

"There will be a time when I will be the president of the US, and I will remember... any founder that didn't have the capacity to understand culturally what we were doing." It was unclear to whom the artist was referring.

The announcement came days after West, who has taken a very public turn towards Christianity in recent years, released a new song, "Wash Us In the Blood," along with an accompanying video including imagery from recent anti-racism protests.

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In September 2015, West announced that he intended to run for President of the United States in 2020

He later implied on Twitter that he intends to run for President in 2024 due to Donald Trump's win in the 2016 elections

In April 2012, West began dating reality star and longtime friend Kim Kardashian. West and Kardashian became engaged in October 2013 and married on May 24, 2014, at Fort di Belvedere in Florence, Italy.

West is one of the most acclaimed musicians of his generation. Outside of his music career, West has also had success in the fashion industry

Kardashian, replied with a US flag emoji, while Tesla CEO Elon Musk wrote: "You have my full support!"

The 43-year-old has mentioned running for president several times and he said last year he would run for president in 2024.

West long ago broke ranks with most of the left-leaning entertainment industry to loudly voice his support for Trump.

In 2018, they met in the Oval Office -- a surreal tete-a-tete that included a hug from the rapper as well as an on-camera rant featuring an expletive not

News in brief

◆ Egypt will hold inaugural elections for a new second parliamentary chamber on Aug. 11-12, election commissioner Lasheen Ibrahim. Amendments made to Egypt's constitution last year provided for the creation of the Council of Senators, a 300-member secondary chamber that will be two-thirds elected by the public and the remainder appointed by the president.

Egypt sets date for senate elections in August



David Starkey (R) seen here in 2007 with Britain's Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, has resigned from his position at Cambridge University

UK historian quits over slavery claim

A British royal historian who said slavery was not genocide has quit his honorary

position at Cambridge University and been dropped by his publisher HarperCollins. The comments from Professor David Starkey came during a period of soul searching in Britain over its colonial past. "Slavery was not genocide. Otherwise, there wouldn't be so many damn blacks in Africa or in Britain, would there? An awful lot of them survived," Starkey said.

Body of COVID-19 victim left on the street for a week in Bolivia



A coffin containing the body of a 62-year-old COVID-19 victim in Cochabamba, Bolivia, who died in his home a week ago is left on the street by his relatives, some of whom also have coronavirus symptoms and have not been able to bury him as crematoriums are overwhelmed with waiting lists.

London landmarks go blue for the 72nd anniversary of the NHS



10 Downing Street and the London Eye are among several landmarks around the UK that are bathed in blue light to celebrate the 72nd anniversary of the National Health Service. This year's celebration is particularly poignant given the challenging conditions NHS staff have had to work under over the past four months amid the coronavirus outbreak.

Dozens dead, missing in Japan as heavy rain causes floods, mudslides

● Authorities at emergency shelters made evacuees wash their hands, wear masks and maintain social distance

AFP | Tokyo

About 34 people are either confirmed or feared dead -- including 14 at a nursing home -- after torrential rain in Japan triggered massive floods and mudslides, authorities said yesterday.

Rescuers were searching for 14 others still missing after floods hit the Kumamoto region on the southwestern island of Kyushu, destroying houses, sweeping away vehicles and causing bridges to collapse.

The regional government confirmed 18 people had died, while another 16 were declared in a state of "cardio-respiratory arrest" -- a term often used in Japan before a doctor officially certifies death.

Fourteen of those feared dead were at a nursing home inundated when local rivers broke their banks. Emergency services rescued 50 people from the facility.

"Tables and sofas were floating around and you could not move," an official, who helped lead res-



The floods washed away bridges

cue efforts at the home where his wheelchair-bound elderly mother was among the victims, told private TV network JNN.

Japan almost always suffers from flooding during its rainy season but rescue and evacuation efforts this year have been further complicated by the coronavirus outbreak.

Authorities at emergency shelters made evacuees wash their hands, wear masks and maintain social distance to avoid the virus adding to the problems.

"We will do our utmost to prevent the spread of the infection and make the lives of those who

had to flee their home as comfortable as possible," Disaster Management Minister Ryota Takeda told reporters after visiting a gymnasium in Hitoyoshi city where 600 residents are sheltering.

At a cabinet-level meeting in Tokyo on the disaster, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged financial support, while warning residents in Kumamoto to brace for more rain.

"As we speak, more than 40,000 personnel from police, fire, coast guard and Self-Defence troops are conducting search and rescue operations which will continue through the night," Abe said.

