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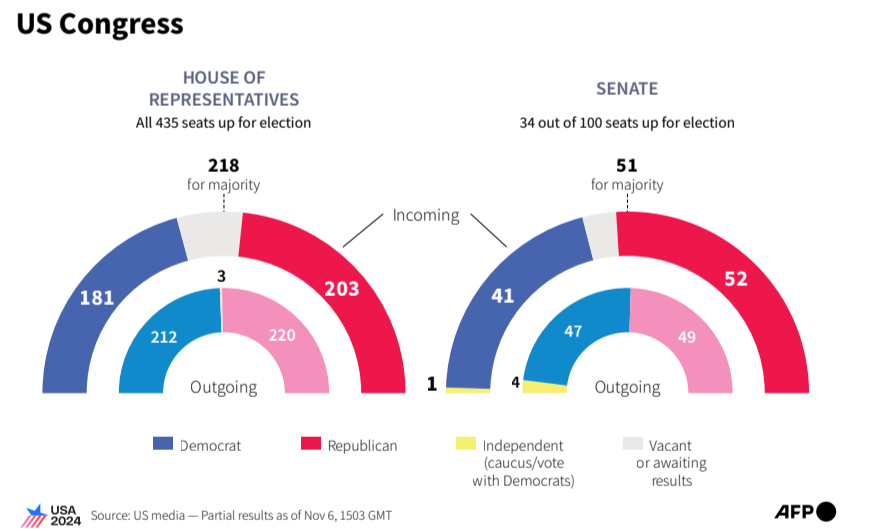
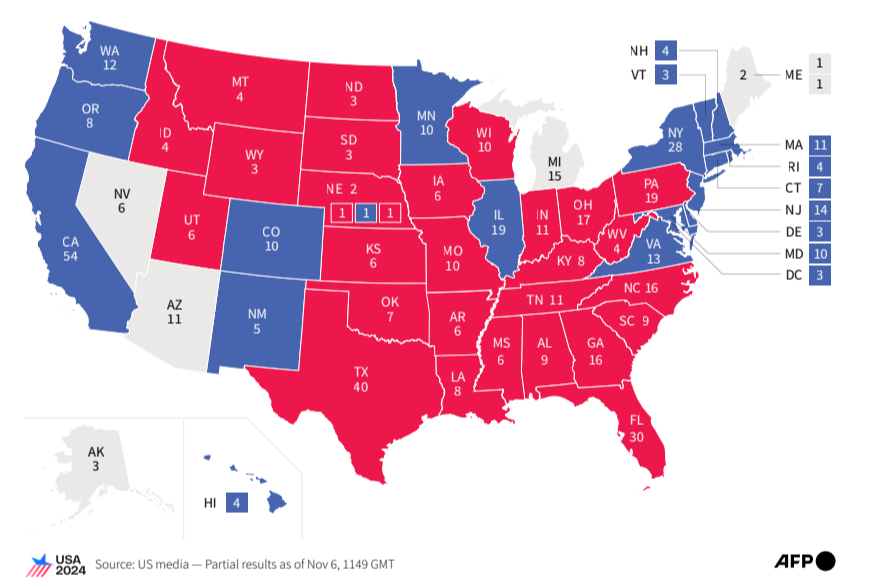


# COMEBACK KING

## Trump makes stunning return to White House as 47th US president



WEST PALM BEACH, Florida: Former US President and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks during an election night event at the West Palm Beach Convention Center on Nov 6, 2024. — AFP



### Amir sends congratulations • Republicans seize control of Senate

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump won a sweeping victory Wednesday in the US presidential election, defeating Kamala Harris to complete an astonishing political comeback that sent shockwaves around the world. The polarizing Republican's triumph, following one of the most hostile campaigns in modern American history, was all the more remarkable given his criminal conviction, a near-miss assassination attempt, and warnings from a former chief of staff that Trump is a "fascist".

"It's a political victory that our country has never seen before," the president-elect told supporters early on Wednesday in Florida. Supporters chanted "USA!" as the 78-year-old added that his "magnificent" win would "allow us to make America great again". "America has given us an unprecedented and powerful mandate," Trump said

to the roaring crowd of supporters at the Palm Beach County Convention Center. HH the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Wednesday sent a cable to Trump, congratulating him on the trust placed upon him by the American people, electing him president. HH the Amir praised the longstanding and strong historical relations between the two countries, affirming Kuwait's commitment to strengthening

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### Qatar votes to scrap Shura Council polls

DOHA: A referendum in Qatar to scrap short-lived legislative polls has passed with more than 90 percent of the vote, officials said on Wednesday. The vote approved a raft of constitutional amendments with 90.6 percent of valid ballots cast by Qatari citizens, the interior ministry said. "Qataris celebrated today the fruits of what the forefathers planted ... the values of unity and justice ... by participating in the general referendum on the draft constitutional amendments to the country's permanent constitution," Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani said on X following the results. Eighty-four percent of eligible voters among the roughly 380,000 Qataris took part in Tuesday's referendum, an interior ministry statement said. The key proposal was to end elections for 30 of the 45 seats of the Shura Council, an advisory body with limited powers, which took place for the first and only time in 2021. Among other changes approved in Tuesday's referendum was a move to allow all Qataris, including naturalized citizens, to hold ministerial office, a right previously reserved for Qatari-born nationals. — Agencies

### Trump's Mideast peace pledge wins over Muslim voters

DEARBORN, Michigan: Incoming US president Donald Trump pulled off a surprising feat late in the 2024 campaign, winning over swathes of Muslim voters with a promise to end bloodshed in the Middle East. Now, his new supporters are celebrating his victory and confident he will deliver as the Zionist entity continues its 13-month siege of Gaza and bombardment of neighboring Lebanon. In Dearborn, America's largest Arab-American enclave, preliminary results showed Trump narrowly eking out first place — a dramatic swing from 2020.



NOVI, Michigan: Rola Makki (center) waits for results at an election night party for Republican US Senate candidate Mike Rogers on Nov 5, 2024. — AFP

### Hezb says tens of thousands ready to battle Zionists

BEIRUT: Hezbollah said Wednesday that tens of thousands of its fighters were ready to fight the Zionist entity, adding that the US election result would have no bearing on the war in Lebanon. The group's leader also warned that nowhere in the Zionist entity would be "off-limits" to attacks, as the Zionist military said about 120 projectiles had been fired across the border on Wednesday. The Zionist military struck

Hezbollah's main bastion of south Beirut after issuing an evacuation warning. The Zionist entity and Hezbollah have been at war since late September, when the Zionist military widened the focus of its war in Gaza to securing its northern border with Lebanon. Efforts to end the war in Gaza have yet to bear fruit, and the war in Lebanon has killed nearly 2,000 people, according to an AFP tally of Lebanese health ministry figures. "We have tens of thousands of trained resistance combatants" ready to fight, Hezbollah leader Naim Qassem said in a televised speech marking 40 days since his predecessor Hassan Nasrallah was killed in a strike. The address was aired after Donald Trump's victory in the US election was announced, but had been recorded earlier.



An image grab taken from Hezbollah's Al-Manar TV on Nov 6, 2024 shows Hezbollah chief Naim Qassem delivering a televised speech from an undisclosed location. — AFP

## Local

# Cabinet reviews Dushanbe conference

## Ministers examine Audit Bureau, outcome of cybersecurity conference

KUWAIT: The Cabinet reviewed the outcome of the official visit to the country by President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomoli Rahmon, his meetings with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and the Acting Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

The ministers were apprised of the accords and

MoUs that had been signed by Kuwait with the Republic of Tajikistan during the president's visit. Meanwhile, the Cabinet examined outcome of the fifth Gulf conference for cyber security challenges, hosted by Kuwait on Tuesday, under the sponsorship of the acting premier, where the conferees tackled cyber strategies, global hazards and threats.

The Cabinet approved forming a board for the Public Institution for Social Security for a three-year mandate, chaired by the Minister of Finance.

Members are the institution director general and representatives from the ministries of interior, defense, social affairs, the Civil Service Diwan, the Union of Kuwait Workers and experts. Moreover, the ministers examined a report by the Audit Bureau regarding examination of the execution of the ministries and public departments' budgets, along with their final account, in addition to a report about top financial indexes, supervisory issues and developments in the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

They decided to submit the report to the government performance follow-up apparatus to coordinate with the various departments so as to carry out the recommendations and seek to avert recurrences of the flaws outlined in the report. Furthermore, they approved the minutes of the Supreme Committee to Investigate the Kuwaiti Citizenship, including cases of losing or withdrawing it from persons who had acquired it through fraud and counterfeiting, according to the decree-into-law 15/1959. — KUNA



ABS students and teachers take a group photo with Kuwait Times and Kuwait News team.



ABS students check Kuwait Times 63-year-old edition.



ABS students explore news from the past at Kuwait Times archives room.

## Kuwait Times, Kuwait News welcome ABS students

By Ghadeer Ghloom

KUWAIT: Kuwait Times and Kuwait News had the pleasure of hosting a field trip organized by American Baccalaureate School (ABS), offering students an exclusive behind-the-scenes look into the world of journalism. The students toured various departments, including editorial, studio, archives, social media, press printing and the warehouse. They also had the opportunity to meet with the Kuwait Times and Kuwait News team, gaining valuable insights into the day-to-day operations and the collaborative work that drives the publication.



Jana Alnaqeeb distributes Kuwait Times newspaper to ABS students.



Minister of State for Communication Affairs Omar Al-Omar and the CEO Eng. Moataz Bin Abdullah Al-Darrab visit the company's pavilion.

## solutions by stc the 'main sponsor' of Cybersecurity Conference, Exhibition

KUWAIT: solutions by stc, the specialized business arm of Kuwait Telecommunications Company - stc, announced the conclusion of its participation as a main sponsor in the '5th Gulf Cybersecurity Conference and Exhibition', one of the most anticipated cybersecurity conferences in the region inviting experts from the government and private sectors.

Held under the patronage of Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah, Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Defense and Interior, the conference was held at the Araya ballroom, Courtyard by Marriot. The event was in cooperation with the National Cyber Security Center and the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT), gathering over 500 participants from across the region to address critical topics in cybersecurity.

The conference was opened by the Minister of State for Communication Affairs, Omar Al-Omar, on behalf of Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah, in the presence of stc Kuwait CEO, Eng Moataz Bin Abdullah Al-Darrab, Mohammed N Al-Nusif, CEO of solutions by stc Kuwait, and Eng Fahad Al-Ali, Acting CEO of e-Portal Holding Company, along with a number of leading figures from stc Kuwait and its subsidiaries. The executive team's attendance aligns with the strategic objective of stc Kuwait and its subsidiaries solutions by stc and e-Portal holding when it comes to exploring innovative platforms to discuss industry focused trends and network with like-minded professionals.

The 5th Gulf Cybersecurity Conference provided a vital platform for experts and industry leaders to discuss the latest developments in cybersecurity, focusing on the increasing threat of cyberattacks and the growing importance of protecting sensitive data and digital infrastructures. The event featured high-level international speakers, expert panel discussions, and exhibitors showcasing cutting-edge cybersecurity solutions.

During the conference, solutions by stc exhibited its comprehensive range of cybersecurity solutions tailored to meet the needs of businesses and governments.

The Company's team of cybersecurity specialists were present at the event to engage with government officials, technical experts, and other attendees, providing insights and addressing concerns regarding the latest cyber threats and protection strategies.

The Company also highlighted several key solutions at its booth, including its Managed Detection and Response Services (MDRS), AI-powered proprietary platform, and extended detection and response (XDR) services designed to secure complex hybrid environments. Visitors at the booth had the opportunity to explore solutions by stc's innovative offerings, which are designed to proactively identify and mitigate cybersecurity risks, ensuring a robust defense against potential breaches.

As part of the conference's agenda, solutions by stc also participated in a panel discussion titled 'Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Solutions', discussing the growing role of artificial intelligence in enhancing cybersecurity measures, exploring how AI-driven platforms can detect and respond to emerging cyber threats more efficiently. The panel also covered key topics such as cybersecurity governance, data protection, and the role of leaders in fostering greater cybersecurity awareness within organizations.

In a statement, solutions by stc highlighted that by participating in key conferences and initiatives, the Company aspired to contribute towards building a secure and resilient digital environment in line with Kuwait's Vision 2035. With the rapidly evolving digital world, solutions by stc actively explores the latest technological tools and systems to keep pace with advanced cybersecurity threats and possible malicious attacks. Moving forward, the Company will continue to introduce the latest cybersecurity solutions to support and provide 360-protection to its B2B customers.

solutions by stc has also built and solidified its reputation as one of the key players in the market offering comprehensive Internet, data communication, ICT, IoT, M2M, and enterprise solutions to support network, infrastructure and application needs. Through its active and progressive approach, the Company has since grown into a powerful one-stop shop for business and wholesale solutions, catering to the needs of government and corporate entities nationwide and across the region.

## Kuwait sends tons of medicines and relief supplies to Lebanon

KUWAIT: The first relief plane – part of the Kuwaiti air bridge took off on Wednesday, heading to Rafiq Hariri Airport with 30 tons of medicines, medical devices, and supplies on board to support the health sector in Lebanon. This was organized by the Ministry of Health in cooperation and coordination with the ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defense, represented by the Kuwaiti Air Force.

The Assistant Foreign Minister for Development and International Cooperation Affairs, Ambassador Hamad Al-Mashaan, told the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) just before takeoff that, based on the leading humanitarian role of Kuwait and on the orders of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the first airlift flights were launched to help the brothers in Lebanon.

Ambassador Al-Mashaan stressed that the implementation of the air bridge comes as a translation of the Cabinet's decision to coordinate with the ministries of health, finance, foreign affairs, and the Kuwait Red Crescent Society to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the brothers and sisters in Lebanon in cooperation with the Ministry of Defense amid the aggressions by Zionist occupation aggression



against Lebanon.

The implementation of the air bridge is a complement to the country's firm and principled position in the humanitarian field. The flights will continue over the coming days with the participation of a number of entities, organizations, and associations active in the humanitarian field under the direct supervision of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He reiterated Kuwait's solidarity and its stand with the Lebanese people.

For his part, the Charge d'Affaires at the embassy of Lebanon to Kuwait, Ahmed Arafa, confirmed to KUNA that Kuwait is one of the leading countries in relief and humanitarian work, deservedly assuming the title of the leading "country of humanity" to help the needy countries around the world. He expressed his thanks to the Kuwaiti Ministry of Defense, represented by the Kuwaiti Air Force, for carrying out such a difficult task. — KUNA



Local



KUWAIT: Nawaf Al-Gharabally and Prof Osama Al-Saeed sign the MoU.



Al-Gharabally and Al-Saeed with officials from Zain and Kuwait University.

# Zain, Kuwait University ink MoU to foster knowledge economy

## Promoting collaboration in innovation, science, technology and youth upskilling

KUWAIT: Zain has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Kuwait University to contribute to fostering the knowledge economy in Kuwait. Through this partnership, both entities aim to enhance collaborative efforts in the fields of innovation, science, and technology, while also building youth capacities, particularly in digital skills, to prepare them for success and excellence in their future careers.

The MoU was signed at Sabah Al-Salem University City in Shadadiya, attended by Acting President of Kuwait University, Prof Osama Al-Saeed; CEO of Zain Kuwait, Nawaf Al-Gharabally, Vice President for Academic Support Services at Kuwait University, Prof Mohammed Al-Mulla; Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer of Zain Kuwait, Waleed Al-Khashti; Assistant Dean for Planning, Consultation, and Training, Dr Fares Al-Azmi; Acting Head of the Computer Science Department, Zaid Dashti; and Zain Kuwait Innovation and Entrepreneurship Expert, Haya Al-Mana.

This step builds on the longstanding strategic collaboration between Zain and Kuwait University, which over the years has led to numerous successful initiatives and community programs that embody their shared vision of advancing

Kuwait's innovation ecosystem. Together, they aim to drive growth in science, technology, and innovation – sectors that are now fundamental to modern job markets.

Under this MoU, Zain and Kuwait University will intensify their joint efforts to accelerate the knowledge economy in Kuwait, which relies heavily on knowledge, information, and innovation as primary drivers for growth and development. The two organizations will launch initiatives that focus on education, training, and skill development to foster creativity and innovation. By leveraging modern technologies and information-sharing platforms, they aim to make knowledge more accessible, support scientific research, and advance technological development to enhance competitiveness, especially among youth, students, and graduates.

This collaboration reflects the combined efforts of the public and private sectors to support national development goals, primarily by investing in human capital to achieve sustainable economic and social growth. This MoU also adds to Zain's series of programs under its Innovation Nation initiative, aligned with its strategic vision for sustainability. These programs aim to support

innovation, entrepreneurship, empower startups, share private sector expertise, promote a creative environment, and invest in digital skills, particularly in STEM fields.

This collaboration builds on the ongoing partnership between Zain and Kuwait University, resulting in successful programs such as Zain's strategic partnership with the Kuwait National Robotics Competition (KNRC) for the second consecutive year. This initiative comes in collaboration with the Computer Science Department at Kuwait University's College of Science, the Youth Public Authority, and the Ministry of Education.

The competition aims to ignite a passion for technology among Kuwaiti students, foster creative thinking, and help them chart a clear career path in STEM fields. This initiative is a testament to the effective, direct collaboration between public and private institutions to prepare the next generation of technology leaders in Kuwait. The company has seen remarkable success following its support of the previous edition of this initiative after months of hard, creative work, which culminated in Kuwait University's team winning the Build Award at the VEX Robotics World Championship held in the United States.

### Kuwait condemns Zionist crimes, double standard

NEW YORK: Kuwait deemed the double-standard approach and silence over Zionist occupation crimes against Palestinians as unacceptable, stressing that international law must be respected by all members of the global community. This came in a speech delivered by second secretary at the Kuwaiti Permanent Mission to the UN headquarters in New York Wafceqa Al-Mulla to the UNGA late Tuesday. The Kuwaiti diplomat affirmed that human rights violations in various parts of the world required from the international community an unwavering stance against such crimes.

She reiterated Kuwait's utter condemnation of occupation's horrific crimes in the Gaza Strip, Palestine, and Lebanon, saying that it reflected the inhumane and aggressive policies of the occupiers. She deemed the Zionist occupation killing of innocent civilians and the destruction of their houses and dwellings as shameless crimes against all of humanity. Al-Mulla called for an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and allowing the entry of humanitarian aid as well as holding those behind horrific violations and crimes accountable. — KUNA

## Kuwait marks 33 years since last Iraqi-torched oil well extinguished

KUWAIT: Kuwait on Wednesday marked 33 years since the last oil well set ablaze by Iraqi forces was put out, after the complete withdrawal of the invaders, who were overwhelmed by the US-led international coalition in February of 1991. The highly emblematic event back in 1991 is commemorated in Kuwait each year given its sheer significance in the nation's history, as the country was ultimately liberated from a large-scale invasion by its larger neighbor, with Iraqi forces setting fire to 737 oil wells while 54 others were completely destroyed, triggering an environmental calamity.

In addition to the raging fires, which in and of themselves induced an environmental impact, the blaze resulted in an oil spill of mammoth proportions, in which some 23 million barrels were wasted in a loss worth \$120 million per day. The damage sustained by Kuwaiti oil facilities, which required endless time and effort to repair, proved detrimental to the global economy, which slipped into recession for nearly seven months in the aftermath of the destruction.

After Kuwait's liberation, state bodies leapt into action to assess the scope of the damage, putting together short- and long-term solutions that cen-

tered on immediate efforts to put out the blazing oil wells, simultaneously re-supplying a starving global oil market with much-needed Kuwaiti crude. Reconstruction efforts that stretched through day and night hours were not a national endeavor alone; rather, Kuwait partnered with global bodies with vast knowledge on the matter in a bid to restore proper conditions to the damaged oil facilities.

The daunting task, as explained by state-run Kuwait Oil Company's (KPC) soil rehabilitation department chief Sami Al-Yaqout, conventionally requires at least five years to complete, while it was done in eight months thanks to the strenuous efforts of the Kuwaiti national workforce and their international partners.

In September of 1991, KPC formed a team tasked with extinguishing the burning wells, who, despite limited resources and a lack of expertise, managed to get it done in an effort praised by senior firefighter back then, Ishaq Al-Qaed. Upon putting out the last blazing oil well, Kuwait organized a lavish ceremony to mark the occasion, attended by the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, an event that will forever live in the annals of the nation's history. — KUNA

## Kuwait, UK conclude 'Iron Shield 2' exercise

KUWAIT: Kuwait-UK joint military exercise, Iron Shield 2-2024, concluded on Wednesday at the 94th Al-Saleh Al-Mohammad Mechanized Brigade, in the presence of the British Ambassador to Kuwait, Belinda Lewis, and Commander of the 94th Brigade, Brigadier General Barrak Al-Farhan. In a statement, the Ministry of Defense said that the exercise is part of the ongoing cooperation between Kuwait and British forces.

It is one of the scheduled military drills between the Kuwaiti army and its friendly countries, aimed at enhancing joint training, command and control operations, unifying operational concepts and exchanging expertise, in addition to boosting the combat readiness of both sides, the statement added. According to the statement, Ambassador Belinda Lewis said, "As the United Kingdom celebrates the 125th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations with Kuwait, Iron Shield 2 serves as a demonstration of our unwavering commitment to the security and prosperity of Kuwait. It also reinforces our intention to strengthen our defense ties, which have always been a cornerstone of our partnership." The exercise is of great importance as it provides an opportunity to

test and improve readiness to counter the wide-ranging threats both nations face together, she added. The United Kingdom looks forward to further deepening its military cooperation with Kuwait, she said.

For his part, Brigadier General Barrak Al-Farhan said, "This joint exercise reflects the strong relationship between Kuwait and the United Kingdom and enhances cooperation with British forces, contributing to the improvement of combat readiness for both sides." For his part, British Military Mission Commander in Kuwait Brigadier General Gavin Thompson said that the Iron Shield exercise provided a valuable opportunity for the Third Battalion of the Rifles to train in the desert of Kuwait alongside the 94th Al-Saleh Al-Mohammad Brigade.

The desert environment in Kuwait is different from the terrain at the Edinburgh military base, as the exercise also contributed to strengthening cultural communication and deep-rooted ties through knowledge exchange and skills sharing in areas like weapons training, live-fire exercises, surveillance patrols, nighttime operations, and the use of UAVs, he said. Conducting joint operations with allies enhances operational capabilities for all involved. He noted that Iron Shield is a prime example of the UK's commitment to working closely with its partners to ensure stability in the region. The closing ceremony of the exercise was attended by several senior military officers from both sides. — KUNA

**PREMIER PADEL KUWAIT P1**  
NOVEMBER 11-17

2024

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## Local

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## Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti journalists watch the news on the US election results on a big TV screen at an office on November 6, 2024. Donald Trump has won the US presidential election, US media announced on November 6, beating Democrat Kamala Harris to complete a stunning political comeback. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



# Burgan Bank sponsors 5th Gulf cyber security conference and exhibition

## Bank's continued efforts to advance data protection



Andrew Christopher Singh, Group Chief Risk Officer and Dr Ali Abdulhamid Al Kazimi, Chief Information Security Officer – Group Risk Management at Burgan Bank receive an honorary shield for their participation.



Minister of State for Communication Affairs Omar Al-Omar in a group photo with the Burgan team.

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank recently concluded its sponsorship of and participation in the fifth edition of the Gulf Cyber Security Conference and Exhibition, which was held on November 5-6 at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel, Kuwait. The Bank's participation in this event, alongside a number of high-level international speakers and cybersecurity experts, confirms its commitment to supporting cybersecurity fortification within the banking sector.

It also echoes Burgan's unyielding efforts to reinforce cooperation with all relevant authorities on their shared mission to protect sensitive data against evolving fraud and hacking operations.

Commenting on the Bank's participation, Fadel Mahmoud Abdullah, CEO of Burgan Bank – Kuwait, said: "We are proud to have participated in such an important conference that united the GCC market leaders and decision-makers for the common goal of

Fadel Abdullah,  
CEO Kuwait

devising a regional strategy to combat cyber-attacks and data theft by utilizing the latest cybersecurity technologies and risk management systems.

As leaders in banking cybersecurity, we were delighted to share our market insights and success in safeguarding our customers' data against ever-evolving scams and fraud attempts, under the supervision and guidance of the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK), as well as highlight the collaborative efforts towards preserving the stability of the Kuwaiti banking sector."

The conference agenda covered numerous vital topics, including the latest digital security technologies, cooperation opportunities across the GCC for combating cyber vulnerabilities and threats, as well as the best approaches to raising awareness across the public and private spheres about the latest threats to cybersecurity and the most advanced means to combat them.

On the sidelines of the conference, the first phase of the Innovation and Excellence Competition for Scientific Research was launched, honoring outstanding students who continue to develop innovative information and cybersecurity solutions, especially using recent technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI). The competition aims to create an atmosphere that fosters creativity and innovation in

the technical fields and equips motivated male and female students with the necessary scientific research skills, enabling them to excel in their research and development endeavors.

Contributing to the discussion sessions on cyber and intelligence information were Andrew Christopher Singh, Group Chief Risk Officer, and Dr Ali Abdulhamid Al Kazimi, Chief Information Security Officer – Group Risk Management at Burgan Bank. They shed light on the Bank's efforts to safeguard its customers' data against safety breaches or theft attempts. It is worth noting that Burgan continues to be among the first banking and financial institutions to adopt the latest cybersecurity technologies and data protection systems in Kuwait.

Furthermore, it upholds its commitment to participating in the biggest national, regional, and international conferences to educate customers and the public about the risks of fraud and the best means to protect their accounts and financial data. This comes as part of its steadfast support for "Let's Be Aware" (Diraya) – the financial literacy and banking awareness campaign launched and supervised by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) and the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA) with the support of all national banks.

## Kuwait applies to join Kigali Amendment to Montreal Protocol

NEW YORK: The Permanent Mission of Kuwait to the United Nations tabled the instrument of joining the 2016 Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer to the Office of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. The move is a formal measure under the 1985 Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, provided that the UN Secretary-General is the depository of the Convention, the Kuwait mission noted in a statement to KUNA on Tuesday evening. It signals a step forward by Kuwait towards reducing the use of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), according to the statement. Under the Kigali Amendment, actions to limit the use of HFCs are expected to prevent the emissions of up to 105 billion tons of carbon dioxide equivalent greenhouse gases, helping to avoid up to 0.5 degree Celsius of global temperature rise by 2100. — KUNA



Doctors are seen during the training program. — KUNA photos



Chairman of the Board of Directors of CAN Dr Khaled Al-Saleh is pictured during the training.

## CAN trains medics on early detection of cancer

KUWAIT: The National Campaign for Cancer Awareness (CAN) announced on Wednesday that 3,169 doctors and 2,748 nurses have been trained on early detection of cancer in a specialized course. Chairman of the campaign, Dr Khaled Al-Saleh, said in a press statement during the course that 1,564 doctors, 1,605 primary care doctors, and 2,748 nurses were trained as part of its training initiatives that began early this month.

Al-Saleh stressed the continuation of the campaign's training program on early diagnosis of cancer in a successful partnership with the Ministry of Health and with support from the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), indicating that this initiative is directed at health service providers in the country, including primary care doctors, dentists and nursing staff.

The course provided to dentists aims to investigate and detect early signs of oral cancers and to keep up with the latest scientific discoveries and studies in this field, while the course directed to pri-



Dentists receive training on early detection of cancer.

mary care doctors aims to read early signs of breast, colon, and rectal diseases, in addition to signs of head and neck, thyroid, and prostate tumors.

He stated that investigating the initial signs is an important tool for early diagnosis by trained doctors and results in quickly transferring infected cases to specialists and providing the necessary treatment, thus reducing the patient's suffering and increasing the recovery rate. He explained that the current program also includes training the nursing staff on communication skills with patients and their families to enhance their health culture in order to achieve high-quality health services. — KUNA

## Kuwait Airways and Amadeus strengthen partnership

KUWAIT: Kuwait Airways announced on Wednesday strengthening its partnership with Amadeus, a technology and innovation company, to develop the mechanism and process of electronic booking. The company's Chairman of the Board of Directors, Abdulmohsen Al-Faqan, said

in a press statement that passengers on board Kuwait Airways can book their flights easily and in three steps, indicating that the booking process was designed and improved to serve customers. Al-Faqan explained that the company is keen to provide its customers with a comfortable and luxurious travel experience, stressing its commitment to facilitate the process of booking travel procedures. Kuwait Airways was established in 1953 as a private company under the name Kuwait National Airways Limited and started its first flights on March 16, 1954. The Kuwaiti government acquired 100 percent of its ownership in 1962. — KUNA



## Awqaf promotes Quran recitation

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs affirmed on Wednesday its endeavor to be a global leader in caring for the people and teaching the Holy Quran through the Kuwait International Award for Quran Memorization, Recitations and Tajweed. This came during a press conference held by the Ministry to announce the launch of the award in its 13th session under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah from the 13th to the 20th of November.

Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Award, Dr Bandar Al-Nusafi, told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the Ministry is keen on encouraging memorizers of the Book of Allah to study the science of readings and spreading the spirit of positive competition through this competition and highlighting the civilized image of Ku-



Members of the Kuwait International Award Committee for Memorizing the Holy Quran. — KUNA

wait. Al-Nusafi explained that the competition has five branches: memorizing the entire Holy Quran, memorizing the Holy Quran according to the ten transmitted readings, recitation and chanting, and memorizing the Quran for young memorizers, in addition to the award for the best technical project. — KUNA



Trump's erratic foreign policy to meet 'a world on fire'

## Kremlin says 'let's see' if Trump will end Ukraine war



BEIT LAHIA: A woman rests with her children as displaced Palestinians flee Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip on November 5, 2024. — AFP

# Palestinians dismayed by Trump's win

## Leaders urge peace as few Gazans hope Trump keeps promise to stop war

### Lawmakers in Indian Kashmir want partial autonomy back

**SRINAGAR:** Newly-elected lawmakers in India's Jammu and Kashmir territory passed a resolution on Wednesday demanding New Delhi restore the partial autonomy of the Himalayan region, a contentious move Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government is likely to reject. Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government revoked Jammu and Kashmir's partial autonomy in 2019, splitting the state into the two federally administered territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

The decision was opposed by opposition parties, and many people were detained in 2019 to forestall a backlash against the shock move. Modi's government also imposed months of curbs on communications in the highly sensitive Kashmir Valley, where tens of thousands have been killed in a decades-long insurgency against Indian rule.

On Wednesday, Jammu and Kashmir's newly-elected ruling alliance passed the resolution seeking the restoration, despite protests by BJP lawmakers. "This legislative assembly re-affirms the importance of the special status and constitutional guarantees which safeguarded the identity, culture and rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and expresses concern over their unilateral removal," it said.

Only the federal government can restore Kashmir's special status. Modi's government is expected to definitely reject the demand as the scrapping of special status was a key BJP plank for decades. There was no immediate reaction from the federal government on the resolution.

The troubled region, where separatist militants have fought security forces since 1989, elected an opposition alliance to power last month in the first polls in a decade. — Reuters

**CAIRO/WEST BANK/GAZA:** Palestinians, worn out from more than a year of Zionist assault, expressed fear at Donald Trump's return to the White House, while the leaders of Hamas and the Palestinian Authority urged him to act for peace. In Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip, Abu Osama, who has been displaced by unrelenting Zionist bombardments, called Trump's election victory a "new catastrophe in the history of the Palestinian people."

"Despite the destruction, death, and displacement that we have witnessed, what is coming will be more difficult, it will be politically devastating," Abu Osama told Reuters. More than 43,300 Palestinians have been killed in more than a year of war in Gaza, local health authorities say, and much of the territory has been laid to waste.

Hamas said the US election was a matter for the American people but it called for an end to the "blind support" for the Zionist entity from the United States.

"We urge Trump to learn from Biden's mistakes," Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri told Reuters. Abu Zuhri said Trump would be tested on his statements that he can stop the war within hours of taking office as US president. President Joe Biden's administration has provided the Zionist entity with unflinching diplomatic support and military aid even as Secretary of State Antony Blinken worked on ceasefire proposals. Trump's future policy is not yet clear although he was supportive of the Zionist entity in his previous term as president.

### Abbas appeals

In the Zionist entity-occupied West Bank, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, a rival of Hamas, congratulated Trump on his election as US president. He said he would cooperate with the new administration to reach regional peace. "We will remain

steadfast in our commitment to peace, and we are confident that the United States will support, under your leadership, the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people," Abbas said in a statement.

Some Palestinians said they did not see much difference between the former president and the current vice president and defeated candidate Kamala Harris, but Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of the Zionist entity during his first term showed he was more biased towards the Zionist entity. "We, as Arabs and Palestinians, will not be naive enough. We have to deal with him as an enemy. We have to determine who is the enemy. They are enemies," said Khaled Dasouso, owner of a grocery in Khan Younis. Meanwhile, some held on to some hope. "I think (Donald) Trump if he wins, ... he promised the Muslim people in America to stop the war in Gaza. We hope that happens," said Gaza

### Lebanese rescuers scour site of deadly Zionist strike

**BARJA, Lebanon:** Lebanese rescuers scoured a destroyed apartment building south of Beirut on Wednesday for bodies or any survivors after a deadly Zionist strike the previous evening, as exchanges of fire between the Zionist entity and armed group Hezbollah pressed on.

Hezbollah said it had fired a salvo of missiles on Wednesday at a military base in the Zionist entity near Ben Gurion Airport. Sirens sounded in northern and central Zionist entity and the Zionist media reported a rocket had landed near the airport. The airports authority said it was continuing to operate as usual and the entity's leading airline El Al said none of its planes were damaged from rockets hitting near the center of the entity.

The Zionist entity and Hezbollah have exchanged fire for over a year in parallel with the Gaza war but the entity escalated its assault on Lebanon, intensifying bombing and making ground incursions into border villages. The strike on Tuesday on Barja hit a multi-storey apartment building on a hilltop, shearing



BARJA, Lebanon: Lebanese emergency and security services salvage belongings before clearing the rubble at the site of a Zionist strike a day earlier on a residential building in Barja on November 6, 2024. — AFP

off segments of the floors and exposing inner walls and staircases. Lebanon's health ministry said just before midnight that the strike had killed 20 people and wounded 14, but said the toll could still rise.

Moussa Zahran, who lived on one of the upper floors of the building, returned on Wednesday morning to sift through the ruins of his home. His burned feet were wrapped in gauze and his son and wife were in hospital after being wounded in the strike. "These rocks that you see here weigh 100 kilos, they fell on a 13 kilo kid," he

said, referring to his son and the apartment wall that had collapsed onto him during the strike.

### Strikes on Nabatieh

There was no evacuation warning ahead of the air raid. On Wednesday, the Zionist entity's military carried out strikes on the southern Lebanese city of Nabatieh after issuing evacuation orders for specific neighborhoods in the city. There were no immediate reports of casualties. More than 3,000 people have been killed in Zionist strikes on Lebanon over the last year, the vast majority in the past six weeks. The Barja attack was among the deadliest single strikes.

Diplomatic efforts to reach a 60-day truce proposed by the US faltered last week, and Lebanese were fearful that the war could escalate further after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appointed Israel Katz as his new defense minister. Katz vowed on Tuesday to "defeat" Hezbollah so that Zionists displaced from occupied areas on the border with Lebanon could return.

Lebanon's parliament speaker Nabih Berri met the US and Saudi ambassadors to Lebanon on Wednesday to discuss political developments, his office said, without providing further details. Lebanon's caretaker prime minister meanwhile congratulated the "president elect" in the US, without naming Donald Trump. — Reuters

### Thousands protest sacking of Zionist defense minister

**TEL AVIV:** Thousands of people rallied in Tel Aviv late Tuesday to protest the sacking of Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, calling on his successor Israel Katz to prioritize a hostage deal to return the captives still held in Gaza. Chanting slogans against the government and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the demonstrators carrying flags of the Zionist entity gathered in the commercial hub shortly after Gallant's dismissal was announced. Protesters also blocked traffic and lit fires on the Ayalon highway in Tel Aviv, with some wearing "Bring them home now!" t-shirts referring to the hostages.

They held up signs with slogans such as "We deserve better leaders" and "Leaving no one behind!" and one protester wore handcuffs and a face mask with Netanyahu's likeness. "Bibi traitor! You're guilty!" chanted some, referring to Netanyahu and blaming him for failing to prevent the Hamas attack on October 7 last year. "We, the protesters, believe that Gallant ... is actually the only normal person in the government," said 54-year-old teacher Samuel Miller, slamming Netanyahu's administration for opening "new fronts in uncalled-for wars".

"He's doing nothing to safeguard our peace, the peace of the Palestinians, the peace of everybody in this region," Miller told AFP. He also criticized Netanyahu's government for "doing absolutely nothing to free the hostages" still held in Gaza. Foreign minister Israel Katz took over the defense portfolio on Tuesday, after Netanyahu fired Gallant over eroded trust over the past months of the Gaza war.

A group campaigning for the release of hostages

in Gaza on Tuesday expressed "deep concern" over the sacking and urged Katz to "prioritize" a deal to free the captives. "We expect the incoming defense minister, Israel Katz, to prioritize a hostage deal ... to secure the immediate release of all hostages," the Hostages and Missing Families Forum said in a statement.

Gallant also called on the government to bring home the hostages, saying in a televised speech: "We must do this quickly, while they are still alive." Einav Tzanguker, whose son Matan is among the hostages, was among those protesting against Netanyahu in Tel Aviv. "If it is possible to replace a defense minister in the middle of a war, then it is surely possible to replace a prime minister who is unqualified to bring back the hostages," she told the Zionist entity's Channel 12. Netanyahu "is intentionally endangering (the Zionist entity's) security and all that because of a dispute between him and Gallant on how to continue the war," she added. — AFP



TEL AVIV: Protesters start a fire to block a road in Tel Aviv on November 5, 2024, after the dismissal of Yoav Gallant. — AFP

# Trump's erratic foreign policy to meet 'a world on fire'

## Trump expected to continue arming the Zionist entity without strings attached to aid

WASHINGTON: While campaigning to regain the US presidency, Donald Trump said that he would be able to end Russia's war in Ukraine in 24 hours, warned that the Zionist entity would be "eradicated" if he lost the election and vowed sweeping new tariffs on Chinese imports. Now that Trump has claimed victory, many at home and abroad are asking an urgent question: will he make good on his long list of foreign policy threats, promises and pronouncements?

The Republican has offered few foreign policy specifics, but supporters say the force of his personality and his "peace through strength" approach will help bend foreign leaders to his will and calm what Republicans describe as a "world on fire". They blame the global crises on weakness shown by President Joe Biden, though his fellow Democrats reject that accusation.

America's friends and foes alike remain wary as they await Trump's return to office in January, wondering whether his second term will be filled with the kind of turbulence and unpredictability that characterized his first four years. Trump's 2017-2021 presidency was often defined on the world stage by his "America First" protectionist trade policy and isolationist rhetoric, including threats to withdraw from NATO. At the same time, he sought to parlay his self-styled image as a deal-making businessman by holding summits with North Korea, which ultimately failed to halt its nuclear weapons program, and brokering normalization talks between the Zionist entity and several Arab neighbors, which achieved a measure of success. "Donald Trump remains erratic and inconsistent when it comes to foreign policy," analysts for the European Council on Foreign Relations wrote in a blog post during the US campaign. "Europeans are still licking their wounds from Trump's first term: they have not forgotten the former president's tariffs, his deep antagonism towards the European Union and Germany," they said. Trump and his loyalists dismiss such criticism, insisting that other countries have long taken advantage of the US and that he would put a stop to it.

### A freer hand

Trump will confront a volatile Middle East that threatens to descend into a broader regional conflict.

He has expressed support for the Zionist entity's attack on Gaza, which it claims is to destroy Hamas, but has said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a Trump ally widely believed to have favored his return to power, must finish the job quickly.

## Official: Little voting disruption tied to foreign interference

WASHINGTON: A senior US cyber official on Tuesday said her agency had not seen any major incidents reflecting foreign interference in Tuesday's presidential election despite a steady stream of disinformation aimed at disrupting the vote throughout Election Day. As of early evening, there was little evidence of significant disruption to election infrastructure, Cait Conley, a senior official at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, told reporters. "At this point, we are not currently tracking any national-level significant incidents impacting security of our election infrastructure," said Conley, whose agency is responsible for protecting critical American infrastructure, including election infrastructure, which can include voter databases, tabulators and vote counting software.



GRAND RAPIDS: Former US President and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump dances as he walks on stage during a campaign rally in Michigan on November 5, 2024. — AFP

Trump is expected to continue arming the Zionist entity, whose existence he said would have been endangered if Harris had been elected - a claim dismissed by the Biden administration given its staunch support for the Zionist entity. His policy toward the entity likely will have no strings attached for humanitarian concerns, in contrast to pressure that Biden applied in a limited way. Trump may give Netanyahu a freer hand with Iran. But Trump could face a new crisis if Iran, which has stepped up nuclear activities since he abandoned a nuclear deal with Tehran in 2018, rushes to develop a nuclear weapon. When Trump was last in the White House, he presided over the signing of the Abraham Accords between the Zionist entity, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. But those diplomatic deals did nothing to advance Palestinian statehood in the West Bank and Gaza. Still, Trump is likely to push for historic normalization of relations between the Zionist entity and Saudi Arabia, an effort initiated during his first term and which Biden has also pursued.

### Ending the Ukraine war

How Trump responds to Russia's war in Ukraine could set the tone for his agenda and signal how he will deal with NATO and key US allies, after Biden worked

to rebuild key relationships that frayed under his predecessor. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky congratulated Trump on social network X, describing Trump's peace-through-strength approach as a "principle that can practically bring just peace in Ukraine closer". Trump insisted last year that Russian President Vladimir Putin never would have invaded Ukraine in 2022 if he had been in the White House, adding that "even now I could solve that in 24 hours". But he has not said how he would do so. He has been critical of Biden's support for Ukraine and said that under his presidency the US would fundamentally rethink NATO's purpose. He told Reuters last year that Ukraine may have to cede territory to reach a peace agreement, something the Ukrainians reject and Biden has never suggested.

NATO, which backs Ukraine, is also under threat. Trump, who has railed for years against NATO members that failed to meet agreed military spending targets, warned during the campaign that he would not only refuse to defend nations "delinquent" on funding but would encourage Russia "to do whatever the hell they want" to them. "NATO would face the most serious existential threat since its founding," said Brett Bruen, a former foreign policy adviser in the Obama administration. — Reuters



LAS VEGAS: People vote at a polling station at Meadows Mall in Las Vegas, Nevada, on Election Day, November 5, 2024. — AFP

Earlier Tuesday, the FBI warned Americans about three new fake videos that used its name and insignia to promote false information about the vote, the latest in a string of disinformation that officials expect will intensify, especially if uncertainty over the winner lingers past Election Day. One fabricated video

purporting to be from the federal law enforcement agency falsely cited a high terror threat and urged Americans to "vote remotely," while another video includes a fake press release alleging to be from the agency and claiming rigged voting among inmates in five prisons. The third fake video claimed the FBI had received 9,000 complaints about malfunctioning voting machines. All are inauthentic, the Federal Bureau of Investigation said in a statement.

Hoax bomb threats also hit a series of polling locations in three battleground states, the bureau said later Tuesday. "None of the threats have been determined to be credible thus far," the FBI said. At least two polling sites targeted by the hoax bomb threats in Georgia were briefly evacuated on Tuesday. Republican Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger blamed Russian interference for the Election Day bomb hoaxes. "They're up to mischief, it seems. They don't want us to have a smooth, fair and accurate election, and if they can get us to fight among ourselves, they can count that as a victory," Raffensperger told reporters. The Russian Embassy in Washington said the allegations were "baseless" and that Russia does not "interfere in the internal affairs of other countries." — AFP

## Comeback King...

Continued from Page 1

these ties and expanding cooperation in all fields for the shared interest and strategic partnership between the two. HH the Amir also congratulated Vice President-elect JD Vance, wishing him success.

HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah also sent congratulatory cables to Trump and Vance. Other world leaders swiftly pledged to work with Trump, led by the Zionist entity and Ukraine, where the course of raging conflicts could depend on the new president and his isolationist "America First" policies. Hamas said the election was a matter for the American people, but it called for an end to the "blind support" for the Zionist entity from the US.

Vice President Harris, who only entered the race in July after the visibly ageing President Joe Biden dropped out, ran a centrist campaign that highlighted Trump's inflammatory messaging and use of racist and sexist tropes. But his apocalyptic warnings about immigration found their mark with voters battered by the post-COVID economy and eager for change after the Biden years. Hispanic and Black Americans were seen as crucial voting blocs for Harris, but exit polls showed they tilted toward Trump in numbers far greater than in 2020. Opinion polls predicted a nail-bitingly close contest — yet the results came surprisingly fast, including Trump's flipping of swing states Georgia, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin that Biden won four years ago.

Trump captured enough states to secure the 270 Electoral College votes needed to win the presidency. By early Wednesday the count stood at 277 for him and 224 for Harris, with five states yet to be called. He appeared on track to win the popular vote too — the first time he has done so in three presidential runs. Republicans also seized control of the US Senate — crucial

in helping Trump push his agenda through — although many House of Representatives elections remain undecided. Trump is the first president in more than a century to win a non-consecutive second term. He is also the only person to be elected as a convicted felon — he will face sentencing in a New York court for fraud on Nov 26. The brash businessman and former reality TV star is on course to break another record as the oldest-ever sitting president during his four-year term. He will surpass Biden, who steps down in January at 82. The dollar surged, stocks rallied and bitcoin struck a record high as news of Trump's victory emerged.

But turmoil likely lies ahead. He has repeatedly suggested he would end the conflict in Ukraine by pressuring Kyiv to cede land to Russia, and his threat of mass deportations of undocumented immigrants has stirred concern in Latin America. He also returns to the White House as a climate change denier, poised to dismantle his predecessor's green policies and jeopardize global efforts to curb human-caused warming.

Among foreign leaders rushing to send congratulations were his allies Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Also messaging Trump was Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, who is predicted to see a rapid reduction in US military aid once Biden exits. Zelensky said he hoped Trump would help his country find a "just peace". The Kremlin said Russian President Vladimir Putin, on whom Trump has often lavished praise, did not plan to congratulate him. For all his dark promises of revenge against enemies, Trump remains famously unpredictable. His campaign rallies, filled with grievance, insults and misinformation, featured extreme rhetoric. But he earned viral online moments that played on his everyman appeal and showman's instinct — like his appearance at a McDonald's drive-thru and impromptu news conference from a garbage truck. Star supporters like tech baron Elon Musk also helped him appeal to young men. — Agencies

## Trump's Mideast peace pledge wins...

Continued from Page 1

when outgoing president Joe Biden won handily. This time around, the left-leaning vote fractured between Vice President Kamala Harris and the Green Party's Jill Stein. "People got the message that Trump is trying to bring peace to the Middle East and to the whole world," said Bill Bazzi, the Lebanese-American mayor of neighboring Dearborn Heights, speaking to AFP from a late-night hookah bar gathering that transformed into an early-morning party.

Bazzi dismissed what he called the media's distortion of Trump's previous "Muslim ban", insisting it was only a matter of closer vetting of select unstable countries to prevent Islamic State militants from getting into the United States. A Marine veteran who campaigned for Trump in his closing rallies, he added he had been in

contact with high-level members of the incoming administration who assured him that "one of the things (Trump) is pushing is to stop the war — he wants more diplomacy."

Others, like Yemeni-American activist and real estate agent Sam'ra Luqman, were defiant. Like other Arab Americans, she was outraged by the Biden-Harris administration's unwavering military and diplomatic support for the Zionist entity in the Gaza and Lebanon conflicts, where the civilian death tolls continue to soar. "They can blame us for Harris' loss. I want them to," she said. "It was my community that said, 'If you commit genocide, we will hold you accountable for it.'"

The Trump team also did what Harris notably did not: Show up in Dearborn. Harris' campaign's decision to ally with former Republican lawmaker Liz Cheney — a vocal Iraq War advocate — also alienated many Arabs. Trump's outreach, on the other hand, benefited from a new link to the community: Lebanese-American Michael Boulos, who is married to his daughter Tiffany Trump. Boulos' father Massad was a key emissary for the campaign. — AFP

## Hezb says tens of thousands ready...

Continued from Page 1

He said the result in the race between Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris would have no impact on any possible ceasefire deal for Lebanon. "We don't base our expectations for a halt of the aggression on political developments," he said. "Whether Harris wins or Trump wins, it means nothing to us. 'What will stop this... war is the battlefield' he said, citing fighting in south Lebanon and Hezbollah attacks on the Zionist entity.

Earlier on Wednesday, Hezbollah said it targeted a

military base near the Zionist entity's main airport close to commercial hub Tel Aviv. Earlier Wednesday, Lebanon's official National News Agency reported Zionist air strikes on the Bekaa Valley in eastern Lebanon and the southern city of Nabatiyah. An AFP correspondent in the eastern city of Baalbek reported intense strikes in and around the city.

The speech was Qassem's second since he was named Hezbollah secretary-general last week. The Zionist entity is "betting on prolonging the war so it becomes a war of attrition... We are ready," he said. He also called for Lebanese sovereignty to be safeguarded in any truce talks. Qassem demanded explanations from the Lebanese army after Zionist naval commandos seized a man from north Lebanon on Saturday who they said was a senior Hezbollah operative. — AFP

## Kremlin says 'let's see' if Trump will end Ukraine war

MOSCOW: The Kremlin reacted cautiously on Wednesday after Donald Trump was elected US president, saying the US was still a hostile state and that only time would tell if Trump's rhetoric on ending the Ukraine war translated into reality. Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 triggered the biggest confrontation between Moscow and the West since the 1962 Cuban missile crisis when the Soviet Union and the US came close to nuclear war.

Trump's re-election caps a remarkable comeback four years after the Republican was voted out of the White House and ushers in a new American leadership likely to test democratic institutions at home and relations abroad. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Trump had made some important statements about wanting to end the Ukraine war during his campaign, but only time would tell if they led to action. "Let us not forget that we are talking about an unfriendly country, which is both directly and indirectly involved in a war against our state" (in Ukraine)," Peskov told reporters.

Peskov said he was not aware of any plans by President Vladimir Putin to congratulate Trump on his victory and that relations with Washington were at an historic low. "We have repeatedly said that the US is able to contribute to the end of this conflict. This cannot be done overnight, but ... the US is capable of changing the trajectory of its foreign policy. Will this happen, and if so, how ... we will see after (the US president's inauguration in) January."

Russian and US diplomats say relations between the world's two largest nuclear powers have only been worse during the depths of the Cold War. Russian officials from Putin down said ahead of the election that it made no difference to Moscow who won the White House, even as Kremlin-guided state media coverage showed a preference for Trump. The Russian Foreign Ministry said Moscow had no illusions about Trump, noting that there was what it called a bipartisan anti-Russian position among the US ruling elite designed to try to contain Russia. "Russia will work with the new administration when it 'takes up residence' in the White House, fiercely defending Russian national interests and focusing on achieving all the set objectives of the special military operation (in Ukraine)," the ministry said. "Our conditions are unchanged and are well known in Washington."

Kirill Dmitriev, the influential head of Russia's sovereign wealth fund, struck a softer note, saying a Trump victory could be a chance to repair ties. "This opens up new opportunities for resetting relations between Russia and the United States," added Dmitriev, a former Goldman Sachs banker who has previously had contacts with the Trump team.

Putin has said he is ready for talks to end the war, but that Russia's territorial gains and claims must be accepted, something that the Ukrainian leadership has rejected as an unacceptable capitulation. Russian forces are advancing at the fastest pace in at least a year in Ukraine and control about one fifth of the country. That includes Crimea, which Moscow annexed from Ukraine in 2014, about 80 percent of the Donbas — a coal-and-steel zone — and more than 70 percent of the Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions. — Reuters

# Dems blame Biden for Harris' loss

## Trump gains support among young voters and women, groups Harris was counting on

WASHINGTON: Anger and soul-searching took hold of the Democratic Party early on Wednesday morning, after Vice President Kamala Harris suffered an election loss that left some party officials and voters dumbfounded. Harris was the self-styled underdog against her Republican rival, Donald Trump, having joined the race barely three months ago, but the nature of her loss has some Democrats asking questions about the future of the party.



Cedric Richmond speaks during an election night event for Kamala Harris at Howard University.

The sharpest criticism contained accusations that the party had lied to its supporters about President Joe Biden's mental fitness until a disastrous TV debate with Trump in June raised alarm bells and ultimately led to the president exiting the race. One Democratic donor asked: "Why did Joe Biden hold on for as long as he did? He should have not concealed his (health) and dropped out a lot sooner."

Biden, 81, has said privately he thought he was the only Democrat who could beat Trump, and vowed publicly that he was fit to be president for another four years. When he dropped out of the race in July, he said he had decided it was "in the best interest of my party and the country for me to stand down." Biden's announcement in April 2023 that he would

run for reelection was greeted with skepticism by many Democrats, but likely potential challengers quickly agreed to join his campaign as advisers, rather than challenge him.

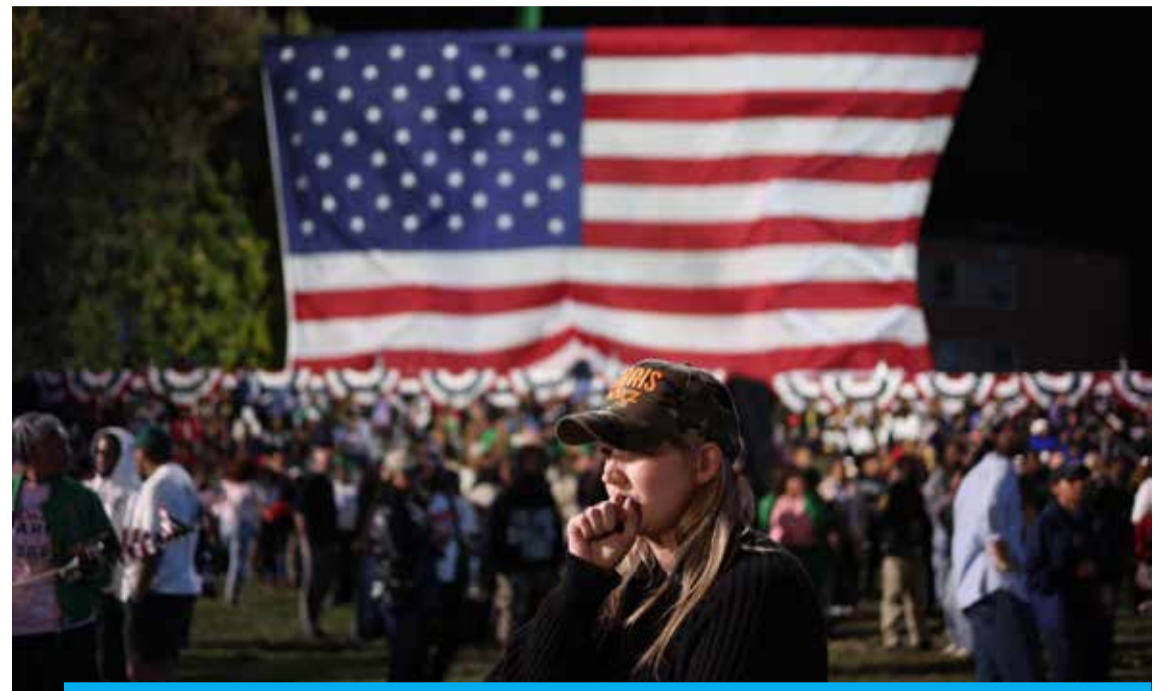
The party "needs a complete reboot," said hedge fund manager Bill Ackman, a longtime Democratic donor who endorsed Trump in 2024, on X. "The party lied to the American people about the cognitive health and fitness of the president," he said, and then didn't hold a primary to replace him. The Harris campaign declined comment and the White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

### Women, young voters

The concerns ran deeper, though. Two groups Harris was counting on to beat Trump — increasingly diverse young voters, believed to be motivated by climate change, liberal values and her social media savvy, and women worried about shrinking abortion rights under a Republican — moved in his direction instead. Trump's overall share of voters under 45 was up two percentage points from 2020 as was his share of women voters, Edison Research exit poll data show. Trump also increased his support in many suburban areas, where Democrats thought they had made inroads.

The shift came even as the Harris campaign insisted that the race was close, and that she was picking up new voters. One Democratic National Committee official said he was fielding angry text messages from party members late on Tuesday night. "They feel lied to by the campaign," the official said.

Trump's anti-immigration rhetoric also appeared to strike a chord with voters even in Democratic heartlands like Connecticut and Massachusetts, mirroring a trend seen in many liberal democracies where high housing and other costs have been blamed on newcomers. Canada's Liberal Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, for example, cut immigration levels under criticism from the right, and Europe's far-right parties have vowed to toughen immigration rules, while peeling away votes from the center left. Harris' defeat is the Dem-



WASHINGTON: A supporter of Kamala Harris reacts to election results during an election night event at Howard University in Washington, DC, on November 5, 2024. — AFP photos

ocrats' second bitter loss to Trump over the past three elections. Hillary Clinton's 2016 defeat had paved the way for Biden to run. A convicted felon, Trump's unorthodox economic proposals, including blanket tariffs on imports, will be costly for US consumers and businesses, economists say. His plans to deport millions of people who are in the country illegally would upend industries and communities. Still Trump gained with Latino voters, and had easy wins in Georgia and North Carolina, states where Democrats thought they were competitive. Harris' whirlwind campaign, built around an inclusive vision of the United States and stronger fiscal support for families, had emphasized hope and positivity.

Biden and Harris' support of the Zionist entity during its assault on Gaza split the Democratic Party, with many progressive Democrats calling unsuccessfully for the US to curb its military aid to the Zionist entity. That cost votes among left-leaning Democrats. Harris remained at her residence in Washington the entire evening while crowds waited outside her alma mater Howard University, where the campaign had set up a stage and a media center, anticipating days of vote-counting before a result. As the results started to trickle in, her campaign co-chair Cedric Richmond took the stage to tell the dwindling crowds the race wasn't over yet. Hours later, it was. — Reuters

## Trump victory to propel unrestrained 'America First' policy

WASHINGTON: With the return to the White House of Donald Trump, the United States and the world are set for a major new shakeup as the nationalist president turns the page on four years of nurturing allies and confronting foes. Trump is expected to unleash major new pressure on Iran's clerical state. After Trump's first term, outgoing President Joe Biden put a priority on restoring historic US relationships, which again could see tumult as Trump accuses allies of freeloading off the US military and renews questions about NATO, a bedrock of US foreign policy since the Cold War.

On the campaign trail, Trump has raged against China, with both he and Vice President-elect JD Vance casting the Asian power as an enemy. Trump, however, has also insisted that he has a strong relationship with Chinese President Xi Jinping — a sort of emphasis on personal diplomacy not entirely different than Biden.

Trump's personal style could see more fireworks in Latin America, where key US partners Brazil and Colombia and now Mexico are led by leftists. One of Trump's key campaign promises — the mass deportation of millions of undocumented immigrants — could threaten havoc in the region if carried out, although Trump managed a stable, transactional relationship with Mexico's leader in his first term. Trump is not known to have an interest in Africa and is unlikely to push for renewal next year of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, a key trade pact and priority for the continent, although Republican lawmakers support reauthorization.

### Unrestrained 'Trump 2.0'

Trump has broken sharply with the post-World War II consensus of the two major parties on building military and diplomatic alliances around the world, pursuing an "America First" platform of promoting US primacy above all, especially on trade. Brian Finucane, a former State Department official now at the International Crisis Group, said Trump could be emboldened compared with his last term. "A Trump 2.0 would be very different. He would not have any of those figures who did in fact restrain Trump at some point and in some fashion including at the Pentagon," Finucane said.

Trump has already raised fears in Taiwan by publicly questioning whether to defend the self-governing democracy, which Beijing claims and has not ruled out seizing by force. Biden, by contrast, went further than previous US presidents by explicitly saying he would send US troops to defend Taiwan.

While most Western allies will shudder to deal again with Trump, his victory is welcome news for conservatives such as Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban. French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz congratulated Trump on Tuesday's election victory, but were also quick to stress the challenges posed by his "America First" protectionist trade policy and isolationist rhetoric. "The European Union must stand close together and act in a united manner," Scholz told reporters, adding that he and Macron were coordinating closely with other EU heads of state and government. Macron said on X that Berlin and Paris would work for a united, stronger Europe within "the new context". Achieving European unity will however be challenging, not least because over the past years Paris and Berlin have been increasingly at odds on issues ranging from how to finance increased defense spending to trade, and in particular tariffs on China's electric cars.—Agencies



THULASENDRAPURAM: A calendar (center) portrays a picture of Kamala Harris, in her ancestral village in the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu on November 5, 2024. — AFP photos



VADLURU: Villagers celebrate the election result of Donald Trump and JD Vance inside a temple in the ancestral village of Usha Vance's parents, wife of US Senator JD Vance.

## Indian villagers proud as Trump wins election

VADLURU: Far from Republican festivities as Donald Trump claimed US election victory, residents of a sleepy Indian village celebrated that their descendant would be the next "Second Lady", hoping to benefit from her success. Academic highflyer and successful lawyer Usha Vance, the child of Indian immigrants, is the wife of Trump's running mate JD Vance. While 38-year-old Usha Vance was born and brought up in suburban San Diego, those in the village of her paternal ancestors in India's southern Andhra Pradesh state prayed that historic ties would bring improvements to their land.

"We feel happy," said Srinivasa Raju, 53, a resident of Vadluru, a village of white-washed homes scattered amongst palm trees, more than 13,450 (8,360 miles) from the White House in Washington. "We support Trump." Villagers had offered prayers for a Trump win, and Hindu priest Appaji said he hoped Usha Vance would do something in return. "We expect her to help our village," the 43-year-old priest said, dressed in flowing saffron robes, after lighting a candle at the idol of Hindu elephant-headed deity Ganesha for Trump. "If she can recognize her roots and do something good for this village, then that would be great."

### 'Very fine'

Usha Vance's great-grandfather moved out of Vadluru and her father Chilukuri Radhakrishnan —

a PhD holder — was brought up in the Indian city of Chennai, before going on to study in the United States. "Every Indian — not just myself, every Indian — we feel proud of Usha, because she is of Indian origin," said 70-year-old Venkata Ramanayy. "We hope she will develop our village."

She has never visited the village, but the priest said her father came around three years ago and checked on the temple's condition. "We have already seen the governance of Trump — very good," Ramanayy said. "Indian and American relations were very fine during the presidency of Trump." Little is known about Radhakrishnan's initial years in the United States, but the film of JD Vance's memoirs, *Hillbilly Elegy*, refers to him coming to the country with "nothing". Millions of Indians have made similar journeys as the Chilukuris, and according to the most recent US census, Indians have become the country's second-largest Asian ethnicity, growing 50 percent to 4.8 million in the decade to 2020. Usha, a practicing Hindu who studied at Yale and Cambridge Universities, married JD Vance in Kentucky in 2014. They have three children.

### 'Inspiring'

But the story was different around 730 kilometers (454 miles) to the southwest, in Thulasendrapuram, once home to Kamala Harris' grandfather. TS Anbarasu, 63, said the Democrat's "struggle" had encouraged girls to stay in school. "She is inspiring this village," he said. "Any school in the surrounding area, students know about Kamala Harris." Harris, 60, was born in California, but was often taken to India by her mother. "If she comes here, we'll treat her like the president of the United States," Anbarasu said. "We are still proud of her. She is like family to us. If our family members fail, we don't discriminate against them, or treat them as a loser, right?" — AFP

Trump for much of this year faced four simultaneous prosecutions, over allegations ranging from his attempt to cover up a hush money payment to porn star Stormy Daniels during his 2016 campaign to his attempts to overturn his 2020 election defeat. A New York jury in May found him guilty of falsifying business records tied to the Daniels payment, making him the first former US president convicted of a felony.

Trump, a Republican, told an interviewer on October 24 that he would fire US Special Counsel Jack Smith — who led the federal prosecutions over his attempts to overturn his election defeat



PALM BEACH: Supporters of former Donald Trump gather near his Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Florida, on November 5, 2024. — AFP

## Trump's victory brings criminal cases to a halt

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump's US presidential election victory on Wednesday will essentially end the criminal cases brought against him, at least for the four years he occupies the White House. The first former US president to face criminal charges,

and retention of classified documents after leaving office — "within two seconds" of being sworn in. Trump pleaded not guilty to all charges and cast the prosecutions as politically motivated. "The American people have heard these Democrat prosecutors' cases against President Trump and they're still going to elect him anyway," said Mike Davis, the founder of the Article III Project, a conservative legal advocacy group.

While Trump as president will have the authority to fire Smith and shut down the federal cases against him, he will not have the same control over the New York hush money case or Georgia's pros-

ecution of him for trying to overturn his 2020 loss in that state. But his unique role as president makes it unlikely he will face legal consequences in either case during his term in office. "He was properly charged with crimes within the system we have," said Kristy Parker, a special counsel at Protect Democracy, an advocacy organization dedicated to countering what it calls authoritarian threats to the US. Parker said if Trump does shut down the cases, "that won't mean it was the right thing." One more court date is scheduled before he is due to be sworn in on January 20, though legal experts said that was unlikely to go forward. — Reuters

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2024

# Wall St smashes records, dollar soars

## Oil, gold plunge amid renewed concerns over growth, tariffs

LONDON: Wall Street rallied into record territory, the dollar soared and bitcoin scaled a new peak Wednesday as the world gears up for another Donald Trump presidency. The Republican candidate made a stunning political comeback as he defeated Vice President Kamala Harris to return to the White House, four years after losing it to Joe Biden.

The Dow jumped three percent while the S&P 500 and Nasdaq Composite added two percent in early deals. "The rationale behind the US stock market rally is that Trump is seen as business-friendly and will be able to pass his tax cuts through easily without much resistance from the Democrats who have lost control of the Senate," said City Index and FOREX.com analyst Fawad Razaqzada.

Briefing.com analyst Patrick O'Hare said Trump's policies "which feature lower tax rates and deregulation among the cornerstones, are being heralded by the stock market as pro-growth policies that will be a boon for corporate profit growth". But in a sign that investors are also nervous about the impact of Trump's protectionist policies, European stock markets gave up strong earlier gains to slip into the red in the afternoon.

Meanwhile, commodities from oil and gas to metals and grains dropped on Wednesday as the dollar rallied and victory for Republican Donald Trump in the US election stoked concerns about tariffs and economic growth. Oil prices fell by more than 1 percent on pressure from the US dollar rally, which was set for its biggest one-day rise since March 2023 against major peers.

Investors believe Trump's presidency will bolster the dollar as interest rates may need to remain high to combat inflation that would stem from new tariffs. A stronger US dollar makes greenback-denominated commodities such as oil more expensive for holders of other currencies.

Precious metals also fell, with gold sliding to a near three-week low, while copper lost more than 2 percent, making it the worst performer of the base metals complex. "Gold will be torn between the risk of rising inflation, potentially slowing the pace of US rate cuts, as tariffs are rolled out and continued demand for safe haven assets," Ole Hansen, head of commodity strategy at Saxo Bank, said. Commodity prices started to fall overnight as traders started to price in the likelihood of a Trump win.

Asian stocks diverged, with Chinese stocks hit by expectations that Trump would impose tariffs on Chi-



NEW YORK: Trader Walter Lundon shows off his shirt featuring US President-elect Donald Trump, on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) in New York City on November 6, 2024. — AFP

nese imports. Market focus was also on plans to stimulate China's economy, the world's second biggest after the United States. Trump tax cuts, while good for corporate profits, are seen as inflationary and therefore leading to fewer interest-rate cuts by the Federal Reserve in the coming months. That boosted the dollar against main rivals, with the greenback up around two percent against the euro. The Fed announces its latest rate decision on Thursday.

"With the Federal Reserve expected to announce a likely 25 basis-point cut tomorrow, we are already seeing expectations reined in for the December meeting given the perception that Trump's policies are inherently inflationary," forecast Joshua Mahony,

analyst at traders Scope Markets.

US Treasury yields also won support Wednesday. "Investors are bracing for tariffs and a clamp-down on (US) immigration, policies considered to be inflationary which are likely to mean interest rates may be more elevated in the years to come," said Susannah Streeter, head of money and markets at Hargreaves Lansdown. She added that "expectations are high that a Trump presidency will mean fewer regulations on big tech and big finance".

Shares in Tesla soared nearly 13 percent after Trump praised the electric car maker's boss Elon Musk, a key campaign backer, as a "star" during his victory speech.

Bitcoin sprung \$6,000 higher to a record \$75,371.67, topping its previous peak of nearly \$74,000 in March. Trump has pledged to make the United States the "bitcoin and cryptocurrency capital of the world" and to put tech billionaire Musk in charge of a wide-ranging audit of governmental waste.

Elsewhere, oil prices slid "amid expectations that under Trump more crude will flow from US wells", Streeter added. "Another Trump presidency is likely to place emphasis on energy independence and his policies are likely to favor fossil fuels, promoting deregulation in the oil, gas, and coal industries," she said. — Agencies

## Trump comeback to ripple through global economy

FRANKFURT: Donald Trump's victory in the race to become the next US president will have economic consequences for the rest of the world that are likely to be deep and quite immediate. If Trump enacts just a fraction of his pledges - from higher trade tariffs to deregulation, more oil drilling and more demands on America's NATO partners - the strain on government finances, inflation, economic growth and interest rates will be felt in every corner of the world.

Trump recaptured the White House on Wednesday by securing more than the 270 Electoral College votes needed to win the presidency, Edison Research projected. His Republican Party also secured the Senate and may even win the House of Representatives, which would make it easier for the president to legislate his proposals and push through key appointments. "Trump's fiscal pledges are seriously troublesome - for the US economy and for global financial markets - as they promise to vastly expand an already excessive deficit at the same time as he threatens to undermine key institutions," Erik Nielsen, UniCredit's Group Chief Economics Advisor, said. "One must conclude that Trump poses a serious - and so far vastly under-appreciated - threat to the US Treasury market and thereby to global financial stability," Nielsen said.

Import duties, including a 10 percent universal tariff on imports from all foreign countries and a 60 percent tariff on imports from China, are a key plank of Trump's policies and likely to have the biggest global impact. Tariffs inhibit global trade, lower growth for exporters, and weigh on public finances for all parties involved. They are likely to raise in-



People walk past a screen broadcasting news on the US election results outside a mall in Beijing on November 6, 2024. - AFP

flation in the United States, forcing the US Federal Reserve to act with tighter monetary policy.

The International Monetary Fund has already characterized global growth as weak, with most nations producing "feeble" expansion. A further hit to global trade is likely to present a downside risk to its 3.2 percent GDP growth projection for next year. Firms mostly pass import costs onto the customer, so tariffs are likely to be inflationary for US buyers, forcing the Fed to keep interest rates high for longer or to even reverse course and hike borrowing costs once again.

This will be even more likely if Trump keeps his spending and tax pledges, which could increase the US debt by \$7.75 trillion through 2035, according

to the non-partisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. "Most damage would be done under a universal import tariff," ABN Amro's Rogier Quaedyvlieg said. "If the ultimate implementation is non-universal, the hit to the global economy would be significantly weaker. "The full Trump package, including a universal package, would likely hit the global economy hard."

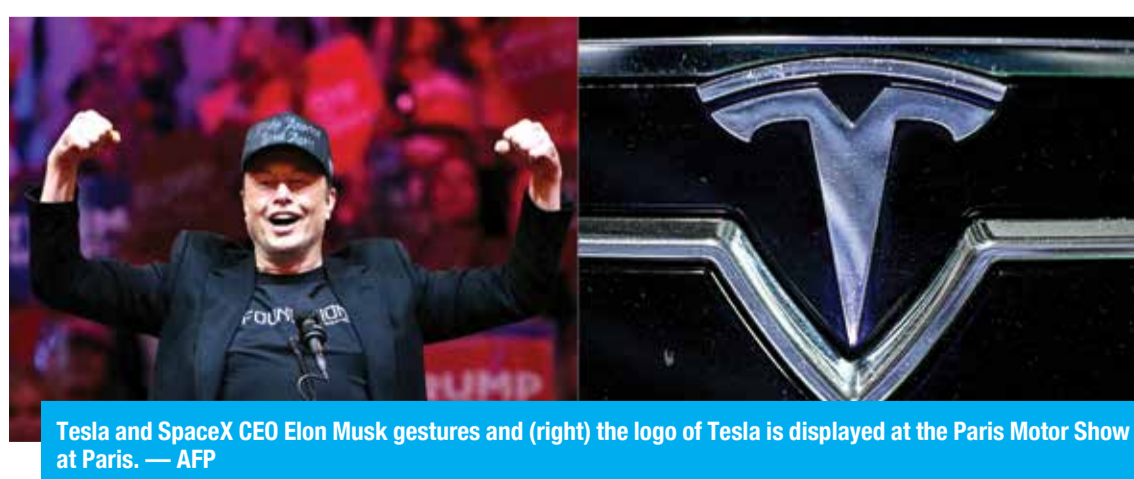
For emerging markets relying on dollar funding, such a policy mix will make borrowing more expensive, dealing a double blow on top of the lost exports. The same forces that could push up US inflation could weigh on prices elsewhere, especially if Trump slaps oversized duties on China as he has promised. — Reuters

## Tesla shares soar pre-market as Trump hails 'genius' Musk

PARIS: Shares in Tesla soared in pre-market trading Wednesday after Donald Trump claimed victory in the US presidential election and hailed the electric car company's boss Elon Musk as a "genius".

Tesla shares were up more than 15 percent at \$289.44 in after-hours deals before the opening bell on Wall Street. Investors welcomed the prospect of a Trump victory as Wall Street futures - bets on what the price of a stock will be at a later date - jumped as the former president appeared poised to defeat Vice President Kamala Harris. Musk shared a photo on his social media platform X showing him with Trump at an election watch party in Florida, and the Republican candidate singled him out during a celebratory speech.

"We have a new star, a star is born: Elon," Trump said, marvelling at Musk's SpaceX rocket and the deployment of the Starlink satellite inter-



Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk gestures and (right) the logo of Tesla is displayed at the Paris Motor Show at Paris. — AFP

net service during Hurricane Helene.

"He's an amazing guy," Trump said. "He's a character, he's a special guy, he's a super genius." Musk staunchly supported Trump during the campaign through America PAC, a political action committee that contributed tens of millions of dollars and doled out \$1 million giveaways to registered voters in key states. "Tesla shares are rising ... due to his special ties

with Donald Trump," Andrea Tuoni, analyst at Saxo-bank, told AFP. Trump, Tuoni said, "owes him a lot". Investors are betting that their closeness "will turn into something positive for Tesla", Tuoni added. Trump said during the campaign that, if he won the White House, he would install the tech billionaire at the head of a government efficiency commission to eliminate "trillions" of dollars in wasteful spending. — AFP

## UAE's ADNOC inks 15-year gas deal with Germany's SEFE

DUBAI: The United Arab Emirates' ADNOC has agreed to supply Germany's SEFE with natural gas for 15 years, the Gulf state-owned energy giant announced on Wednesday. ADNOC would supply one million tonnes of gas a year under the agreement to a SEFE subsidiary, SEFE Marketing and Trading Singapore, the UAE firm said in a statement without disclosing a price.

"Natural gas accounts for over a quarter of Germany's energy supply and we are very pleased to support the country's energy security through this landmark agreement with SEFE," said Fatema Al Nuaimi, an ADNOC executive. The liquefied natural gas would be primarily sourced from the Ruwais LNG project, with deliveries expected to start when it comes on line in 2028, the UAE company said.

ADNOC said more than seven million tons of gas a year from the Ruwais LNG project was now "committed to international customers through long-term agreements". Germany announced in November 2022 that it was nationalizing a former subsidiary of Russian energy giant Gazprom, previously called Gazprom Germania, as Securing Energy for Europe GmbH (SEFE), citing its systemic importance for power supplies. Berlin had placed the company under its effective control earlier that year, after Russia's invasion of Ukraine and decision to reduce energy supplies to Europe. — AFP

## PlayStation 5 Pro goes on sale, will gamers pay hefty price?

PARIS: The PlayStation 5 Pro hits shops on Thursday with a price tag that has raised eyebrows among gamers, but growing sticker shocks in the tech industry have yet to deter consumers.

The upgraded version of Sony's flagship gaming console is retailing for \$699.99 in the United States - \$250 more than the previous PlayStation 5 model. It will cost an eye-watering 799.99 euros (\$860), 250 euros higher than the older version, in Europe and almost 120,000 yen (\$780) in Japan, where Sony is based.

"I don't think I'm going to buy it. I don't want to spend amounts like that to buy a console," said Hideki Hasegawa, a 45-year-old entrepreneur in Tokyo. He recalled a time when consoles "didn't cost more than 30,000 yen". With the release of the PlayStation 5 dating to 2020, the Pro version gives Sony a chance to integrate improvements that allow games to run faster and with better graphics. "Simply put it's the most powerful console we've ever built and a worthy edition to the PS5 family," PlayStation's lead architect Mark Cerny said at an event in September.

However, the higher price "looks challenging from a marketing perspective", said J.P. Morgan analyst Junya Ayada. Analysts said Sony had failed to boost flagging sales when it released an upgrade to the PlayStation 4 in 2016 at a higher cost than the previous version. Sony is not the only tech company making consumers fork out for their latest devices. — AFP



# NBK named 'Market Leader in Digital Payment Acceptance'

## Honor at the Mastercard EDGE Forum 2024 in Dubai

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) received the "Market Leader in Digital Payment Acceptance" Award at the Mastercard EDGE Forum 2024 in Dubai. This award acknowledges NBK as a leader in the digital payments space, recognizing its role in shaping the future of commerce and financial services. Mastercard grants this distinction to financial institutions that demonstrate exceptional leadership in promoting digital payment adoption, strengthening merchant networks, and delivering innovative, customer-centric payment solutions.

NBK's broad range of payment acceptance solutions enable merchants to grow and thrive in the digital economy where they benefit from secure, efficient payment options that enhance customer experiences and improve business operations. With its forward-looking digital roadmap, NBK has established itself as a leader in bringing advanced payment solutions to market, becoming the first bank in Kuwait to launch Apple Pay. NBK further expanded its offerings with the introduction of fully digital wallets, including Google Pay, Samsung Pay, Fitbit Pay, and Garmin Pay.

With a strategic focus on building an agile and inclusive payments ecosystem, NBK remains committed to delivering excellence for customers, merchants and partners. This award strengthens its resolve to continue innovating, expanding its digital footprint, and contributing to the economic prosperity of Kuwait.

### A new milestone

This latest accolade reflects the dedication and collaboration of the entire NBK team, whose relentless

- NBK's strategic commitment to advanced payment solutions strengthens market leadership

- This award marks a new milestone, inspiring the bank to pursue excellence and continue its growth and innovation journey

less efforts allow the bank to adapt and innovate in a rapidly changing financial environment. The recognition from Mastercard also reflects NBK's commitment to enabling seamless, secure and inclusive payment experiences, underscoring employees' hard work and customers' continued trust.

As NBK continues to push the boundaries of innovation, it remains focused on supporting businesses in their journey toward digital transformation and contributing to a more connected financial ecosystem in Kuwait."

### NBK's roadmap

NBK has a comprehensive roadmap for payment solutions, and the bank's commitment to developing advanced payment solutions is a vital strategic initiative aimed at delivering the best cutting-edge technologies to the broader market and to the bank's clients in particular.

NBK operates the largest network of branch-



es and ATMs in Kuwait, featuring 72 branches. The bank also offers the most extensive portfolio of credit and prepaid cards in the country, designed to accommodate the diverse lifestyles of its customers. NBK customers can swiftly and easily complete their

banking transactions at any time through the bank's digital channels, with the NBK Mobile Banking App leading the way. The bank continually enhances and updates this platform to align with the evolving needs and aspirations of its customers.

### NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

## Economic growth to pick in Bahrain, Oman and Qatar in 2025

KUWAIT: Economic growth in Bahrain, Oman, and Qatar will pick up in 2025 with non-oil GDP rising more than 3 percent on average supported by government initiatives and projects along with a drop in interest rates. Bahrain is expected to continue recording a fiscal deficit in 2025 on the back of lower oil prices, with ongoing fiscal consolidation efforts expected.

Meanwhile, reform efforts in Oman over the years have brought down debt-to-GDP levels and its next 5-year plan may combine further diversification initiatives with attention on sustainability issues. In Qatar, the 2022 post-FIFA World Cup slowdown continues to fade and growth is picking up on the back of strong visitor arrivals and huge LNG capacity expansion plans currently underway.

### Bahrain

Bahrain's GDP grew 2.3 percent y/y in H1 2024 on the back of a solid rise in non-oil GDP (3.1 percent), outweighing a contraction in oil (2.1 percent). We expect 2024 growth at 1.8 percent (2.5 percent in 2023). Next year could see a significant acceleration to 3.9 percent driven by easier financial conditions due to interest rate cuts and a recovery in the hydrocarbon sector given the winding down of oil production cuts. The non-oil sector, worth 86 percent of GDP as of Q2 24, will continue to be the major driver of growth reflecting continued efforts towards boosting key sectors including manufacturing and tourism. The BAPCO refinery upgrade is expected to be completed mid-2025 with capacity rising by 40 percent to 380 kb/d giving a boost to non-oil GDP.

Meanwhile, the GCC development fund-financed projects awarded reached \$6bn in total through Q1 24 (since 2017), mainly focused on housing. We also expect credit growth to further edge up in 2025 (from 3 percent y/y in 2024) on cheaper borrowing costs, giving a boost to consumers and corporates. Inflation should remain low at 2 percent in 2025 from 1 percent in 2024.

## Why China economy is more vulnerable to Trump tariffs this time

HONG KONG: A threat by Donald Trump, who has been elected as the next US president, to impose 60 percent tariffs on US imports of Chinese goods poses major growth risks for the world's second-largest economy. Not only are the tariff rates much higher than the 7.5 percent-25 percent levied on China during his first term, the economy is also in a much more vulnerable position.

This is what is different:

### Property market crisis

In 2018, the property market was strong, driving about a quarter of China's economic activity. That meant local government finances, heavily reliant on auctioning land for residential projects, were not questioned so forcefully. This helped China absorb the tariff shock. But since 2021, real estate has been in a severe downturn and local government revenues have plunged. Housing oversupply means this sector may never return to the driving seat of Chinese economic growth.

### Debt

The property sector's downturn has saddled local

Table 1: Key economic indicators

		Bahrain			Oman			Qatar		
		2023	2024f	2025f	2023	2024f	2025f	2023	2024f	2025f
Nominal GDP	\$ billion	43.2	45.1	46.6	109	114	127	213.0	218.9	226.3
Real GDP	% y/y	2.5	1.8	3.9	1.5	1.3	3.2	1.2	1.8	2.4
- Oil sector	% y/y	-2.5	-1.1	4.4	-0.4	-1.7	2.6	1.4	1.2	1.4
- Non-oil sector	% y/y	2.0	3.8	3.8	2.4	2.7	3.5	1.1	2.2	3.0
Inflation	% y/y	0.1	1.0	2.0	1.0	0.8	0.9	3.1	1.6	1.6
Budget Balance	% of GDP	-3.7	-4.3	-5.7	2.4	1.4	0.8	5.6	4.6	3.7
Current account balance	% of GDP	6.2	4.7	4.8	0.40	-0.40	-2.1	17.1	13.5	13.0

Source: Official sources, NBK estimates.

A drop in global and regional interest rates will also have a major role in containing the debt-to-GDP ratio which has ballooned and is expected at a little less than 130 percent in 2024 from 100 percent in 2020. However, we still expect the fiscal deficit to widen in 2025 to 6 percent of GDP on the expected drop in oil prices. Given structural issues (including still high oil revenue dependence and interest costs having a major 35 percent share of all expenses), further consolidation measures as needed to restore fiscal balance over the medium term and put the debt-to-GDP ratio on a downward path. The government's credit rating has been unchanged this year (B+ non-investment grade), with agencies expecting more fiscal adjustment over coming years but citing delays in related reforms as a risk to the outlook.

### Oman

In Oman, non-oil growth is projected at 2.7 percent and 3.5 percent in 2024 and 2025 respectively, helped by macro-economic reforms and low levels of inflation which averaged just 0.6 percent y/y in Jan-Sep 2024 (1.0 percent in CY2023). The lower interest rate environment will play a role in improving non-oil growth momentum, with policy rates potentially falling close to 4.0 percent by end-2025 versus the current 5.5 percent. Overall economic growth will remain subdued at around 1.3 percent in 2024 (1.5 percent in 2023) as hydrocarbon GDP contracted by around 1.7 percent on the back of the OPEC+ production cuts of which Oman was a part.

Moving forward, we expect to see an average increase in oil production of around 2.6 percent in 2025 as OPEC+ productions cuts unwind which would lift Oman's economic growth close to 3.2 percent. The fiscal position remains a key positive turnaround story, and we expect another (albeit reduced) surplus in 2024 of 1.4 percent of GDP (2.4 percent in 2023), despite a drop in hydrocarbon revenues and strong growth in expenses of about 8 percent. Lower oil prices will pressure revenues in 2025, but a small deficit of 0.8 percent of GDP is forecast – still well below pre-COVID levels.

Financial resilience has also been improved by a sharp drop in government debt to 34 percent of GDP (from a peak of 64 percent in 2020), contributing to 2 sovereign rating upgrades by S&P over the past two years from BB to BBB-, back to investment grade. As the government's 10th five-year plan comes to a successful end in 2025, the next plan covering 2026-2030 will likely re-iterate the focus on development including economic diversification, employment, and tourism, with growing attention to sustainability issues and coping with geopolitical tensions in the region.

### Qatar

Qatar's economic growth is expected to strengthen to 2.4 percent in 2025 from 1.8 percent in 2024, as the 2022 post-FIFA World Cup slowdown fades further. Non-hydrocarbon GDP is forecast to grow by 2-3 percent in 2024-2025 from 1.1 percent in 2023,

benefiting from further growth in visitor arrivals, the labor force and bank credit, plus lower interest rates and government measures to boost non-oil activity. In Qatar's third National Development Strategy, the authorities target average non-hydrocarbon growth of 4 percent per year during 2024-2030 with a focus on three growth clusters: logistics, manufacturing and tourism. Manufacturing especially will benefit from the country's enormous LNG expansion plans (greater and cheaper feedstock for downstream processes), which will generate a 40 percent increase in LNG capacity by 2026 (to 110 mtpa) and ultimately an 85 percent increase by 2030 (142 mtpa). Until then, however, the contribution of oil and gas production to GDP growth will be limited.

The government is expected to continue running healthy, albeit narrowing fiscal surpluses over 2024-25 of about 4.2 percent of GDP on average. This will be on the back of lower – though still elevated – hydrocarbon revenues due to softer energy prices, and limited expenditure growth (+1.4 percent in 2025). The budget surplus could be used to lower outstanding public debt to below 40 percent of GDP by 2025 from 73 percent in 2020, of which 52 percent is foreign liabilities. Risks to the outlook are skewed marginally to the upside, with the positive ongoing domestic growth dynamic outweighing the negative risks from steeper-than-anticipated declines in energy prices next year or expanded regional military conflict that could significantly deter labor, capital and trade flows.



People look at EV cars during a mini-exhibition outside a mall in Beijing on November 6, 2024. — AFP

governments with unsustainable debt. While Beijing is lining up fiscal help for them to curb their liabilities, the burden is huge, limiting China's ability to respond to any external growth shocks. The International Monetary Fund calculates total government sector debt at 147 trillion yuan (\$20.7 trillion) at the end of 2023. Add household and corporate debt and that number surpasses 350 trillion yuan – roughly three times the size of the economy, according to the Bank for International Settlements.

### Weak domestic demand

Low wages and pensions, high youth unemployment and a feeble social safety net leave China's household spending below 40 percent of GDP, about

20 percentage points behind the global average. Boosting that requires either more debt or an overhaul of how national income is distributed, so that it benefits households at the expense of government and businesses. That could be achieved by changing how companies and households are taxed and how government spends the money, raising retirement, health and unemployment benefits and removing an internal passport system responsible for huge rural-urban inequalities, among other reforms.

So far, however, authorities have focused on upgrading the export-reliant manufacturing sector instead, with remarkable success in electric vehicles, solar energy and batteries. But this also prompted tariffs in the United States, Europe, Turkey and elsewhere. China may be able to boost external sales in areas where its economy is extremely competitive, but has little control on external demand.

### Deflationary pressures

The property crisis, the debt overhang and weak consumption have all fuelled deflationary pressures. China's policy of redirecting resources from the property market to the manufacturing sector, rather than consumers, has fuelled what Western governments describe as industrial overcapacity. This has led to factory gate deflation. Producer price inflation was 4.6 percent in July 2018 when Trump's first tariffs came into effect. In September 2024 this stood at minus 2.8 percent. Consumer price inflation has ground to a paltry 0.4 percent from 2.1 percent over

that period. Deflation, which hurts consumption, businesses and growth, could get much worse if tariffs shrink external demand, exacerbating industrial overcapacity.

### Currency depreciation

The yuan ended 2019 roughly 10 percent weaker against the dollar than in early 2018, when Washington flagged the tariffs plan and 4 percent weaker in trade-weighted terms against all currencies. The US curbs increased the effective tariff rate on all Chinese exports by 2.4 percentage points, according to Capital Economics analysts, which means that the yuan's depreciation more than offset the tariff impact. This time, the yuan might have to fall 18 percent against the dollar to fully offset 60 percent US tariffs, implying a rate of 8.5 per dollar, the analysts calculated – levels unseen since the 1990s Asian financial crisis.

Worried about capital outflows, authorities tried to prevent the yuan from weakening past 7.3 earlier this year. A full adjustment looks unlikely.

### Other factors

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Washington unleashed trillions of dollars in stimulus, including cash handouts to consumers, some of which was spent on goods made in China. Also, after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Moscow got shut out of many Western markets, pushing it to source more goods from China. These were unexpected opportunities for Beijing, and are unlikely to be repeated. — Re-

## Business

# Low taxes and high tariffs: What a Trump win means for US economy

## New president to reap the benefits of an economy that is in good shape

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump's victory in the 2024 US presidential election is likely to usher in a raft of economic changes at home and abroad, touching everything from foreign trade to the independence of the US central bank.

He will reap the benefits of an economy that is in good shape, with strong growth, low unemployment, and inflation that is rapidly approaching the Federal Reserve's long-term two percent target after years of higher interest rates. Yet his victory came as voters have expressed dissatisfaction with the cost of living as a result of a post-pandemic surge in inflation that pushed consumer prices up by more than 20 percent.

While many of the incoming Republican president's proposals will ultimately live or die in Congress—which controls the purse strings of the world's largest economy—there is still a significant amount he can do to shape economic policy.

On the campaign trail, Trump said he would put in place across-the-board import tariffs of between 10 and 20 percent in a bid to raise revenues, protect domestic industries, and bring jobs back to the United States. He has also threatened to impose a 60 percent tariff on Chinese goods, and even floated a 200 percent-plus levy on cars made in Mexico.

"To me 'tariff' is a very beautiful word," he said in a recent Fox News interview. "It's a word that's going to make our country rich again." Trump "has made no mystery of the fact that he's deeply enamored with tariffs as a policy tool," Kimberly Clausing, a nonresident senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics (PIIE) told AFP on Tuesday, adding she thought he would put in place large tariffs if elected.

If enacted, these policies will undoubtedly have

a significant impact on US and international trade, rerouting the flow of goods and reshaping international economic ties. But while they may raise some revenues, they will also hit US businesses and consumers hard, according to a recent paper by the Tax Foundation nonprofit. If imposed, Trump's proposed tariff increases would raise taxes on businesses by another \$524 billion annually, shrink GDP by at least 0.8 percent, and reduce employment by close to 700,000 full-time equivalent jobs, the researchers estimated.

"I think it's just sort of a very quick way to shoot the US economy in the foot, if not the leg," said Clausing, a former deputy assistant secretary for Tax Analysis in the US Treasury Department during the Biden Administration.

Alongside his tariff plans, Trump has also indicated that he would like "at least" a say over interest rates—which are currently set by the independent US central bank—and suggested he would look to deport millions of undocumented workers. Economists at PIIE recently estimated that the combined effect of Trump's plans for higher tariffs, mass deportation of undocumented workers, and greater control over Fed policy would slash US economic output by between 2.8 and 9.7 percent in real terms by the end of his term in 2028. Employment would also be hit, according to PIIE's analysis, and inflation could reignite, peaking at 9.3 percent in 2026 in a worst-case scenario—above the four-decade high it reached in 2022.

The nonpartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget (CRFB) estimates that Trump's economic agenda could increase the national debt by as much as \$15 trillion over a decade—almost twice as much as Kamala Harris's plans would have done in a

Whether in the mood for a hearty combo meal, a refreshing smoothie, or a comforting soup, LuLu Kitchen has it covered. The extensive menu includes breakfast, lunch, dinner, and everything in-between, from appetizers to satisfying main dishes, specialty sandwiches, vibrant salads, and indulgent desserts. Under the culinary expertise of Chef Deepraj Singh, LuLu Kitchen introduces signature dishes that promise an authentic experience. Try the velvety Dal Makhani, the rich Chicken Tikka Masala, the flavorful Kadai Paneer, the mouthwatering biryanis, and the aromatic tikkas & kebabs. Chef Singh, a respected member of the World Association of Chefs Societies and Emirates culinary guild brings his passion for flavor to every dish. LuLu Kitchen also offers a variety of combo meals and special deals, making it even easier to explore a range of flavors without leaving home. Now available on Deliveroo Kuwait, LuLu Kitchen invites you to discover its expansive menu and elevate your dining experience with every order.

## LuLu Kitchen: Signature dishes by Deepraj Singh now on Deliveroo

KUWAIT: LuLu Hypermarket, the regional leader in retailing, has delved into the culinary world through their LuLu Kitchen. The concept launched by the retailer aims to provide food lovers in Kuwait with an eclectic menu of freshly prepared items delivered right to their doorstep through the food delivery services of Deliveroo. LuLu Kitchen offers a diverse menu of global flavors that spans Arabic, Indian, Oriental, and Continental cuisines. With this exciting launch, the retail giant brings the world's flavors directly to customers' doors, making ordering from LuLu Kitchen a perfect option for parties and home gatherings, or for those times when you feel the need for a change in your daily cooking routine.

## Strong rebound in employment hoists US services PMI

WASHINGTON: The US services sector accelerated to a more than two-year high in October as employment rebounded strongly, suggesting that a near stall in job growth last month was an aberration. The surprise strength in the vast services sector reported by the Institute for Supply Management (ISM) on Tuesday indicated that the economy retained most of its momentum early in the fourth quarter and was in solid shape as Americans headed to the polls to pick the next president.

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump is locked in a tight race for the White House with Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris. Comments from respondents in the ISM were generally upbeat and included, "business is booming, nothing slowing down," and "commodity pricing is stabilizing as inflation concerns ease." "This sets the stage for another quarter of solid economic growth to round out 2024 to further push off concerns about the state of the economy," said Ben Ayers, senior economist at Nationwide.

The ISM's nonmanufacturing purchasing managers index (PMI) jumped to 56.0 last month, the highest reading since July 2022, from 54.9 in September. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast the services PMI declining to 53.8. A PMI reading above 50 indicates growth in the services sector, which accounts for more than two-thirds of the economy. The ISM views PMI readings above 49 over time as generally indicating an expansion of the overall economy.

Fourteen services industries reported growth, including retail trade, information, transportation and warehousing as well as construction, mining, and fi-

nance and insurance. Other services, and management of companies and support services, were the only two categories reporting a contraction.

Construction companies used the words "good" and "building backlog" to describe business. Professional, scientific and technical services firms said "business is in a steady state, with everyone holding an even keel awaiting US election results." But some healthcare and social assistance companies reported that Hurricane Helene, which devastated large parts of the Southeast, had "seriously damaged an IV production plant in North Carolina" and they were "now starting to experience shortages." Wholesale traders

and that should give momentum to trade in the fourth quarter. Due to an ongoing digital transition at Canada Border Services Agency Assessment and Revenue Management, from where Statscan gets most of its trade data, results for September include greater use of estimation.

Analysts polled by Reuters had predicted a deficit of C\$800 million and Statscan revised sharply the August trade deficit to C\$1.47 billion from C\$1.1 billion. The biggest hit to exports, which fell by 0.1 percent, came from a 5.4 percent drop in shipments of metal and non-metallic mineral products, led by a 15.4 percent slump in the unwrought gold category. Total exported goods prices dropped 1.5 percent, Statscan said. "So these were really pricing stories both when you look at metals and energy," Stuart Bergman, chief economist at Export Development Canada. "There is some cause for optimism in some of those details," he said.

Inbound shipments declined 0.4 percent in September but were largely flat in volume terms. Imports of metal and non-metallic mineral products decreased 12.7 percent and contributed the most to



NEW YORK: Traders work on the New York Stock Exchange in this file photo.

worst-case scenario. A significant chunk of the additional costs come from Trump's proposals to extend his tax cuts from 2017, which are set to expire next year. But extending the Trump tax cuts would rely on Congressional support, where overall control of the House remains uncertain. Democrats have indicated that there are many parts of these plans they would not want to renew if they win back the House.

Overall, many of Trump's policies could end up

hurting some of the poorest in society, Margot Crandall-Hollick, principal research associate at the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center, told AFP.

"I think a Trump presidency would probably provide pretty limited, if any, benefits for low income folks," she said. "And if you add the tariffs, which are going to increase the cost of goods that everyday people use, it would be a net negative for most low and moderate income folks," she added. — AFP



Chef Deepraj Singh

## India recalls Flipkart antitrust probe report after Xiaomi appeal

NEW DELHI: India's antitrust body has recalled its investigation report into competition law breaches by e-commerce giant Walmart's Flipkart, a document shows, the second such move after a report on Apple was revoked in August.

China's Xiaomi had complained to the Competition Commission of India (CCI) that the report - which found Flipkart, some of its sellers, and smartphone players in violation of competition laws - contained commercial secrets that should have been redacted, Reuters reported in September.

According to two sources and an internal CCI document dated Oct 1 seen by Reuters on Tuesday, the watchdog has told recipients of the Flipkart report to destroy it and give an undertaking to that effect to avoid further distribution. Xiaomi argued the report contained its model-wise sales, which are sensitive information. The CCI document noted some data and information was "inadvertently" included in the report and provided the parties involved with a new report, though it did not spell out what changes it was making. Xiaomi declined to comment, while the CCI and Flipkart did not respond to Reuters' queries. In August, the CCI recalled an antitrust report on Apple after the company complained commercial secrets were disclosed to some of the parties involved.

In a lengthy investigation that started in 2020, the CCI found Flipkart, as well as e-commerce rival Amazon, gave preference to select sellers and prioritized certain listings, and also colluded with companies like Xiaomi, Samsung and Vivo to launch phones exclusively on their websites. Much of the investigation process, however, remains on hold after Vivo and some online sellers of the two e-commerce companies challenged their inclusion in the probe and obtained court injunctions. — Reuters

## Republican lawmaker demands crackdown on China's SMIC

WASHINGTON: A top Republican lawmaker has accused the Biden administration of not doing enough to prevent China's Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corp (SMIC) from strengthening the country's chipmaking industry and military-industrial complex.

Michael McCaul, chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, urged US Commerce Department agents to visit SMIC's facilities and check whether the company is illegally producing chips for Huawei, the sanctioned telecommunications company seen as a national champion within China's chip industry.

In a Nov 4 letter seen by Reuters, McCaul described what he called "growing bipartisan frustration" that the Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) had not acted on reports of Huawei's efforts to evade US export controls. "There is growing evidence that SMIC is violating US export control laws," McCaul wrote to BIS under secretary Alan Estevez. If China is not willing to immediately agree to a "comprehensive audit of all SMIC facilities and its books," McCaul said, "BIS should pause all existing licenses for SMIC."

McCaul said SMIC's breakthroughs - including its advanced chip in a Huawei smartphone, and expected production of over a million AI processors for Huawei - are a "smoking gun" for a violation and could help China surpass the US in artificial intelligence. The Commerce Department said it had received McCaul's letter and would respond through "appropriate channels." Last week, in response to similar criticism, it said that no Commerce Department had been tougher on China. SMIC did not immediately respond to requests for comment, nor did Huawei. — Reuters



POTTERVILLE, US: Workers hang a 'JOBS! JOBS! JOBS!' banner on the stage for president-elect Donald Trump. — AFP

## Canada exports drop by 0.1% as prices plunge

OTTAWA: Canada posted a higher than expected trade deficit of C\$1.26 billion (\$908 million) in September mainly on account of lower prices which pulled down the value of exports but overall volumes of outbound shipments rose, data showed on Tuesday. The September data was its seventh straight monthly trade deficit, primarily led by a fall in value of lower exports to major trading countries other than its biggest trading partner the United States, Statistics Canada said.

Most of the decline in exports was due to lower prices of crude oil and other commodities which cumulatively dropped by 1.5 percent. In volume terms exports were up 1.4 percent. Economists said the data showed exports were strong in Septem-

ber and that should give momentum to trade in the fourth quarter. Due to an ongoing digital transition at Canada Border Services Agency Assessment and Revenue Management, from where Statscan gets most of its trade data, results for September include greater use of estimation.

Analysts polled by Reuters had predicted a deficit of C\$800 million and Statscan revised sharply the August trade deficit to C\$1.47 billion from C\$1.1 billion. The biggest hit to exports, which fell by 0.1 percent, came from a 5.4 percent drop in shipments of metal and non-metallic mineral products, led by a 15.4 percent slump in the unwrought gold category. Total exported goods prices dropped 1.5 percent, Statscan said. "So these were really pricing stories both when you look at metals and energy," Stuart Bergman, chief economist at Export Development Canada. "There is some cause for optimism in some of those details," he said.

Inbound shipments declined 0.4 percent in September but were largely flat in volume terms. Imports of metal and non-metallic mineral products decreased 12.7 percent and contributed the most to

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2024



This photo shows Yang Chi'ao (second left) exercising at a weight loss camp in Chengdu, in China's southwestern Sichuan province. — AFP photos



Yang Chi'ao (second left) exercising at a weight loss camp in Chengdu.



Yang Chi'ao (right) riding a cart at a park as part of a training at a weight loss camp in Chengdu.



Yang Chi'ao displaying one of her older pictures before she started losing weight in Chengdu.



Yang Chi'ao having lunch at a weight loss camp in Chengdu.



Yang Chi'ao (right) taking part in a 10km walking exercise as part of a training at a weight loss camp in Chengdu.

## CHINESE SLIMMERS TRIM DOWN AT WEIGHT-LOSS CAMPS

Yang Chi'ao takes her place next to gym equipment and waits to be called by an instructor at a weight-loss camp in China, where over half of adults are overweight. Boasting strict daily exercise regimens, mandatory trips to the scale and rigid surveillance to guard against snacking, the facilities have popped up across China as it grapples with a growing obesity crisis. They have also sparked controversy—last year an influencer died while attending a facility in northern China as part of efforts to shed more than 100 kilograms, local media said.

Yang, 23, quit her teaching job earlier this year and signed up for a weight-loss camp on the outskirts of southwestern megacity Chengdu, and since then has followed a rigorous regime of diet and exercise. She was one of around 60 slimmers who turned out early to train, a large poster looming overhead extolling their goal: "Become thin! Become beautiful! Become refined!" Among the activities at the Chengdu camp are long brisk walks—with instructors keeping an eye on participants tempted to stop for snacks at roadside carts.

"There will definitely be people who secretly want to buy food," Yang told AFP, walking with a steady stride. "I've had the idea but never succeeded because the coaches keep following me." Yang said she had lost nearly 30 kilograms (66 pounds) since arriving in July at 114 kg. And while some fellow participants struggled with the 10-kilometre hike, she said her "stamina has probably improved". "I might have felt very tired a month or two earlier," she said.

Yang's parents pay around 3,000 yuan (\$421) a month for her stay at the camp, where she shares a room with three others. She lives nearby but says



Yang Chi'ao (center) exercising at a weight loss camp in Chengdu.

that participants are not allowed to leave from Monday to Saturday—unless under "special circumstances". "No one sneaks out because there is surveillance everywhere, and if you get caught, you'll be punished," she said, with disciplinary measures including running for five kilometers or doing burpees.

### Obesity challenge

The country has ranked obesity the sixth leading risk factor for death and disability and ramped up efforts to tackle the issue. Beijing's National Health Commission has said that "the prevalence of overweight and obese people in China has continued to rise". That has sparked a fitness craze—exemplified by "YOLO", a film about an overweight woman who takes up boxing to regain her self-esteem, that topped China's box office during Lunar New Year this year.

Jia Ling, who directed the film and played the leading role, reportedly lost over 50 kilograms during filming, with

her physical transformation going viral.

This upward trend may be linked to increased disposable income and higher spending on food, often high in calories and rich in oil, said Charles Poon, medical director at Raffles Hospital Beijing. Additionally, many people are facing more demanding work environments. "Jobs are getting more complicated... and so a lot of stress is involved," said Poon, adding that this could lead to hormonal imbalance and contribute to obesity. In June, China launched a three-year campaign to address obesity, recommending actions such as reducing foods high in salt, sugar and fat in school canteens and encouraging employers to support staff fitness.

The country will also ensure that primary and middle school students engage in at least two hours of physical activities a day. For camps like the one in Chengdu, experts warn of the risks. Pan Wang, an associate professor in Chinese and Asian studies at

the University of New South Wales in Australia, said the government should monitor and restrict workouts and diets which could be potentially dangerous. "The beauty industry is booming... (and) the concept of 'thinness' has translated into a kind of social capital," Wang said. "Businesses like weight-loss camps can profit from it."

### 'It takes time'

At another camp activity, music blared from speakers as participants threw punches and jabbed in a boxing routine, their faces dripping with sweat. Trainer Chen Hang shouted instructions from a stage while demonstrating the moves. "The reason they came to a weight loss training camp is because they can't control their diet outside... and they can't get themselves moving," Chen told AFP after the workout. The number of people coming to the facility was "continuously increasing," he added.

Yang posts daily videos on Chinese social media apps Douyin and Xiaohongshu—China's equivalent of TikTok and Instagram—which she said helps keep her accountable. "If I don't get up every day to shoot, I will have no content to post, and everyone will know I'm slacking off," said Yang, who plans to stay in the camp until at least the end of March next year. One of her roommates, Zhao Yuyang, discovered her videos online and was inspired to join the camp. The 30-year-old has lost more than five kilograms in the past month, but is in no rush to shed more weight. "You can't become a fat man in one bite, so losing weight has to be done slowly," Zhao told AFP during an evening gym session. "It takes time."—AFP



People exercising at a weight loss camp in Chengdu.



Yang Chi'ao (left) exercising at a weight loss camp in Chengdu.

## Asterix published in rare Nordic dialect translation

One of the comic book adventures of Asterix has been translated into a rare Swedish dialect -- spoken only by a few thousand in Western Finland -- the project director told AFP. Originally published in 1975, Asterix and the Great Crossing is as of this week available in gronspraatsi as part of efforts to keep the dialect alive. Set in the Roman Empire in 50 BC, 40 albums of Asterix comics -- telling stories of a small village resisting Roman rule -- have been published since 1959 when it was created by author Rene Goscinny and

illustrator Albert Uderzo. While the first Asterix album was translated into Swedish in 1970, project director John Hagnas told AFP that the gronspraatsi-edition is "the first official translation into a Swedish dialect in the Nordics". Finland has two national languages, Finnish and Swedish.

Most of the approximately 5.5 million inhabitants speak Finnish as their mother tongue, while Swedish is spoken as a first language by just over five percent of the population. Swedish-speaking Finns, most of whom live in the southern

and western coastal regions of the country, speak several old local dialects -- some of them unintelligible even to other Swedish speakers in Finland due to their uniqueness. "We want to strengthen the self-esteem of the people who still speak the dialect", Hagnas added.

A long-time comic enthusiast and collector, in 2018 he came up with the idea to translate the Asterix-album into the Swedish dialect spoken in his hometown of Kokkola in Western Finland. Called "Reisa yvi Atlanten," the album was translated by local experts Bror

Hagstrom and Ragny Mutka to help preserve the local dialect, spoken by only an estimated 7,000 persons. "We have added our own colorful words and expressions to the album, but the storyline follows the original," Hagnas said. A hit with Finns, the Asterix adventures have already been translated into four smaller Finnish dialects -- Karelian, Rauma, Savo and Stadi -- in addition to standard Finnish. Worldwide, the albums have been translated into more than 100 languages and dialects. —AFP



Wax figures of French famous comic strip characters Asterix (right) and Obelix (left) are pictured for their premiere at the Musee Grévin wax museum in Paris on October 22, 2024. — AFP

# EXPLORING THE BEAUTY OF TRENDY KOREAN HAIR STYLES AND MAKEUP

**K**oreans have made a huge impact on the beauty and cosmetics industry through K-pop and K-drama, from collecting people's affection to setting modern trends with their Makeup and Hairstyles. From wet and moist bright skin to bright sparkly eyes, Korean makeup trends have captured the hearts of millions.

### Korean hairstyle and makeup trends in 2024

Beauty salons around the world try to recreate Korean looks and cosmetics, we at Dashe Beauty specialize in Korean hairstyles and makeup to make you feel like your favorite K-pop celebrity. From Won Jin-ah's look in *Nal Nokyeojoo* to Seol In-Ah's "Jin Young Seo" look in *"Business Proposal"*, here we have the top 5 trendy Korean hairstyles and makeup that may suit you too.



**Short tassel cut with side bangs**  
This beautiful hairstyle featured by Park Eun Bin looks absolutely stunning and this bang haircut style looks great on persons with straight or slightly wavy hair. The delicate fringe with short side bangs adds bold character and frames your face without becoming overly thick. At first, many Korean actors and stars go for this incredibly clean, elegant style, but it may seem like a dramatic cut if you've never had your hair this short.



**Short hush cut brown hair**  
The K-drama star everyone is obsessing over, Shin Se Kyung was rocking a short hush cut in the *Bride of the Water God*, the look brought a sense of elegance to the character. It's a layered cut with two unique sections: the top portion includes layers starting about the neck, while the lower section is thinner and longer and falls just over the shoulder.



**Sleek long layered cut**  
Long hair will always give you a wife vibe, This Layered Cut long hair look by Seohyun gives you a youthful, elegant, innocent appeal. It is a medium-length haircut with smoother and longer layers that gracefully frame the face and make people feel younger. Full-length hair, particularly if dressed with layers, gives off an effortlessly stylish and feminine look. It is most known for Korean actresses and K-pop artists.

**Tips for a flawless Korean make-up look**  
These days, everyone opts for skin care-centric techniques and softer, more radiant looks with makeup, thanks to the widespread adoption of Korean cosmetics trends. Here's how to transform your eyes and lips into looking like your favorite K-drama star.

**Korean K-drama inspired gradient lips**  
Those on-screen perfectly gradient lips they show in the series have become more well-known for the gradient pink and plumper look. To create a gradient lip:



1. Select a lip tint or liquid liner in the color of your choice.
2. Use a lip cleanser and an unpigmented lip balm to prepare your lips.
3. Use 2 lipsticks, one lighter color and one darker and to prevent color from seeping into the outside regions of your lips, apply a liberal amount of lip tint to the inner center of your lower lip and gently push it with the upper lip.
4. To produce a gradient appearance, softly spread the colors outward and mix them lightly with your fingertips or a small lip brush.

**Korean Aegyo Sal makeup: Secret to 'puffy eyes'**  
Because of the famous Aegyo Sal makeup style, which welcomes under-eye bags, Korean eye makeup appears quite different from other types. Use eye cream, primer, concealer, and a light-colored eyeshadow to hydrate the area under your eyes before applying any eyeshadow color to get this look. Right now, between the waterline and eyeshadow, apply highlighter or illuminating tones, and then use the same shade for both the eyeliner and the eyeshadow.



**Korean hairstyle and makeup trends**  
Korean beauty trends are known for their subtle approach to highlighting natural beauty and promoting skincare. Influenced by K-pop and K-drama, Korean makeup trends and hairstyles have gained attention worldwide in beauty salons and in the hearts of the young generation. Get more inspiration by visiting our website <https://dashebeauty.com> or follow up on our beauty blog. — Dashe Beauty Kuwait.



## Korean Embassy, Kuwait University and King Sejong Institute host Korean calligraphy class

**T**he "Sejong Culture Academy - Korean Language Calligraphy Class" took place on November 4th at Kuwait University (KU) and on November 5th at the Korean Embassy in Kuwait. Organized by the Korean Embassy, KU, and the King Sejong Institute Foundation (KSIF), this cultural program was

designed to offer professional Korean courses to the people of Kuwait. Korean calligraphy expert Min-Yong Park traveled from Korea to conduct the workshops, engaging both university students and the public with an interest in Korean language and culture. Ambassador Chong-Suk Park of

the Republic of Korea to Kuwait gave a congratulatory speech, highlighting calligraphy as a cultural bridge between Arabic and Korean languages. He expressed hope that participants would deepen their interest in Korean culture through this experience. Participants, ranging in age from

teens to adults, expressed their appreciation for the course. Enthusiastic fans of Korean culture, they shared how the workshop provided them with new insights into the Korean language, thanks to the dedicated efforts of the Korean Embassy, KU, and KSIF.





# CHANEL'S CRUISE 2024-2025 SHOW LANDS IN HONG KONG WITH URBAN ELEGANCE

By Sahar Moussa

**C**hanel brought its iconic Cruise 2024-2025 collection to Hong Kong, creating a fresh and dynamic contrast to the original show held in the French port city of Marseille last May. This time, the Hong Kong Design Institute, an architectural gem by the French studio Coldefy, served as the venue. Located in the repurposed industrial district of Tseung Kwan O, the site offered a dramatic urban backdrop that amplified Chanel's timeless elegance.

The star-studded event drew in a glittering array of celebrities, including Chanel ambassadors Penélope Cruz and Whitney Peak, who added a touch of Hollywood glamor to the occasion. The choice to restage the show in Hong Kong – a city known for its unique blend of tradition and modernity – allowed the collection's enduring appeal to shine in a new cultural context, proving Chanel's de-

signs effortlessly bridge continents and aesthetics.

Though the collection itself remained true to the Marseille debut, it seemed reinvigorated by the Hong Kong atmosphere. To complement the show, Chanel presented *Modern Flirt*, a captivating short film directed by Audrey Diwan. Starring Hong Kong actress Angela Yuen and French actor Benjamin Voisin, the film told a story of serendipity and allure as two strangers crossed paths in the city's neon-lit streets.

Chanel's signature tweed took on a playful edge with pastel greens, yellows, and pinks, while touches of seaside nostalgia – seashells, whimsical fish motifs, and breezy white lace – linked the Mediterranean spirit of Marseille with the maritime vibes of Hong Kong. The result was a collection that felt fresh, sophisticated, and entirely Chanel, celebrating both the city's energy and the label's storied heritage.



Models present creations by Chanel during the Chanel Cruise 2024/25 fashion show at the Hong Kong Design Institute in Hong Kong on November 5, 2024. — AFP photos



## Sports

# Talent, toil and pleasing Kim bring North Korea women's football glory

## N Korea's women footballers are 'very skillful and known for their stamina'

SEOUL: Talent, discipline and a desire to please leader Kim Jong Un have helped propel North Korea's youth footballers to two Women's World Cup crowns in a matter of weeks, experts say. Nuclear-armed but impoverished, North Korea is more often in the news for sanctions-busting ballistic missile launches.

But after winning the under-17 Women's World Cup on Sunday, state media proclaimed that the country's teenage players were "the attention of football experts, fans and spectators across the world". The U17 triumph came after North Korea — largely closed off to the outside world — also lifted the Women's World Cup at under-20 level in September.

"I want to first share this joyous news with our beloved father and leader Kim Jong Un," under-17 goalkeeper Park Ju Gyong said. "I am so happy and overwhelmed that I can't help but cry." Giving thanks to the Kim family is a tradition for North Korean athletes after notable victories.

Lee Sang-yoon, a former player for the South Korean men's team, said that North Korea's women footballers are "very skillful and known for their stamina". He told AFP that the "political system" also comes into it — in that "they strictly adhere to predetermined play patterns in terms of formation and tactics". Irupe Dorado, part of the Spain under-17 team beaten on penalties in the final, called the North Koreans "a very intense team". "They don't let you breathe," she told the FIFA website.

### Why women?

Across the board, North Korean women appear to outperform men at sport. At the Hangzhou Asian Games in 2023, out of a total of 11 gold medals, 10 were won by women athletes. When the government picks North Korea's top 10 athletes of the year, it is often mostly women.

"While North Korean society is extremely patriarchal in many ways, the state is more than willing to

elevate female athletes to the same — and in some cases higher — level as their male counterparts," Shreyas Reddy, a North Korean analyst at the website NK News, told AFP.

The logic behind it is simple. "It represents a greater chance of success," he said. North Korea's men have been to the World Cup twice, famously reaching the quarter-finals in England in 1966. They are currently ranked 111 in the world.

Their female counterparts have been to the Women's World Cup four times, getting to the quarter-finals in 2007. They are ranked ninth. It has changed in recent years, with European nations especially investing in women's football, but for decades North Korea seized their chance in the female game when other countries weren't so interested, experts say.

The two recent World Cup victories were not one-offs. North Korea have won each tournament a record three times, although that is yet to translate into success when it comes to the biggest prize of all, the Women's World Cup.

Former Premier League striker Shaun Goater was a member of FIFA's technical study group at the under-17 tournament and watched every North Korea match. "They are a really organized, fit, athletic team with a high level of technical ability and game understanding," he said.

Winger Jon Il Chong walked off with the Golden Ball award for best player at the competition. Another possible star of the future is countrywoman Choe Il Son. She was named the best player and was top-scorer at the under-20 World Cup.

### 'Football fan Kim'

North Korean defector Cho Mi-young says that the state plucks the best budding footballers from primary schools across the country and brings them to the capital Pyongyang. "As it's one of the few opportunities for North Korea to gain positive attention in the international community, the country is



SANTO DOMINGO: (FILES) North Korea's players celebrate with the trophy after winning the FIFA U-17 women's football World Cup 2024 final match between North Korea and Spain at the Olimpico Felix Sanchez Stadium in Santo Domingo on November 3, 2024. — AFP

dedicating significant resources to developing talented athletes," Cho told Radio Free Asia.

The players undergo years of intense training, but Cho said "the strong mentality and tenacity of North Korean women might have been the biggest factor in their victory". "Their genuine belief in the need to please their leader" is another major motivation, said Cho.

Kim is said to have a passion for football and a "Pyongyang International Football School" opened

two years into his rule. Heo Jeong-pil, a professor of North Korean studies at Dongguk University in Seoul, said Kim had lent his "interest and support" to women's football.

Heo put the teams' successes down to "their powerful physical conditioning combined with solid resolve. This drive is particularly motivated by an intense desire to enhance national prestige, a motivation that is notably stronger compared to other countries." — AFP



MONTEVIDEO: (L to R) Uruguayan former tennis player Marcelo Filippini, Uruguay Open Director Diego Perez, and former footballer and professional tennis player Diego Forlan pose for a picture during a press conference of the Uruguay Open ATP Challenger Tour. — AFP

## 'Like a little boy': Uruguay's Forlan on his tennis pro debut

MONTEVIDEO: Former Manchester United and Atletico Madrid striker Diego Forlan said Tuesday that he felt "like a little boy" after swapping his football boots for a tennis racket at the age of 45. Uruguayan forward Forlan was speaking at the launch of the Uruguay Open, where he will make his professional tennis debut next week.

"I enjoy it (tennis) like a little boy and having the privilege of playing a professional tournament is a luxury," Forlan said at the Carrasco Lawn Tennis Club in Montevideo which will host the tournament from November 10 to 17.

Forlan, who retired from the Uruguayan national team in 2015 and from club football in 2019, will play doubles with Argentina's Federico Coria, the 32-year-old brother of Argentina's Davis Cup captain, Guillermo Coria.

The winner of the Golden Ball for best player at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, who played tennis before becoming a professional footballer, has just made his debut in the over-40 circuit of the International Tennis Federation.

He said he was excited to compete on the courts where he played as a child. "It's a gift, so I don't have to prove anything to anyone. I'm still a former football player enjoying a sport that I played from a very young age," he said. He cited among his tennis heroes Uruguay's Diego Perez, Marcelo Filippini and Pablo Cuevas but also expressed admiration for Spanish legend Rafael Nadal, whom he described as a "fighter".

The Uruguay Open, part of the ATP's second-tier Challenger Tour, is the country's biggest men's professional tennis tournament. Besides Coria, it will also feature fellow top-100 players Francisco Comesaña and Thiago Monteiro.

"I try to prepare in the best possible way, but I am clear about the fact that I am not at the level of professional players," said Forlan. "First there is a significant age difference, even though I am in good condition physically." He added that he knew "it will not be easy at all and that those who come here come to win".

"I do that in every sport, all the more so at professional level," he said, promising to do his best "and have a good time". Over the course of his club career Forlan was twice the Spanish La Liga's top scorer. He also won the Premier League with Man United in 2003, the Europa League with Atletico seven years later and helped Uruguay win the 2011 Copa America for a record 15th time.

Forlan said that while he had "greatly enjoyed" his time on the pitch he played "much more tennis" now. "The truth is that I would never have imagined today that I would have the opportunity to play tennis at a professional level, not even close," he said. — AFP

## Malen's late strike lifts Dortmund past Sturm Graz

DORTMUND: Donyell Malen came off the bench and scored the only goal as Borussia Dortmund ground out a 1-0 home win over Sturm Graz in the Champions League on Tuesday. A visibly weary Dortmund, nursing a mounting injury list, were missing eight regular starters and had only one senior professional, Malen, on the bench.

Malen struck five minutes from time after stealing possession as Graz played out from the back, linking up with Serhou Guirassy to secure Dortmund their third win from four Champions League games. "They're a hard team to play against but at the end we got our reward," Dortmund coach Nuri Sahin told DAZN.

"Hats off to the lads, they didn't stop running. What they did isn't normal," he added. "I'm happy for Donnie (Malen). I told him we needed intensity from the bench and he brought that today." Despite playing a week after going to extra time in a German Cup loss at Wolfsburg and three days since a gritty home victory over RB Leipzig, Sahin was forced into naming an unchanged XI.

Last season's Champions League runners-up dominated possession but were unable to take advantage of the difference in class with their Austrian opponents. Graz's 2.06-metre tall goalkeeper Kjell Scherpen impressed, particularly in the first half as he saved shots from Marcel Sabitzer and Maximilian Beier.

With just a minute remaining in the first



DORTMUND: Dortmund's Guinean forward #09 Serhou Guirassy (C) and Sturm Graz's Austrian defender #47 Emanuel Aiwu vie for the ball during the UEFA Champions League football match BVB Borussia Dortmund vs SK Sturm Graz in Dortmund. — AFP

half and Scherpen beaten, Graz captain Otar Kiteishvili saved a certain goal by clearing a Beier shot off the line. The hosts continued to camp out near the Graz penalty box but lost their zip as the game went on, with Sahin bringing Malen from the bench.

Getting within inches of a tap-in just moments after coming on, the Dutchman's freshness was noticeable and he would prove the difference, putting

Dortmund ahead in the closing minutes. "We didn't let anything through the whole game, had many chances and scored a very late goal at the end," said Dortmund defender Nico Schlotterbeck.

"It doesn't matter to me how we get the three points — we finally kept a clean sheet, I'm very pleased." Dortmund are fourth in the 36-team Champions League table, while Graz are still without a point after four matches. — AFP

## T20 WCup finalists India and South Africa meet again

DURBAN: South Africa start a four-match Twenty20 international series against India at Kingsmead on Friday, just over four months after the visitors beat them in the T20 World Cup final.

Both squads show significant changes from the sides that played in Barbados, where India lifted the trophy with a seven-run win. South Africa will be missing their three most successful bowlers from the World Cup campaign — fast bowlers Kagiso Rabada and Anrich Nortje and left-arm spinner Tabraiz Shamsi, as well as batsman-wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock.

With most of India's leading players preparing for a Test series in Australia, there are only four survivors from the World Cup-winning team — captain Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel and Arshdeep Singh.

South African coach Rob Walter acknowledged the reality of having to prepare a team at a time of congested and often conflicting schedules. "The worlds of short-form cricket, leagues and Test matches are starting to encroach on each other. We're seeing that with other sides around the world having to field two different squads.

"We want to be in the same position and know that we're strong enough to win on both fronts. Cricket is in a tenuous position and it's going to take some seriously strong manage-

ment to make sure that we look after our players first and foremost so that when they do play for South Africa, they're there to deliver their best performances."

Walter is at least able to call on in-demand franchise stars such as David Miller, Heinrich Klaasen, Marco Jansen and Keshav Maharaj, which was not the case when South Africa were beaten in their most recent T20 international against Ireland in Abu Dhabi in September.

The four matches were originally due to be played on India's tour of South Africa in 2021/22 but were postponed because of COVID restrictions. The tour will provide a financial bonanza for Cricket South Africa because of revenues from Indian television.

It will also provide fringe players in the Indian squad, such as uncapped Ramandeep Singh, Vijaykumar Vyshak and Yash Dayal, a chance to make an impact ahead of the scheduled Indian Premier League player auction in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on November 24-25.

### Squads:

**South Africa:** Aiden Markram (captain), Otneil Baartman, Gerald Coetzee, Donovan Ferreira, Reeza Hendricks, Marco Jansen, Heinrich Klaasen (wk), Patrick Kruger, Keshav Maharaj, David Miller, Mithali Mpongwana, Nqaba Peter, Ryan Rickelton (wk), Andile Simelane, Lutho Sipamla (third and fourth matches only) and Tristan Stubbs.

**India:** Suryakumar Yadav (captain), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (wk), Rinku Singh, Tilak Varma, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Ramandeep Singh, Varun Chakaravathy, Ravi Bishnoi, Arshdeep Singh, Vijaykumar Vyshak, Avesh Khan, Yash Dayal. — AFP

## Warner back as cricket captain after ban lifted

SYDNEY: David Warner was named captain of Big Bash League team Sydney Thunder on Wednesday, a fortnight after having his lifetime ban on any leadership role in Australian cricket lifted. Warner was cast as the main villain in the so-called "Sandpapergate" scandal in the Cape Town Test of 2018.

The opening batsman, who this year retired from international cricket, conspired with Australia's then-skipper Steve Smith and Cameron Bancroft to tamper with the surface of the ball using sandpaper.

He was suspended from playing for a year and banned from any leadership role for life. A Cricket Australia panel last month decided that Warner met the criteria to have the ban lifted immediately, noting his "respectful and contrite tone". "David Warner has officially been announced as Sydney Thunder captain," said a club statement Wednesday.

Thunder will begin their season in the Twenty20 BBL against Adelaide Strikers in Canberra on December 17. "Captaining the Thunder again this season means a lot to me," said the 38-year-old Warner. "I was part of the team from the start and now to be back with that 'C' next to my name feels fantastic.

"I'm looking forward to leading from the front and sharing my experience with the young talent coming through." Sydney Thunder general manager Trent Copeland said: "This is a huge moment for David and for our club. It's not only about his career. It's about the legacy he's creating, especially for his family and the next generation of players. For the fans in western Sydney who've long recognized David as a Thunder legend, it's a special moment to now see him as their captain." — AFP

Sports

# Celtic inflict more Champions League pain on Leipzig

‘Everyone has to look in the mirror and ask themselves if that was enough’

**GLASGOW:** Nicolas-Gerrit Kuhn scored twice as Celtic came from behind to beat RB Leipzig 3-1 on Tuesday and leave the German club still without a point in the Champions League.

The visitors opened the scoring in the 23rd minute through Christoph Baumgartner, but Kuhn curled home a fine equalizer for Celtic before netting again before half-time. Reo Hatate gave Celtic some breathing space as Brendan Rodgers' side moved onto seven points after four games, boosting their hopes of reaching the knock-out phase for the first time since 2013.

“If you told us after the Dortmund game we'd have four points from the next two games, I don't think too many people would have said we would have done that,” said Celtic manager Rodgers, whose side were thrashed 7-1 by Borussia Dortmund in their second match.

“It's a great next step and gives us great encouragement to go and make the play-off stage, but there is still so much to do,” Leipzig, who suffered their first Bundesliga defeat of the season at Borussia Dortmund at the weekend, are one of six teams still yet to get off the mark in the Champions League this season.

“Something was missing, you have to be honest about that,” Baumgartner told DAZN. “Everyone has to look in the mirror and ask themselves if that was enough. Because we were too sloppy, too in-

accurate in our passing game and made too many easy mistakes.”

Leipzig struck first for the third time in the competition as Baumgartner stooped to nod home after Kevin Kampl's corner was inadvertently flicked on by Celtic defender Cameron Carter-Vickers. Willi Orban almost doubled Leipzig's lead shortly afterwards, heading another dangerous set-piece narrowly wide.

But Celtic hit back 10 minutes before half-time as Kuhn jinked inside and bent a wonderful strike in off the far post. Kuhn almost turned creator a few minutes later, playing a magnificent through ball with the outside of his right boot to Daizen Maeda, but the Japanese forward could only blast over with just Leipzig goalkeeper Peter Gulacsi to beat.

The German completed the first-half turnaround himself in the first minute of added time, firing home Greg Taylor's cutback after Maeda completely missed the ball with his attempted shot. Both sides went close early in the second half, with home keeper Kasper Schmeichel denying Benjamin Sesko an equaliser and Gulacsi keeping out Hatate's low strike.

But Hatate did give Celtic a two-goal cushion with 18 minutes remaining, turning the ball home after Gulacsi inexplicably spilled Alistair Johnston's tame cross. The Scottish champions passed up further opportunities to score late on, but were able to celebrate a crucial victory. — AFP



**GLASGOW:** Leipzig's Austrian midfielder #14 Christoph Baumgartner (L) fights for the ball with Celtic's Japanese midfielder #41 Reo Hatate during the UEFA Champions League football match between Celtic and RB Leipzig at Celtic Park stadium, in Glasgow. — AFP

## Amorim's to-do list to lift morale at Man United

**MANCHESTER:** Ruben Amorim is the latest man to step into the Old Trafford hot seat to try and restore Manchester United's former glories.

The former Portugal international will take charge from November 11 after he brings to an end a highly successful spell at Sporting Lisbon. Amorim becomes United's sixth permanent appointment since legendary former boss Alex Ferguson retired in 2013. In the 11 years since, United have failed to even compete to win the Premier League or Champions League.

The Red Devils are off to their worst start in the Premier League era with just 12 points from 10 games to sit 13th. Even in European football's second tier competition, the Red Devils are struggling, without a win in their opening three Europa League ties ahead of the visit of PAOK Thessaloniki on Thursday. AFP Sports looks at the challenges that the 39-year-old faces once he arrives in Manchester. Impose his style.

Two trophies in his two full seasons in charge was not enough to save Erik ten Hag as there was no reason to believe the Dutchman was capable of reversing a shocking run of results. Even when he did score impressive wins over the likes of Barcelona, Liverpool and Manchester City during his time two years in charge, Ten Hag relied on moments of individual brilliance from an expensively assembled squad rather than imposing a clear style of play.

Amorim has earned his ticket to the Premier League after transforming the fortunes of Sporting over the past four years. His brand of attacking and energetic football saw Sporting finally step out of the



**LISBON:** Sporting Lisbon's Portuguese coach Ruben Amorim is celebrated by his players at the end of the UEFA Champions League, league phase day 4 football match between Sporting Lisbon and Manchester City at the Jose Alvalade stadium in Lisbon. — AFP

shadow of Benfica and Porto to win the Portuguese league twice after a 19-year wait.

Amorim's preferred 3-4-3 formation could also suit the players he will have available. But he will have precious little time on the training ground to impose his philosophy as United face a gruelling run of 12 games between November 24 and January 5.

### Awaken the United 'graveyard'

United's fall from grace has come despite continuing to spend colossal sums on transfer fees and wages. Over £600 million (\$778 million) was spent over Ten Hag's five transfer windows alone on new signings but very few have proved value for money.

ance this season, in part to accommodate him.

Mbappe is far from Madrid's only problem, with the defence leaking and the midfield lacking patience and creativity. With Barcelona nine points clear at the top of La Liga and Madrid losing two of their opening Champions League fixtures, Ancelotti is coming under heavy scrutiny and does not seem to have the answers he needs.

“The players have to take a step forward, and I have to with them,” admitted the coach after Madrid's defeat by Milan. “When there's no solidity, you have to have more organization and work together. “I can't say that the players are lazy, but we are not capable of working together efficiently... we can't have this defensive level.”

### 'Underestimated' Kroos

Madrid have let in nine goals in their last three matches, all at home, reflecting Ancelotti's concerns. With captain Dani Carvajal injured, Lucas

David Moyes, Louis van Gaal, Jose Mourinho and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer were also chewed up and spat out by the pressures of managing United since Ferguson's departure. “Every manager that comes to Manchester United, we start to think they're the problem at a certain point,” said former United captain Gary Neville.

“Players bought for £50, £60, £70 million - even though other clubs want these players on the way in and they chose Manchester United - and it ends up being a graveyard for them.” Amorim will have a greater pool of talent to work with than he did at Sporting. Getting the best out of those resources will be the key to his success. — AFP

Vazquez has been filling in at right-back which has weakened the defence.

Eder Militao does not seem fully fit, left-back Ferland Mendy is out of form and holding midfielder Aurelien Tchouameni is struggling badly too. In midfield the retirement of Toni Kroos in the summer has left Madrid lacking poise and timing. The German knew how to control the tempo of a match and glued the team together in a way that Fede Valverde has struggled to replicate.

Former Real Madrid player and coach Jorge Valdano highlighted Kroos' absence as a big issue for Madrid. “There is not much balance in the squad and I think Kroos' departure was underestimated,” he said on Movistar.

“In the middle of the pitch is where the team is not finding balance, and Kroos' presence was a cure, because he gave the team the patience they needed, and his mental speed when it was necessary to accelerate (was useful). — AFP

## Osimhen beginning to make mark for Galatasaray

**PARIS:** Tottenham Hotspur will be bidding to maintain their perfect start in the Europa League this season when they head to the cauldron of Istanbul on Thursday to face a Galatasaray side spearheaded by loan star Victor Osimhen.

The Nigerian moved to the Turkish giants on loan in early September after being frozen out at Napoli, where former Tottenham boss Antonio Conte became coach after the Italian side put up a poor defence of their Serie A title.

Osimhen was the star of Napoli's run to the Scudetto in 2023 and was expected to be sold in the last close season, but there were no takers for a player with a 130 million-euro (\$142m) release clause. Instead he agreed a move to Galatasaray on a season-long loan, at the end of which the Turkish champions do not have an option to sign him permanently.

While waiting to see where Osimhen's future lies next year, for now the 25-year-old can only attempt to enjoy a successful season in Turkey, away from the limelight of Europe's biggest leagues. Galatasaray failed to qualify for the Champions League proper after losing over two legs to Young Boys in August, leaving them instead in the Europa League.

Osimhen has started in home wins against PAOK of Greece and Elfsborg of Sweden, while missing an away draw with RFS of Latvia due to injury. He has not scored in European action, and Galatasaray's leading marksman this season is Mauro Icardi, the former Inter Milan and Paris Saint-Germain striker who has netted six times so far.

Next come Turkish international duo Yunus Akgun and Baris Yilmaz, who both have five goals for Okan Buruk's side. Osimhen has four goals, all of which have come in his last three domestic league appearances, including what proved to be the winner in a home derby against Besiktas on October 28.

The manner in which he celebrated that header, tearing off his trademark protective face mask and running towards the corner flag before punching the air in delight, suggested he is already fully invested in the Galatasaray cause.

Osimhen has also already played in an even bigger fixture, the Istanbul derby against Fenerbahce, who are now coached by Jose Mourinho. The latter is the other big recent arrival in Turkish football, as well as another former Tottenham coach, like Conte.

Mourinho, who came up against Osimhen in Italy when he was in charge at Roma, tried to wind up the Nigerian ahead of their meeting on September 21 by accusing him of diving. “We have a very good relationship but every time I play against him I speak with him because I don't like the way he behaves. He dives too much,” Mourinho reportedly told Turkish media in a television interview. — AFP

## Real heading for crisis with Kroos gone and Mbappe floundering

**MADRID:** Just six months on from their Champions League triumph, Real Madrid are sinking into a state of crisis. Hammered 4-0 by rivals Barcelona in the Clasico at the end of October, Los Blancos slumped to a second consecutive home defeat on Tuesday in Europe, with AC Milan triumphing 3-1 at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Carlo Ancelotti's star-studded side was outclassed in front of their own supporters, as Kylian Mbappe fired blanks once more. The 25-year-old France captain has scored just once in his last six games, which is a worry given the team's lack of bal-

# Classifieds

### Clinics & Hospitals

#### Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381

Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401

#### Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300

### Change of Name

**I, SHAJI VALIYAKATH MANCHERY**, holder of Indian Passport No. U0612070, having permanent address: Shaji P.K Panikkaveetil Kunnayanil House, PO Venmanad, Pavaratty - 680507, Thrissur Dist, Kerala, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as **SHAJI P.K.**

(#6189 - 07/11/2024)

**I, BATTALA BHASKAR** (old name), holder of Indian Passport No. N8641980, having permanent address: Anatharajupeta, Rly Kodur, Andhra Pradesh, India, presently residing in Kuwait, hereby declare that I have changed my name to Bhaskar (as given name) Bellamkonda (as surname) for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name Bellamkonda Bhaskar. I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents.

(#6186 - 05/11/2024)

**I, KOTTAPALLI BASHA**, holder of Indian Passport No. M8395652 having permanent address Door No 1 2 57 B Manasakalyana Mandapam Opp street Chinchouk, Kadapa Dist, Andhra Pradesh, India, residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as (given name) BASHA and (surname) KOTHAPALLI.

(#6188 - 05/11/2024)

**I, ABDUL AHAD**, holder of Indian passport no. W7994224 having permanent address Mathara, Tajpur Manjha Zamania Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh, pin code: 232329, residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as (given name) **ABDUL AHAD** and (surname) **KHAN**.

(#6187 - 05/11/2024)

## Sporting stun Man City in CL as Liverpool, Milan claim fine wins

Diaz hits hat-trick as Liverpool spoil Alonso's return to Anfield



LISBON: Sporting Lisbon's Swedish forward #09 Viktor Gyokeres (R) scores his team's first goal during the UEFA Champions League, league phase day 4 football match between Sporting Lisbon and Manchester City at the Jose Alvalade stadium in Lisbon. — AFP

**PARIS:** Viktor Gyokeres scored a hat-trick as Ruben Amorim's Sporting stunned Manchester City with a 4-1 win in the Champions League on Tuesday, while Liverpool trounced Xabi Alonso's Bayer Leverkusen and AC Milan beat holders Real Madrid in Spain. Sporting stole the show with their performance in Lisbon, but the Portuguese champions had to come from behind after Phil Foden put City ahead early on. Amorim was hoping to sign off from the Champions League in style as Sporting coach before he leaves for Manchester United, and Gyokeres then took center stage.

The Swedish striker equalized seven minutes before half-time, holding off Champions League debutant Jahmai Simpson-Pusey as he ran through to finish. Sporting then went ahead 19 seconds into the second half as Maximiliano Araujo finished off a fine move, and shortly after that Gyokeres converted a penalty following a foul by Josko Gvardiol.

City could have pulled one back, but Erling Haaland hit the bar from the spot. Gyokeres showed Haaland how to do it as he scored his second spot-kick to complete a hat-trick, condemning City to their heaviest losing margin in Europe

since a 3-0 loss to Liverpool in April 2018.

Gyokeres has 23 goals in 17 games in all competitions this season and will surely be the next star to leave Sporting for a bigger club elsewhere following Amorim's departure. "It was written that it had to be like that I think, there is no other explanation," Amorim, at Sporting since 2020, said of a famous victory. "I think everyone who has been here in the last four years deserved this. It was a special night."

### Diaz hat-trick

City have seven points at the halfway stage in the new-look Champions League, while Sporting are second on 10 points, behind only Liverpool, who are the sole team with the maximum 12 points. Luis Diaz scored a hat-trick as the Anfield club secured a statement 4-0 win over Leverkusen on the night Alonso returned to Merseyside, with all the goals coming in the second half.

Diaz put Liverpool ahead just after the hour mark and Cody Gakpo headed in shortly after. Diaz scored again to make it 3-0 and then got his third and his team's fourth in stoppage time, leaving the German

champions on seven points after four outings. "I think it's a good result against a very good team," Gakpo told Amazon Prime. "They played a very good game, but we kept going, trying, creating chances, defending well."

### Real slump again

Madrid suffered their second loss in four games in the competition this season as they went down 3-1 at home to Milan. The Italians, whose tally of seven European Cups is bettered only by Real's 15, went ahead early on through Malick Thiaw, but the hosts soon drew level through a Vinicius Junior penalty.

However, Alvaro Morata put Milan back ahead before the interval against his old club, following in to finish after a Rafael Leao shot was parried. Milan got their third in 73 minutes after great play by Leao set up Tijjani Reijnders to score, and Antonio Ruediger had a late effort disallowed for Real.

"When we are 11 lions on the pitch, it is very difficult for a team to beat us," Morata said at full-time. Monaco are third in the standings with 10 points following a 1-0 victory at Bologna, secured thanks to

captain Thilo Kehrer's late goal.

Dortmund are fourth on nine points after Donyell Malen's 85th-minute goal gave them a 1-0 win at home to Sturm Graz. Dusan Vlahovic's penalty allowed Juventus to come from behind and draw 1-1 at Lille, after Canada's Jonathan David had given the French side the lead.

### Celtic impress

Celtic have seven points after a fine fightback secured a 3-1 win for the Scottish champions against RB Leipzig in Glasgow. Christoph Baumgartner fired Leipzig in front but a brilliant Nicolas Kuehn strike brought Celtic level and he then put them ahead in first-half stoppage time. Reo Hatate got their third.

PSV Eindhoven crushed Girona 4-0, with Ryan Flamingo and Malik Tillman netting in the first half. Arnau Martinez was sent off for Girona before Johan Bakayoko made it 3-0 and Ladislav Krejci scored an own goal. Dinamo Zagreb came back to win 4-1 at Slovan Bratislava with Sandro Kulenovic scoring twice for the Croats. Slovan, Sturm Graz and Leipzig have lost four out of four. — AFP

## Shooters prepare for the tournament in early training

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** Following the arrival of several delegations for HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah annual shooting championship, to start Saturday at the Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex became very busy with shooters preparing for the tournament in early training.

Meanwhile, the higher organizing committee made sure all is ready to plan as far as the ranges and other organizational matters are concerned. Kuwait archery team continues its training and practices to be at the best possible shape for the tournament which is expected to have tough competitions.

Archer Saad Al-Baloud said HH the Crown Prince tournament is dear to all, adding the team was prepared two months ago, and archers were training mornings and evenings in order to reach the best level possible.

He said archery requires continued training to maintain the technical level and to participate honorably in championships.

Meanwhile, Trap shooter Abdulrahman Al-Faihan said he is ready to go for competing in HH the Crown Prince tournament. He said there will be strong competition by all shooters to seek the best possible scores at the start of the local season. Al-Faihan appreciated the role of Kuwait



Saad Khalid Al-Baloud

Shooting Sport Club, under the Chairmanship of Duaij Al-Otaibi and the secretary general of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations and their unlimited support for all shooters, and providing them with all they need to ensure they continue performing at their best.

## Ronaldo strikes as Al Nassr thump Al Ain in AFC CL

**RIYADH:** Cristiano Ronaldo helped fire Al Nassr to a crushing 5-1 victory against reigning Asian champions Al Ain in the AFC Champions League Elite on Tuesday. The Portuguese star, without a goal in his past three appearances for the Saudi Arabian side, netted the second of the hosts' goals at Al Awwal Park in Riyadh.

Right on the half hour, Al Ain goalkeeper Khalid Essa failed to hold a routine long-range drive from former Liverpool forward Sadio Mane, leaving Ronaldo to pounce on the rebound to tap home. The win maintained Al Nassr's unbeaten start to the rebranded AFC Champions League Elite, lifting them to third in the 12-team West Asia table. Saudi counterparts Al Hilal and Al Ahli sit above them. The top eight reach the knockout phase.

Seeking revenge following last season's quarter-final exit at the hands of Al Ain, Al Nassr burst out of the blocks on Tuesday. Stefano Pioli's side took the lead after five minutes, when Brazilian Anderson Talisca finished low past Essa from the edge of the Al Ain area.

After Ronaldo doubled Al Nassr's advantage, the home team put the result beyond their UAE rivals seven minutes later. Angelo Gabriel, a summer signing from Chelsea, exchanged passes with Mane and sent his shot looping over Essa courtesy of a deflection off Al Ain defender Fabio Cardoso. It was eventually deemed an own goal.

Al Ain pulled one back at the start of the second

half, when Park Yong-woo's shot struck the upright and cannoned back off Al Nassr goalkeeper Bento for the game's second own goal. However, Brazilian teenager Wesley, introduced moments before, curled home eight minutes from time before Talisca rounded off the night deep into stoppage time with his second.

With the loss, Al Ain languish at the bottom of the West Asia standings having taken a solitary point from a possible 12. A third successive defeat ramps up the pressure on manager Hernan Crespo, who in May guided the club to a first Asian crown in 21 years.

### Vissel go top in East

Meanwhile, in East Asia, domestic title-holders Vissel Kobe beat South Korea's Gwangju FC 2-0 at the top of their group stage on a good night for Japanese teams. Kawasaki Frontale scored three times in the first half at home on the way to a 3-1 victory over newly crowned Chinese champions Shanghai Port. Akihiro Ienaga, Yusuke Segawa and Sai van Wermeskerken were on the scoresheet.

In Kobe, the hosts and J League champions triumphed through a Taisei Miyashiro penalty and a Daiju Sasaki header. The victory left Vissel top of the 12 teams in the East zone at the halfway point, while Gwangju dropped to second.

Malaysia's Johor Darul Ta'zim moved up to third with a 3-0 home victory over South Korea's Ulsan, who are rooted to the bottom without a point. Central Coast Mariners scored deep in injury time as they roared back to grab a 2-2 home draw with Shanghai Shenhua to finally get a point on the board.

Bailey Brandtman poked home for the Australians in the 95th minute after the hosts had been 2-0 down. That left Shenhua fourth in the group while the Mariners are one off the bottom. — AFP