

During Maccabean revolt Judas Maccabaeus recaptures Jerusalem and rededicates the Second Temple, commemorated since as Jewish festival Hanukkah

Russia's Tsar Alexander I petitions for a Jewish state in Palestine

General Hafez al-Assad becomes Prime Minister of Syria following military coup



Robert Mugabe's resignation after 37 years in power is read out in Zimbabwe's parliaments during impeachment proceedings



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To the families and friends of those we've lost due to COVID-19 — Jill and I send our love and prayers. We know how tough it is to find purpose in the memory of the loved one you lost. It will take time — but you will find it, and we will find our purpose as a nation.

@JoeBiden

02



When it comes to this pandemic—and the economic recovery—we are not Democrats or Republicans. We are Americans, and we will be there for one another.

@KamalaHarris

03



THE COVID DRUGS NOW AVAILABLE TO MAKE PEOPLE BETTER ARE AMAZING, BUT SELDOM TALKED ABOUT BY THE MEDIA! Mortality rate is 85% down!

@realDonaldTrump

04



Thanks to President @realDonaldTrump and the team led by Jared Kushner, on Wednesday I joined the Foreign Minister of Bahrain on the first ever commercial flight from Bahrain to Israel.

@aviberkow45

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)

Biden wins in Georgia after manual ballot count

President-elect's victory in Georgia marks the first time a Democratic presidential contender has won the state since 1992

● Georgia confirms Biden's victory in state as it completes hand audit of ballots

Reuters | Washington

Georgia confirmed Democratic President-elect Joe Biden as the winner of the Nov. 3 election in the state as it completed a hand audit of ballots, Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger said.

The audit, launched after unofficial results showed Biden leading Republican President Donald Trump by about 14,000 out of more than 5 million votes cast, ended with Biden winning by 12,284, according to data from Raffensperger's office.

"The audit confirmed that the original machine count accurately portrayed the winner of the election," the secretary of state's office said in a statement on Thursday evening.

The changes to the vote totals were "well within the expected margin of human error that oc-



Joe Biden receives a national security briefing in Wilmington, Delaware

curs when hand-counting ballots," it said.

Biden was the first Democratic presidential candidate to carry Georgia since Bill Clinton in 1992. Biden has captured 306 electoral votes to Trump's 232 in the state-by-state Electoral College that determines the winner of the election, well above the 270 needed for victory.

Raffensperger, a Republican, was expected to formally certify

Biden's victory, despite pressure from Trump, who has claimed without evidence that there were widespread irregularities and fraud in states that he lost to Biden, including Georgia.

The state's Republican US senators, David Perdue and Kelly Loeffler, who both face runoff elections in January, have joined with Trump in accusing Raffensperger, without evidence, of overseeing a flawed election,



The hand count confirmed that Joe Biden had a lead of 12,284 votes over Donald Trump out of more than 5 million votes cast

an allegation Raffensperger has disputed.

Raffensperger told a local TV station that the Trump campaign had not produced evidence to back up its claims of fraud in the state.

"We have not seen any evidence they have given us, anything that supports - it just doesn't show up," Raffensperger told WSB-TV.

Trump's campaign can still request a recount in Georgia after the results are certified because the margin of victory was less than 0.5%.

Singapore activist faces fine over one-man smiley face sign protest



Jolovan Wham wears a mask and holds a cardboard with a drawing of a smiley face in Singapore
AFP | Singapore

Singapore is set to charge an activist with staging a one-man protest without a permit over an incident in which he held up a sign bearing a crudely drawn smiley face outside a police station.

Police told Jolovan Wham, 40, who has had several run-ins with authorities in the city-state, which tightly controls public assembly, the media and free speech, on Thursday that he would be formally charged in court Monday.

The charge relates to a March incident in which Wham demonstrated his support for a young climate activist who said he had been questioned by police over a similar protest days previous. Wham posted a picture of himself holding the sign on his social media accounts.

The civil rights campaigner, who has already served two brief stints in jail this year, will be charged under the Public Order Act, which regulates assemblies and processions in public places, according to the charge sheet Wham posted on Twitter.



These charges against me only show how absurd the situation has become

JOLOVAN WHAM

Smuggled parrots stuffed in plastic bottles: Indonesia police

AFP | Jakarta

Dozens of parrots stuffed into plastic water bottles have been discovered on a ship docked in Indonesia's Papua region, authorities said yesterday.

Police in the town of Fakfak said the vessel's crew reported hearing noises coming from a large box where 64 live black-capped lorries and another 10 dead birds were found Thursday morning.

Black-capped lorries are a type of parrot native to New Guinea



Smuggled parrots are seen after being released from plastic bottles

and nearby smaller islands.

"The ship's crew told us that they suspected there were animals inside the box as they heard strange noises," said local police spokesman Dodik Junaidi.

No arrests had been made so far and the birds' intended destination was unclear, he added.

The vast jungles of Indonesia are home to more than 130 threatened bird species, according to wildlife trade watchdog TRAFFIC, more than any other country except Brazil.

UK's Queen Elizabeth and husband Philip celebrate 73rd wedding anniversary

Reuters | London

Britain's Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip celebrated their 73rd wedding anniversary yesterday, an occasion they were unable to share with their family during England's current coronavirus lockdown.

Elizabeth, 94, and Philip, 99, married in London's Westminster Abbey on Nov. 20, 1947, just two years after the end of World War Two.

"Thank you to everyone for your kind wishes on the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh's 73rd Wedding Anniversary," Buckingham Palace said on Twitter.

To mark the occasion, the palace released a photograph of a smiling monarch and her husband looking at a card made by her great-grandchildren Prince George, Princess Charlotte and Prince Louis, alongside other cards and letters from well-wishers.

The picture was taken at Windsor Castle, the queen's home west of London



Britain's Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh look at their homemade wedding anniversary card

where the couple are staying during the lockdown.

In a nod to their early days of marriage, Elizabeth was wearing a chrysanthemum brooch, made of sapphires and

diamonds, that she wore for pictures taken at Broadlands in southern England during the first part of their honeymoon.

The couple first met when they attended the wedding of Philip's cousin,

Princess Marina of Greece, to Elizabeth's uncle, the Duke of Kent, in 1934.

Philip gained the attention of his future wife when the then-13-year-old princess made a visit with her parents to Britain's Royal Naval College at Dartmouth in southwest England where he was a cadet.

While royal watchers say Elizabeth and Philip have had their ups and downs, they have avoided the travails of three of their four children whose marriages have ended in divorce, most notably Charles's ill-fated union with his late first wife Princess Diana.

"The main lesson that we have learned is that tolerance is the one essential ingredient of any happy marriage," Philip said in a speech on their 50th wedding anniversary in 1997.

"It may not be quite so important when things are going well, but it is absolutely vital when things get difficult - you can take it from me that the queen has the quality of tolerance in abundance."