

Biden, Kamala Harris to make campaign debut

Kamala Harris is the first Black woman and the first person of Indian descent to be nominated for national office by a major party

● The two are scheduled to deliver remarks just days before Biden formally accepts the Democratic nomination

● Biden 77-year-old would be the oldest president ever if he wins

Reuters

Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden and his new running mate, Senator Kamala Harris, will make their first appearance as a ticket in Wilmington, Delaware, as the campaign for the White House enters a more frenetic phase.

The two are scheduled to deliver remarks just days before Biden formally accepts the Democratic nomination during the party's national convention, which will take place largely as a virtual event next week due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Republican convention, where President Donald Trump will be nominated for a second four-year term, follows a week later and kicks off a 10-week sprint to the Nov. 3 election.

Harris, 55, the first Black woman and the first Asian American to appear on a major-party presidential ticket, was announced as Biden's choice on Tuesday after a selection process that drew extra scrutiny thanks to Biden's age.

The 77-year-old would be the oldest president ever if he wins, raising spec-

ulation that he would not seek re-election in 2024.

Wednesday's event in Biden's hometown will take place on the third anniversary of the "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, where violent clashes erupted as white supremacists and neo-Nazis descended on the town.

Biden has said Trump's comment after the clashes that there were "very fine people on both sides", which drew widespread criticism, convinced him to run for president.

In choosing Harris, Biden selected a former rival for the nomination whose most memorable campaign moment was when she criticized his past position on using busing to integrate schools during a televised debate.

But Harris was regarded as a relatively safe choice. She is a more dynamic campaigner than Biden and will be relied upon to help energize Black voters, who represent a crucial constituency for Biden in key swing states.



Former Vice President Biden talks with Senator Harris after the conclusion of the 2020 Democratic US presidential debate in Houston

Within minutes of Biden's announcement, Trump had called Harris "nasty," "horrible" and "disrespectful," while his campaign painted her as an extremist who would yank the moderate Biden to the left.



Kamala Devi Harris was born on October 20, 1964, in Oakland, California. Her mother, Shyamala Gopalan, was a breast-cancer scientist who had emigrated from Tamil Nadu, India in 1960 to pursue a doctorate in endocrinology at UC Berkeley.

Her father, Donald Harris, is a Stanford University emeritus professor of economics, who emigrated from British Jamaica in 1961 for graduate study in economics at UC Berkeley.

China extends Hong Kong LegCo terms

Xinhua | Beijing

Chinese lawmakers on Tuesday voted to adopt a decision for the sixth Legislative Council (LegCo) of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) to continue performing duties.

The decision was passed at the 21st session of the Standing Committee of the 13th National People's Congress, China's top legislature.

After Sept. 30, 2020, the sixth LegCo will continue performing duties for no less than a year until the term of the seventh LegCo starts. The term of the seventh LegCo will still be four years when it is formed in accordance with the law, according to the decision.

Lawmakers agreed that as the local legislature of the HKSAR and an important component of the political structure of the HKSAR, the LegCo exercises important powers and functions in accordance with the law, including enacting, amending and repealing laws, examining and approving budgets, and approving taxation and public expenditure.

The HKSAR Chief Executive in Council has decided to postpone the election of the seventh LegCo, which was originally scheduled for Sept. 6, 2020, for one year, in response to the severe COVID-19 epidemic situation in Hong Kong.

News in brief

◆ Germany recorded the biggest daily increase in new coronavirus cases in more than three months, data showed yesterday, with the health minister warning of outbreaks in nearly all parts of the country due to holiday returnees and party-goers.



Germany records biggest jump in new virus cases

The number of confirmed coronavirus cases rose by 1,226 to 218,519, data from the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) showed. That was the biggest daily increase since May 9. The number of coronavirus deaths remained relatively low, edging up by six to a total of 9,207.

◆ Wearing a face mask became compulsory yesterday in all public places in Brussels as the number of COVID-19 infections rose to a government alert level that puts the city among the worst affected in Europe.



Brussels makes face masks compulsory

The Belgian capital, which hosts the headquarters of the European Union and NATO, recorded on average 50 cases per 100,000 inhabitants daily over the last week.



◆ Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern weighed delaying New Zealand's upcoming election yesterday, as experts investigated whether the coronavirus could have re-entered the country through freight shipments.

New Zealand election date in doubt as virus returns

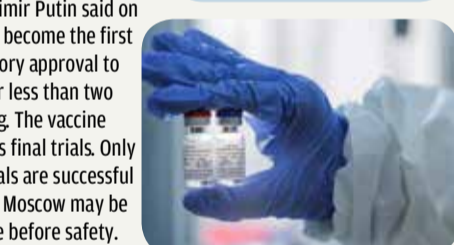
Health authorities rushed to implement a rapid lockdown in the country's largest city Auckland, where four more probable infections have been uncovered bringing the outbreak's total to eight. With 1.5 million people under stay-at-home orders, and millions more at risk of a wider outbreak, Ardern said she was seeking advice on delaying the September 19 election.

◆ A Hong Kong man wanted by police over the killing of a suspected triad member in 2011 was arrested in a routine stop and search on a North Point street after nearly nine years in hiding, according to the force.

The man, now 30, had been sought in connection with the murder of an 18-year-old male victim that took place in Tuen Mun in December of 2011. The killing was believed to have been sparked by a dispute between two triad gangs.

◆ Russia said on Wednesday the first batch of its Covid-19 vaccine would be ready for some medics within two weeks and rejected as "groundless" safety concerns aired by some experts over Moscow's rapid approval of the drug.

Russia says medics to get anti-COVID shots in two weeks



Most oil on damaged ship off Mauritius removed, owner says

Reuters | Tokyo

Most of the fuel left on a Japanese bulk carrier that has leaked an estimated 1,000 tonnes of oil off the Mauritius coast has been pumped off, ship owner Nagashiki Shipping said yesterday.

Mauritian Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth said on Tuesday that the MV Wakashio was still holding 2,000 tonnes of oil and was expected to break up, raising concern of a major ecological disaster.

"I heard the collection is almost over, but it is hard to tell if there is absolutely no oil left on the ship," Yoshinori Fukush-

ima, a spokesman for Nagashiki, said.

The ship was being operated by Mitsui OSK Lines Ltd when it struck a reef and went aground off the southeast Mauritius coast on July 25. Jugnauth declared a state of emergency last Friday.

Oil from the stricken vessel has reached some of the Indian Ocean island's most pristine beaches, threatening corals, other local wildlife and the country's tourism industry.

Former colonial ruler France has said it will assist Mauritius with the clean up and Japan said it will send experts to help. The International Maritime Or-

ganization is providing technical advice.

Japan P&I Club, the only organisation in Japan that underwrites protection and indemnity (P&I) insurance for ocean-going vessels and coastal ships, said it had yet to estimate the cost of the clean up.

"We are trying to make internal estimates under different scenarios ...including the worst and the best, but we don't have any figures yet that we can disclose," spokesman Koichi Miyahiro said.

A general view shows the bulk carrier ship MV Wakashio

