

Trump fans false birther theory about Harris

US President Donald Trump said he “heard” that vice-presidential hopeful Kamala Harris “doesn’t meet the requirements” for that office

● The claims echo a baseless theory that Trump long promoted about his predecessor Barack Obama

Reuters | Washington

US President Donald Trump has stoked false claims that Democratic vice-presidential contender Kamala Harris is ineligible to hold that office because her parents were foreign born.

The claims about Harris -- who was born in the United States, making her constitutionally eligible to be both vice president and president -- echo a baseless theory that Trump long promoted about his predecessor Barack Obama.

“I heard it today that she doesn’t meet the requirements,” Trump said at a White House news conference on Thursday, referring to an August 12 opinion article in Newsweek.



Donald Trump leaves the Brady Briefing Room after speaking to the press

The article by conservative law professor John Eastman says that “before we so cavalierly accept Senator Harris’ eligibility for the office of vice president, we should ask her a few questions about the status of her parents at the time of her birth.”

Trump said that Eastman, of Chapman University “is a very highly qualified, very talented lawyer. I have no idea if that’s right.”

Eastman was also an unsuccessful Republican challenger, losing in the primary, for the 2010 California attorney general’s election won by Harris, who served in that post before becoming a US senator.

Harris, 55, was born in Oakland, California to a mother from India and a father from Jamaica.

A historic choice

Democratic presidential hopeful Joe Biden, 77, on Tuesday named Harris as his running

mate to challenge Trump in the presidential election. She is the first black woman and woman of South Asian heritage to be given the honor.

Eastman’s article followed claims shared thousands of times on Facebook that Harris could not become president because her parents hailed from abroad.

Article 2, Section 1 of the US Constitution says that “no person except a natural born citizen, or a citizen of the United States” shall be eligible for the presidency. They must also be at least 35 years old.



I have no idea if that’s right. I would have assumed that the Democrats would have checked that out before she gets chosen to run for vice-president

DONALD TRUMP

News in brief

N Korea lifts virus lockdown of border city

◆ North Korean leader Kim Jong Un lifted a three week lockdown in the city of



Kaesong and nearby areas, after a man who defected to the South returned to the border town last month showing coronavirus symptoms. Kim made the decision at a politburo meeting convened to discuss the government’s efforts to prevent a coronavirus outbreak, as well as the response to heavy rain and flooding, state news agency KCNA reported.



◆ A California wildfire forced the evacuation of hundreds of homes as it raged largely unchecked through densely forested mountains north of Los Angeles that last burned some 50 to 100 years ago. The blaze has scorched some 10,500 acres (4,249 hectares) since erupting Wednesday afternoon near Lake

Hughes in the Angeles National Forest. As of Thursday afternoon, it remained at zero percent containment, despite a light morning rain over the area, US Forest Service spokesman Andrew Mitchell said. Temperatures in the region were expected to rise above 100 degrees Fahrenheit later in the day, he said.

◆ The World Health Organization said it saw no evidence of coronavirus being spread by food or packaging and urged people not to be afraid of the virus entering the food chain.

People should not fear spread of COVID-19 in food, packaging: WHO

Two cities in China said they had found traces of the coronavirus in imported frozen chicken wings from Brazil and on outer packaging of frozen Ecuadorian shrimp, raising fears that contaminated food shipments might cause a new outbreak.

Mali officials obstructing peace efforts: UN

◆ United Nations experts have accused senior army and intelligence officials in Mali of deliberately obstructing a shaky 2015 peace accord, originally designed to reduce violence in the war-torn West African country.

The revelations appear in an expert report delivered to the UN Security Council on August 7 and which come during a festering political crisis in the Sahel state. Mali is currently in the grip of a deep political impasse between President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita and a strident opposition movement insisting on his resignation.



◆ About a quarter of South Korea’s medical clinics closed yesterday for a one-day strike in protest at government plans to train new doctors, as the country reported the highest number of domestic

South Korean doctors strike over health plans

coronavirus cases since the end of March. The government plans to increase the number of medical students by 4,000 over the next 10 years, which it says is necessary to be better prepared for public health crises like the coronavirus pandemic. But the Korean Medical Association (KMA), which helped organise the protest, says the country already has more than enough physicians.

◆ Indonesia’s Mount Sinabung erupted again with a string of blasts that sent plumes of ash two kilometres (1.2 miles) into the sky, triggering a flight warning and fears of lava flows. The activity marked at least the eighth time that the rumbling volcano on Sumatra island has erupted in less than a week, although there were no injuries or major damage reported.

Biden campaign raises \$48m in 48 hours after naming Kamala Harris as VP choice

Reuters | Washington

The campaign of Democratic presidential contender Joe Biden has raised \$48 million in the 48 hours since he named US Senator Kamala Harris the Democratic vice-presidential nominee, a campaign

spokesman told Reuters late Thursday.

Biden, a former vice president himself, on Tuesday picked Harris as his choice for VP, making her the first Black woman on a major-party US presidential ticket.

With social unrest over racial

injustice rocking the country for months since the death in custody of an African-American man, George Floyd - after a police officer knelt on his neck for about nine minutes - Biden was under pressure to select a Black woman as his running mate.

Harris, a 55-year-old senator from California who made her own run for the White House, is also the first Asian-American on a major presidential ticket. Her parents were immigrants, her mother from India and her father from Jamaica.

Nepal landslides kill 16, sweep away homes



People during a rescue operation after a landslide in Nepal

Reuters | Kathmandu

Landslides triggered by heavy rain swept away dozens of houses and killed at least 16 people in mountainous villages of Nepal yesterday and many people were missing, a home ministry official said.

Nepal suffers flash floods and landslides during the June-September rainy season, resulting in loss of life and property every year.

A massive landslide swept away dozens of houses, killing at least 10 people, early yesterday in Sindhupalchowk, near the capital Kathmandu, ministry official Murari Wasti said.

He said 28 people were missing.

Afghan authorities begin release of ‘dangerous’ Taliban prisoners



Taliban prisoners walk as they are in the process of being released from Pul-e-Charkhi prison on the outskirts of Kabul

AFP | Kabul

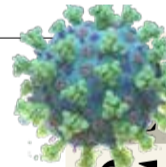
Afghan authorities yesterday said they had started to release 400 Taliban prisoners, the final hurdle in long-delayed peace talks between the two warring sides, even as President Ashraf Ghani warned they were a “danger to the world”.

The Afghan government and the Taliban are set to meet within days of the prisoner release being completed, in a move that has drawn widespread condemnation after it emerged many of the inmates were involved in attacks that killed scores of Afghans and foreigners.

A group of 80 prisoners was released on Thursday, said National Security Council spokesman Javid Faisal, tweeting that it would “speed

The release of the 400 militants was approved at the weekend by a gathering of thousands of prominent Afghans called by Ghani after the authorities initially refused to free the militants

up efforts for direct talks and a lasting, nationwide ceasefire”.



Global

Covid-19 Cases: **21,240,915**

Deaths

760,320

Recovered:

14,042,576

New cases

+181,638

New deaths

+3,601

Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	New deaths	Total Deaths
USA	5,454,345	+648	171,063
Brazil	3,238,216	+227	105,791
India	2,525,222	+990	49,134
Russia	912,823	+114	15,498
South Africa	572,865		11,270
Peru	507,996		25,648
Mexico	505,751	+627	55,293
Colombia	433,805		14,145
Chile	382,111	+41	10,340
Spain	358,843	+12	28,617
Iran	338,825	+169	19,331
UK	316,367	+11	41,358
Saudi Arabia	295,902	+35	3,338
Pakistan	287,300	+14	6,153

Middle East

Figures as of closing

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases	Serious, Critical	Tot cases/1m pop
Saudi Arabia	295,902	+1,383	3,338	+35	262,959	29,605	1,782	8,484
UAE	63,819	+330	359	+1	57,473	5,987		6,444
Kuwait	75,185	+699	494	+5	66,740	7,951	115	17,575
Oman	82,743	+212	557	+6	77,427	4,759	153	16,158
Egypt	96,108		5,107		56,890	34,111	41	937
Qatar	114,532	+251	190		111,258	3,084	71	40,791

