

Bahrain seeks stronger UK military and defense ties



HH Staff Commander Shaikh Isa bin Salman

TDT | Manama

His Highness Staff Commander Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa met yesterday with the First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff of the United Kingdom, Admiral Sir Ben Key, at the British Royal Navy headquarters.

HH Staff Commander Shaikh Isa bin Salman affirmed Bahrain's commitment, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and with the support of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and Prime Minister, to enhancing the strategic relations between the two Kingdoms to achieve common aspirations.

His Highness emphasised the importance of strengthening bilateral coordination and cooperation, particularly in the military and defense sectors, in line with the longstanding Bahrain-UK partnership.

HH Staff Commander Shaikh Isa bin Salman affirmed the prominent role played by the United Kingdom, alongside allied countries, in safeguarding security and stability both regionally and globally.

They discussed ways to enhance bilateral relations.

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Bahrain congratulates US President-elect Trump

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, sent cables of congratulations to Donald Trump on winning the US presidential elections.

His Majesty and HRH Prince Salman commended the historic ties between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the US, which have flourished for over 120 years and



HM the King



HRH Prince Salman



President-elect Donald Trump

are founded on a strong foundation of mutual respect and shared interests.

His Majesty said he looked forward to working together to strengthen cooperation and develop mutual benefits for both nations.

His Majesty the King wished continued prosperity for the American people.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister also sent a similar cable to US Vice President-elect James David Vance.

Triumphant Trump

Former US president defeats Harris to secure White House comeback

Trump at 291 electoral votes, Harris at 223

AFP | Washington

The United States and the world faced a radically transformed political landscape yesterday after Donald Trump won a crushing election victory, defeating Kamala Harris in an astonishing comeback to the White House.

Harris, who had described Trump as a threat to democracy, rang to congratulate him before she was due to deliver a concession speech at 4:00 pm (2100 GMT).

Trump, who never conceded defeat four years ago when his supporters ransacked the US Capitol, won wider margins than before despite a criminal conviction, two impeachments while in office and warnings from his former chief of staff that he is a "fascist."

Top concern

But exit polls showed that voters' top concern remained the economy and inflation that spiked under outgoing President Joe Biden.

Both Wall Street and the dollar soared on Trump's victory and his clear mandate, with expectations that he will move aggressively to ramp up growth.

Trump, who at 78 will be the



Trump speaks during an election night event at the West Palm Beach Convention Center in West Palm Beach, Florida. (AFP)

oldest man to take the presidential oath when inaugurated on January 20, vowed to fulfill his slogan to "make America great again" in a speech in Florida before supporters chanting "USA!" "It's a political victory that our country has never seen before," Trump said.

Genius businessman

In Phoenix, Arizona, Jimmy Archuleta, a 47-year-old auto worker, hailed Trump as "a genius businessman."

"So I'm hoping that he'll improve the economy," Archuleta told AFP. "I just hope he'll make

the price of groceries and gas more reasonable."

Global leaders swiftly pledged to work with Trump, despite concerns in much of the world about his nationalist-minded "America First" approach.

Among the most worried countries will be Ukraine, which Russia invaded in 2022.

Trump and Vice President-elect J.D. Vance have scoffed at the billions of dollars in US assistance to Kyiv under Biden, with their aides musing about forcing Kyiv to make concessions to end the war.

Ukrainian President Volo-

dymyr Zelensky congratulated Trump and said he hoped the new US leader would help Ukraine find a "just peace."

One leader certain to be pleased was Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, to whom Trump has promised freer rein to execute his war against Hamas in Gaza.

Harris, who only entered the race in July after the visibly aging 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

Trump spoke with Harris by telephone yesterday and agreed with his White House rival on the need to unify the nation after their contentious campaign.

about immigration found their mark with voters battered by the post-Covid economy and eager for change after the Biden years.

Crucial voting blocs

Hispanic and Black Americans, seen as crucial voting blocs for Harris, moved in greater numbers toward Trump, who won a majority of Latino men, exit polls showed.

Opinion polls had predicted a nail-bitingly close contest - yet the results came fast, including Trump's flipping of the swing states Georgia, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Michigan that Biden won four years ago.

Trump appeared on track to win the popular vote for the first time, and the Republican Party also won the Senate from the Democrats, boosting his ability to enact his agenda.



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A job well done!

Milestone as over 19,000 Bahrainis are employed and 13,679 trained this year

● Annual local hiring targets surpassed ahead of schedule

● Humaidan credits workforce boom to economic plans and sustained backing from local firms

● Women now form 39% of labour force, while 37% are university graduates

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Bahrain is nearing its annual employment target well ahead of schedule, with 98 per cent achieved and over 19,000 citizens stepping into new jobs this year.

The Labour Minister, His Excellency Jameel Humaidan, credited this upswing to the Economic Recovery Plan, the National Labour Market Plan for 2023-2026, and the wider



“Our efforts to create jobs and opportunities support national growth.”

- H.E. JAMEEL HUMAIDAN, MINISTER OF LABOUR



development drive led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, closely followed up by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

Third quarter employment indicators this year showed steady advancement, with 19,689 citizens employed between January and September.

“Our efforts to create jobs and opportunities support national growth,” Humaidan said, adding that the ministry’s partnership with the Labour Fund, Tamkeen, has been central to this progress.

Tamkeen’s training efforts

have exceeded targets, with 13,679 Bahrainis trained this year – 37 per cent above the goal.

Leadership

Under H.E. Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa’s leadership, these programmes include wage support and training tailored to market needs.

“The impact of these efforts is clear in our third quarter employment figures,” Humaidan stated, with further gains anticipated.

First-time entrants to the labour market reach 6,436, or 33 per cent of third quarter hires, while women now form 39 per

cent of the workforce – a two per cent increase since the last quarter.

Progress

University graduates have also seen progress, with 37 per cent now employed, marking a seven per cent rise over the second quarter.

Bahrain’s tracking system, meeting international standards, publishes regular updates to guide strategies and keep unemployment low.

“These insights help us respond quickly to market shifts,” Humaidan explained.

Support

He praised private firms for prioritising Bahrainis and urged continued support.

“Local businesses have been indispensable,” he said, encouraging them to maintain focus on hiring Bahrainis.

Looking ahead, Tamkeen plans to support up to 50,000 Bahrainis annually through three key initiatives: assisting new workforce entrants, promoting career development, and supporting private sector employment needs.

Focus on proposals to lower voting age to 18

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The Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee of the Shura Council convened to discuss four proposed laws submitted by several members of the council.

Two of these proposals aim to lower the voting age for the Council of Representatives and municipal councils to 18 years on the day of the referendum or election.

The third proposal seeks to clarify the distinction between the revocation of membership and its annulment for municipi-

pal council members.

The fourth proposal suggests increasing the monetary threshold for legal actions that need to be proven or terminated from BD500 to BD1,000 across all methods of proof.

The committee reviewed the two proposed laws aimed at amending Article 2(1) of Decree Law No. 14 of 2002 concerning the exercise of political rights, as well as the amendment of Article 2(1) of Decree Law No. 3 of 2002 concerning the election system for municipal council members.

Bahrain wins Best MICE Destination Award

London

The Kingdom of Bahrain has been awarded the Best MICE Destination by the London Arabia Organisation in recognition of its significant contributions to enhancing business tourism and solidifying Bahrain’s standing as a preferred location for various major regional and international events.

Dana Al Saad, Deputy CEO for Resources and Projects at the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA),

received the award during the Arab Travel Awards held by the London Arabia Organisation on the sidelines of the ongoing World Travel Market 2024 in London.

The event was attended by over 200 personalities from government officials, diplomats and business leaders worldwide.

The London Arabia Organisation has launched the inaugural edition of the annual Arab Travel Awards to honour individuals and institutions from various Arab countries.



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The Ministry of Labour extends its gratitude and appreciation to the companies that have employed Bahraini nationals during the third quarter of 2024, in the period between (July 1 and September 30)

The Ministry also extends its gratitude to the following companies which have obtained the highest Bahraini employment rate during this period



A comprehensive list of the companies and organizations supporting national employment can be viewed by visiting the website www.mol.gov.bh



Bahrain-Qatar relations

The Minister of Labour, His Excellency Jamil bin Mohammed Ali Humaidan, met H.E. Sultan bin Ali Al-Khater, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Kingdom of Bahrain, at the Ministry's headquarters yesterday. The meeting discussed the bilateral brotherly relations between the two countries, and the importance of moving forward to enhance joint cooperation to broader horizons for the benefit of the two countries and peoples.



Bahraini father and son lawyers disbarred

Convicted for perjury

H Naser
TDT | Manama

A Bahraini father and son have been permanently disbarred following a conviction for perjury and subsequent disciplinary action.

The Lawyers' Disciplinary Council made this decision in response to a formal complaint from the Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs, and Endowments. This ruling was later upheld by the appellate disciplinary council, emphasising the seriousness of the offense.

The disbarment originated from a ruling by the Court of Cassation, which sentenced the two lawyers to two years in prison for committing perjury.

Guilty

They were found guilty of defrauding a client by falsely claiming entitlement to BD100,000 in fees related to various business dealings.

This case highlights significant issues regarding ethics and accountability within the legal profession.

The fraudulent scheme in-

involved the lawyers misrepresenting their roles in a transaction involving the sale of company shares and claiming to have facilitated a settlement with a private hospital.

Evidence presented in court revealed that the lawyers lacked the necessary authority to sell or lease the shares, and they falsely asserted that they had negotiated a settlement on behalf of the client.

Payment

They demanded BD50,000 each for their supposed efforts, despite court records indicating that only the first lawyer had a legitimate agreement with the victim regarding any payment.

The Public Prosecution initiated perjury charges against the lawyers in March 2020, following their misleading testimony that initially resulted in a favourable ruling for them in court.

However, the truth of the matter came to light, leading to a trial court sentencing them to two years in prison in December 2021.

This ruling included a bail amount of BD1,000, which allowed them to suspend the execution of the sentence while appealing the decision.

Building trust

MPs propose government staff introduce themselves on calls

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Citizens calling government offices may soon hear officials introduce themselves by name and title at the start of each call, under a proposal now before Parliament.

Backers of the plan say it will lift the quality of public services, matching the government's aim to make services smoother and more open.

By having officials introduce themselves properly, callers will know at once who they're dealing with, helping to build trust and clear accountability.

The proposal, put forward by



MP Basma Abdulkarim Mubarak

MPs Basma Abdulkarim Mubarak, Jaleela Alawi, Hisham Al Ashiri, and Ali Saqr, would require workers in government ministries, offices, and agencies to clearly state who they are when picking up the phone.

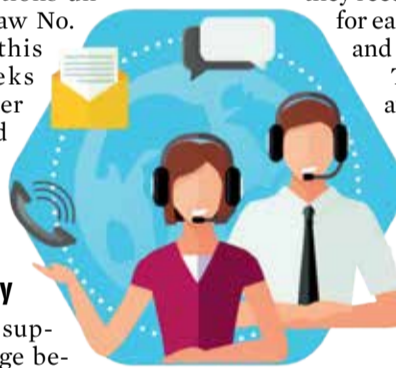
Based on rules from Article 68 of the Constitution and Article 128 of the Council's Internal Regulations under Decree-Law No. 54 of 2002, this measure seeks to bring greater openness and ease to dealings between officials and the public.

Friendly rivalry

Those who support the change believe it will also spark friendly rivalry in government offices, pushing workers to offer their best.

With names and roles given upfront, citizens will have a simpler time weighing the help they receive, allowing for easy follow-ups and feedback.

The plan now awaits review by a parliamentary committee before heading to the main floor, where MPs will weigh its chances of raising service standards and improving the link between the government and the public.



Milestone achievement

Bahrain EDB announces attracting over \$100 million in investment commitments from Singapore



Bahrain EDB representatives at the Singapore Fintech Festival 2024

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Economic Development Board (Bahrain EDB) yesterday reported at the sidelines of Singapore Fintech Festival 2024 attracting over \$100 million in investment commitments from Singapore-based companies since November 2023 across key sectors, namely financial services, ICT, and tourism.

Marking a new milestone for the Island nation's investment promotion agency, the results demonstrate the impact of Bahrain EDB's expansive international footprint, wherein the Singapore office is the first to

“Underscoring the established trust of international investors in Bahrain's value proposition, this milestone achievement is a testament to the impact and agility of our ‘Team Bahrain’ approach.”

- H.E. NOOR BINT ALI ALKHULAIF, MINISTER OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF BAHRAIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD

have been established in the ASEAN region a year ago.

Trust

H.E. Noor bint Ali Alkhulaif, Minister of Sustainable Development, Chief Executive of Bahrain Economic Development Board said, “Under-

scoring the established trust of international investors in Bahrain's value proposition, this milestone achievement is a testament to the impact and agility of our ‘Team Bahrain’ approach, wherein both the public and private sectors work in tandem to ensure Bahrain's investment

environment remains attractive, defined by forward-looking regulatory frameworks and streamlined services, offering a seamless journey for businesses setting up in our island nation,” adding, “We take pride in the steady growth of investments from key markets including Singapore and in witnessing international firms that set up in Bahrain successfully expand and flourish.”

Cultural diversity

Strategically positioned in the heart of the Arabian Gulf, Bahrain is celebrated for its openness, tolerance, and cultural diversity.

Three-day paternity leave for government workers approved



The Parliament's Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee members

TDT | Manama

New fathers working in the government sector could soon get three days of paid leave, as Parliament's Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee backs a plan to extend paternity benefits.

MP Jalal Kadhem has submitted two amendments to the Labour Law — one for government employees, which has received the committee's approval, and another for the private sector, which is still awaiting review.

Both proposals aim to expand paternity leave from a single day to three paid days.

The goal is to give families more support by letting fathers spend time at home in those crucial early days, helping their wives and bonding with their newborns.

Spirits

“The father's role includes handling official paperwork for the baby and standing by his wife until she's discharged and safe,” Kadhem explained, adding that a father's presence often reassures mothers and lifts their spirits.

Kadhem pointed to Saudi Arabia's law, where workers receive three days of paid leave for the birth of a child.

He suggested Bahrain could follow a similar approach, strengthening family bonds and easing the early challenges faced by new parents.



“The father's role includes handling official paperwork for the baby and standing by his wife until she's discharged and safe.”

- MP JALAL KADHEM

In his note, Kadhem drew on Bahrain's Constitution, which upholds the family as the bedrock of society, built on faith, ethics, and loyalty.

The Constitution calls for laws that protect this foundation, keep family bonds strong, and shield mothers and children. Kadhem's plan aligns with these values, aiming for a family-first approach that helps fathers balance work and home life in Bahrain.

The proposal is expected to be discussed in Parliament in the upcoming sessions, where MPs will decide on its final approval.

Celebrating talent

Winners of Bahraini film category to be announced at Bahrain Film Festival today

Scholarship abroad awaits top short filmmaker

Ashen Tharaka
TDT | Manama

The winners of the Bahraini film category will be revealed today at the fourth Bahrain Film Festival (BFF).

The announcement, eagerly anticipated by cinema enthusiasts, will grant the victorious filmmaker a prestigious scholarship to participate in the world's largest short film festival, offering a unique opportunity to showcase Bahraini talent on a global stage.

Last night, as a partner of the BFF, the French Embassy in Bahrain hosted a gathering of cinema lovers and talented Bahraini and French artists to commemorate the festival's fourth edition.

Growing collaboration

The event highlighted the growing collaboration between Bahrain and France in fostering young filmmakers and promoting cinema as a powerful, universal medium.

"In global cinema, Arab culture is shining," said French Ambassador to Bahrain, His Excellency Eric Giraud-Telme. "Today, cinema is a universal language, particularly in Bahrain, with its wealth of talented people. This year's festival is more important than last year



H.E. French Ambassador Giraud-Telme speaks at the event (Pictures by Ashen Tharaka)



From right, Osama Al Saif, Ambassador Giraud-Telme and Mohammed Al Thawadi



Bahraini artists at the reception



"In global cinema, Arab culture is shining. Today, cinema is a universal language, particularly in Bahrain, with its wealth of talented people. This year's festival is more important than last year because we have built stronger relationships with Bahraini filmmakers."

- H.E. ERIC GIRAUD-TELME, AMBASSADOR OF FRANCE TO THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

because we have built stronger relationships with Bahraini filmmakers." Ambassador Giraud-Telme

emphasized the significance of workshops held during the festival, which provided valuable learning experiences for Bah-

rain's young talents.

"The workshop was a huge success, offering them insights into the global film industry," he said.

Osama Al Saif, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Bahrain Cinema Club, and Mohammed Al Thawadi, Vice President of the General Union of Arab Artists, were also present at the reception, underscoring the importance of the event in nurturing local talent.

One of the festival's standout initiatives this year was the 48-Hour Short Movie Competition, which attracted over a hundred

applicants.

The competition challenged filmmakers to create a short film within two days, further showcasing the creativity and potential of Bahrain's rising stars.

"This is our success," Ambassador Giraud-Telme noted, reflecting on the festival's growing influence and the success of the new competition.

As anticipation builds for today's announcement, the 4th Bahrain Film Festival continues to shine a spotlight on the country's film industry and its place in the global cinematic landscape.

Push for clearer street lighting responsibilities

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Confusion over who's responsible for street lighting repairs — Ministry of Works or the Electricity and Water Authority (EWA) — has left many Southern Council requests stuck in uncertainty, with council members calling for clearer guidelines in their latest meeting.

Southern Municipal Council members yesterday to untangle the long-running question of

who exactly should be looking after street lights in both new and older neighbourhoods.

Officials from the EWA and the Ministry of Works joined the talks, seeking to set out their duties more plainly and find ways to improve teamwork.

A clearer view was given on who is responsible for what.

The Ministry of Works looks after lighting upkeep in newly built areas, while the EWA handles repairs, replacements, and new fittings in established

neighbourhoods, with backing from the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs.

Contractors and council members raised concerns about muddled lines of responsibility that often slow things down.

Contractors struggle to find the right authority to approach before starting work, while council members face barriers when following up on upkeep matters.

Representatives from the EWA explained the steps for handling requests in older areas: the mu-

nicipality sends a letter, which leads to a review, plans, cost estimates, and final approval from the municipality.

When outside contractors are involved, the EWA oversees the work, under an agreement recently signed with the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture.

In new areas, lighting requests are already part of the Ministry of Works' projects, which should help approvals move more smoothly.

An agreement was reached to improve communication between authorities, council members, and specialists, with a promise to give clearer updates on any delayed or pending requests.

The council wrapped up by urging regular updates on any changes to processes or shifts in responsibility.

This approach aims to prevent future delays and address the growing backlog of unresolved lighting issues.

Embassy of Sri Lanka celebrates Deepavali

TDT | Manama

The Embassy of Sri Lanka, together with the Sri Lankan Hindu Community in the Kingdom of Bahrain, celebrated Deepavali at the Chancery premises on October 31, 2024.

The event marked a joyous occasion of cultural unity, bringing together members of the Sri Lankan community in Bahrain to celebrate the Festival of Lights, an important day symbolizing the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance.

The event was commenced by the lighting of the tradition-



H.E. Ambassador Wijeratne Mendis speaks at the event

al oil lamp, followed by Hindu religious observances led by Mr. Sri Kanesh Alagan, who invoked blessings on those who were present at the occasion,

as well as on Sri Lanka and its people. Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the Kingdom of Bahrain, H.M.G.R.R.K. Wijeratne Men-

dis, welcomed attendees, extending warm wishes for peace, happiness, and prosperity to all Sri Lankan Hindus and the broader community in Bahrain.

Ambassador Wijeratne Mendis also read the Deepavali message of H.E. the President of Sri Lanka, which emphasized harmony by ending divisions and fostering inequality between the privileged and the underprivileged in creating a new cultural existence that embodies compassion and critical thought.

Ms. Madhuka Silva, Minister and Head of Chancery of the Embassy of Sri Lanka, read Hon. Minister Vijitha Herath's Deepavali message, which underlined the nation's journey of revival under the theme 'Pohosath Ratak, Lassana Jeewithayak'.

Bahraini woman granted divorce after enduring repeated abuse

TDT | Manama

A Bahraini woman in her twenties has been granted a divorce on the grounds of harm after suffering continuous abuse at the hands of her husband, as revealed by her lawyer Abdulatheem Hubail.

The Sharia Court initially ruled in her favour, a decision that was later confirmed by the High Appeals Court.

The case unfolded over a series of distressing incidents where the husband subjected his wife to both verbal and physical abuse.

Reports indicate that the abuse included severe verbal insults, defamation, and instances of physical violence that left the victim feeling unsafe in her own home.

The husband's actions extended beyond domestic abuse; he faced multiple criminal charges related to his mistreatment of his wife.

He was found guilty of defamation and insult, and was convicted for deliberately ramming his wife's car while pursuing her in public—a move the court deemed a clear act of assault.

Additionally, a civil court ordered him to compensate her for the emotional and financial damages she incurred during their marriage.

After the divorce was granted, the husband filed a lawsuit to have her return to their home.

Distressed domestic worker repatriated

TDT | Manama

An Indian national, Ms. Sirisha Paka, employed as a domestic worker in Bahrain, approached the Embassy of India, Bahrain, with a grievance concerning distress at her workplace.

Ms. Paka visited the Embassy on 4th November 2024, requesting assistance for repatriation to India.

The Embassy of India, Bahrain facilitated her safe and timely return to India on 5th November 2024.

Filipino business workshop big hit

TDT | Manama

Filipinos attended a recent business workshop jointly organized by the Philippine Embassy Bahrain and The Filipino Business Council Bahrain (TFBCB) with the objective of honing entrepreneurial skills and networking in the Filipino business community.

Dubbed "Negosyo Filipino: Business Workshop and Networking" was held at the Sentro Rizal, Philippine Embassy.

IMTIAZ celebrates 21 winners

Three HAVAL cars and 3.75 million loyalty points

● Coincides with 15th Anniversary

TDT | Manama

The commercial brand IMTIAZ, under Bahrain Commercial Facilities Company (BCFC), proudly announced the winners of the second draw in its grand promotional campaign for this year, exclusively for IMTIAZ Mastercard cardholders. This campaign is part of the company's ongoing commitment to offering the best rewards and incentives to its loyal customers.

In this draw, three fortunate winners drove away in HAVAL Dargo cars: Zainab Abdulkarim Saleh, Ahmed Ibrahim Ahmed Alshouq, and Rajab Jafar Nasser. Additionally, Ali Darwish Ali was awarded half a million loyalty points, reflecting the company's appreciation for its distinguished customers. Seven other winners each received a quarter of a million loyalty points, while ten more were awarded 100,000 loyalty points each, enhancing their opportunities to benefit from the diverse rewards offered by the IMTIAZ card.

Mazen Sater, Vice President – Consumer Finance Division at Bahrain Commercial Facilities



The award ceremony

Company, extended his heartfelt congratulations to the 21 winners. He emphasized that these prizes are a testament to the company's gratitude towards its loyal customers. He added, "At IMTIAZ, we believe our customers are the cornerstone of our success. We are dedicated to continuously of-

fering new and exciting experiences that reward the trust our customers place in us."

It is worth noting that customers can apply for an IMTIAZ card through the Bahrain Commercial Facilities Company's (BCFC) "Sahel" app or by visiting the nearest BCFC branch. The card offers a wide range of ben-

efits and rewards, making it the ideal choice for those seeking a premium banking experience.

In conclusion, IMTIAZ encourages all its customers to use the IMTIAZ card as their primary payment method, as there will be 19 lucky winners in the next draw at the beginning of December 2024.

Tamkeen signs MoU with Monsha'at

To collaborate in Small and Medium Enterprises Support



Officials following the deal signing

TDT | Manama

The Labour Fund "Tamkeen" signed a MoU with the General Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises "Monsha'at" in Saudi Arabia during the first day of the Biban 24 Forum. The event was organized by Monsha'at under the theme "Global Destination for Opportunities" and takes place from November 5 to 9 at the Riyadh Front Exhibition and Conference Center in Saudi Arabia.

The MoU was signed by Sami bin Ibrahim Al-Husseini, Governor of the General Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises "Monsha'at," and Maha Abdulhameed Mofeez, Chief Executive of the Labour Fund "Tamkeen."

Tamkeen, in partnership with Export Bahrain, is sponsoring the participation of Bahraini enterprises in this prominent regional event.

The agreement will strengthen the ties of cooperation between the two Kingdoms by leveraging several of Tamkeen's programmes, including the "Global Ready Talent Program". This programme aims to enhance the global experience of local talent, equipping them with the skills needed to accelerate their professional development through international training experiences

with leading global companies.

The MoU also aims to strengthen economic, commercial, and investment cooperation in the field of small and medium enterprises by utilizing Tamkeen's "Franchising Programme." This key programme supports the exchange of franchise brands between parties interested in local and international expansion, as well as the development and growth of competencies and capacity building.

This also includes the exchange of information on policies, measures, and practices aimed at supporting small and medium enterprises, startups, and enhancing partnerships and investments among national entities specializing in supporting these businesses.

Biban 24 Forum, organized by the General Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises "Monsha'at" in Saudi Arabia, is one of the largest events for entrepreneurs worldwide.

It brings together over 250 speakers and 150 enabling entities, offering more than 420 workshops. The forum aims to inspire aspiring entrepreneurs to launch their projects, connect with local and global experts, strengthen the private sector, foster a culture of innovation, and encourage entry into the world of entrepreneurship.



In cooperation with the Labour Fund (Tamkeen) and Bahrain Polytechnic, and to support the growth of Bahraini youth, Gulf Aluminium Rolling Mill (GARMCO) welcomed its first batch of the Apprenticeship Program in the Mechanical Engineering Department. Fahad Al Basam, Executive Manager - Administration, said: "The apprenticeship programme provides students with a Diploma in Mechanical Engineering in the course of 3 years. The programme provide an opportunity to combine both the academic learning and the practical on the job training (OJT) where academic learning represents 30% of the program, while practical training is 70%"

Low taxes, high tariffs: What a Trump victory means for the US economy

AFP | Washington, United States

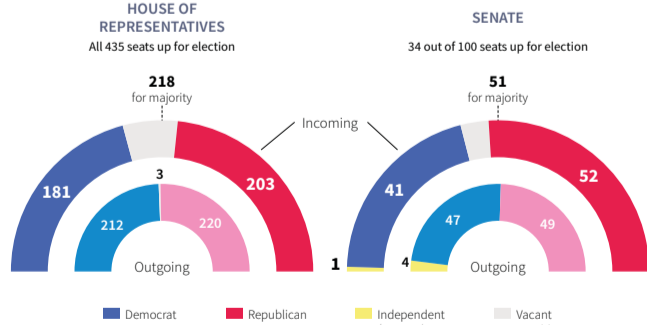
Donald Trump's victory in the 2024 US presidential election is likely to usher in a raft of economic changes at home and abroad, touching everything from foreign trade to the independence of the US central bank.

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.

US Congress



Tariffs and trade

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 non-resident 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.

Inflation and Fed

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.

Taxes

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 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. sOverall, 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.

Europe steeled for trade war threat under Trump 2.0

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

Europe is steeled for a potential trade war with Donald Trump after the tariff-loving Republican reclaimed the White House, but its leaders will need to bridge divisions if they hope to fight back.

On the campaign trail, Trump threatened a 10 to 20% across-the-board tariff on imports and took aim at the European Union as a "mini-China" he believes is taking advantage of the United States.

Across the Atlantic, officials have been watching with a sinking feeling of déjà-vu.

Back in 2018, during his first term, the volatile US leader had slapped tariffs on European steel and aluminium exports -- forcing the EU to respond with its own higher duties.

"To me 'tariff' is a very beautiful word," he

repeated on the stump this year.

As a result, Europe has been gaming out scenarios for months -- including a Trump win -- to ensure it is ready this time around, should he decide to unleash a new trade conflict with the bloc.

Although Brussels will seek to maintain good ties with its largest trading partner, "we shouldn't be naive about what the future might hold for EU-US relations," warned an EU diplomat.

Diplomats and officials insist they stand united and have the tools to respond to any Trump measures -- but experts also point to divisions and a reticent Germany.

"Will Europeans remain united against Trump and be able to identify the common European interest? It will be complicated," said Sylvie Matelly, head of the Institut Jacques Delors think tank.

"European trade policy could be the first victim of the new president's election."

Getting Berlin -- which is fearful of Trump's

wrath -- on board with tough retaliatory action could prove especially difficult.

"Trump is well aware that Germany sells a lot of cars to the United States and could curb any European reaction to Trump tariffs," Matelly told AFP.

Just last month, Berlin broke with major partners in voting against higher tariffs on Chinese-made electric vehicles despite an EU probe concluding they benefitted unfairly from Beijing's state subsidies and undercut European rivals.

The German opposition was not enough to stop the extra duties from kicking in, but was proof that Berlin's line on trade defence differs from other EU states like France and Poland.

French President Emmanuel Macron sought to remove any doubts about EU unity by promising following a call with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz to work together on "a more united, stronger, more sovereign Europe" in the wake

of Trump's victory.

Scholz himself, however, struck a different note in his congratulatory message to Trump, emphasising close transatlantic ties and telling him: "We're better off together".

Unity message

EU diplomats in Brussels sought to drive home the message of unity, while others insisted Europe was prepared.

"These election results reinforce the fact that as the EU we need to focus on our strengths and interests and be clear-eyed about our objectives. This requires unity and discipline from the EU and its member states," one diplomat said.

In the months before the election, the European Commission tasked a group of officials with preparing for either victory by either Trump or his Democratic rival Kamala Harris, in a bid to get ahead of any painful consequences.

There was even talk of a list of US targets if Trump imposed higher tariffs.

"It is simple. If he imposes tariffs, we

will retaliate. But we have to treat Trump like any other US partner: engage and see if a positive agenda is possible," another EU diplomat said.

'Escalatory spiral'

Goldman Sachs predicts that 10-percent tariffs would lower growth in the 20-country euro area by around 1.0%, with Germany taking the brunt of the pain.

Others expect less of a hit: Aurelien Saussay of the London School of Economics wrote last month that he expected a "modest reduction" in gross domestic product of 0.11% in the 27-country European Union in a Trump tariff scenario.

But in any event, analysts expect Brussels would be forced to retaliate to protect the bloc's economy, already dealing with sluggish growth.

"If Trump imposes a 10-20% tariff on all EU exports to the US and potentially even higher ones in sectors like automotive, the EU will have to respond," Nicolas Poitiers of Bruegel think tank said.

"This could lead to an escalatory spiral, but even in the best-case scenario EU-US trade would be severely affected," he told AFP.



Supporters of former US president and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump celebrate his victory near his Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Florida

Wall Street smashes records, dollar soars as Trump wins

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Key figures around 1630 GMT

New York - Dow:	▲ 3.1% at 43,515.62 points
New York - S&P 500:	▲ 2.1% at 5,899.07
Nasdaq Composite:	▲ 2.3% at 18,858.11
London - FTSE 100:	▼ less than 0.1% at 8,166.68 (close)
Paris - CAC 40:	▼ 0.5% at 7,369.61 (close)
Frankfurt - DAX:	▼ 1.1% at 19,039.31 (close)
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▲ 2.6% at 39,480.67 (close)
Hang Seng Index:	▼ 2.2% at 20,538.38 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▼ 0.1% at 3,383.81 (close)
Euro/dollar:	▼ at \$1.0730 from \$1.0930 on Tuesday
Pound/dollar:	▼ at \$1.2879 from \$1.3035
Dollar/yen:	▲ at 154.44 yen from 151.60 yen
Euro/pound:	▼ at 83.30 from 83.82 pence
West Texas Intermediate:	▲ at \$71.99 per barrel
Brent North Sea Crude:	▼ 0.3% at \$75.33 per barrel

Wall Street rallied into record territory, the dollar soared and bitcoin scaled a new peak yesterday 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 soared three percent while the S&P 500 and Nasdaq Composite jumped around two percent. "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".

Markets are also applauding the clarity of Tuesday's results, said Jason Schenker of Prestige Economics.

"A swift and decisive outcome reduces the risks of protracted uncertainty, political violence,

recession risks, and even geopolitical spillover that could have accompanied presidential election outcome uncertainty," he said.

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. Frankfurt fell 1.1% with shares in automakers -- a possible target of Trump tariffs -- slumping.

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

ers Scope Markets.

US Treasury yields also won support Wednesday.

"Investors are bracing for tariffs and a clampdown 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 13% after Trump praised the electric car maker's boss Elon Musk, a key campaign backer, as a "star" during his victory speech.

Bitcoin record

Bitcoin sprang \$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 initially fell "amid expectations that under Trump more crude will flow from US wells", Streeter added. The main US contract WTI later erased its losses while international reference Brent was modestly lower.

"Another Trump presidency is likely to place emphasis on energy independence and his policies are likely to favour fossil fuels, promoting deregulation in the oil, gas, and coal industries," she said.



Bitcoin sprang \$6,000 higher to a record \$75,371.67, topping its previous peak of nearly \$74,000 in March.

'Worry' in Ukraine at Trump victory at critical moment

AFP | Kyiv, Ukraine



Donald Trump's victory in US presidential elections has sparked anxiety on the streets of Kyiv and Kharkiv at a decisive moment of the war as Ukrainian defences buckle under mounting Russian pressure.

Ukraine is reliant on foreign military aid -- in particular from Washington -- to hold out against Russia's invasion, launched nearly three years ago, and it is appealing for closer integration with the US-led NATO military alliance.

Natalia Pichakchi, who fled the southern city of Mariupol that is now controlled by Russian forces after a brutal siege in 2022, said she expected that crucial aid would begin to dry up.

"It's worrying. It's disturbing," she told AFP.

"Something will change; there will not be the same kind of support as before," she added.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky quickly congratulated Trump on his "impressive victory" saying he hoped his presidency would bring "just peace in Ukraine closer".

Trump's aides, however, have suggested forcing Ukraine into territorial concessions by conditioning US assistance.

"I appreciate President Trump's commitment to the 'peace through strength' approach in global affairs," Zelensky wrote on social media.

"This is exactly the principle that can practically bring just peace in Ukraine closer."

'Wait and see'

Trump, whose running mate JD Vance said he does not care about the fate of Ukraine, has boasted that he can quickly end the Ukraine war.

In Ukraine's second-largest city, Kharkiv, which lies near the Russian border and has been under persistent aerial bombardment, some residents said Trump's previous statements meant little.

"He is an ambiguous person. Today he says that he is friends with (Russian President Vladimir) Putin and tomorrow he says he is ready to help Ukraine end this war," said Yulia Boyko, a student.

"So we will see what happens next," she told AFP.

"He's an unpredictable person. And that's why I think any-

thing can happen. For Ukraine, it will depend on how he communicates with Putin," said Dmytro, another Kharkiv resident who declined to give his last name.

Behind closed doors, some Ukrainian officials have nonetheless been optimistic about a Trump presidency and have advocated a wait-and-see-approach.

Foreign minister Andriy Sybига said Zelensky and Trump had a "long-standing" and "constructive" dialogue.

"We will work together to strengthen the Ukraine-US strategic partnership and bring a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace closer," Sybига wrote on social media.

That cautious optimism was echoed on the streets of Kyiv by Tetiana Podleska, who works in IT and speculated that future US support for Ukraine did not hinge entirely on who was president.

'Support could decrease'

"I think his role is a bit exaggerated, that he will drastically change something for the worse," she said, conceding however that Trump was unlikely to improve Ukraine's position in the conflict.

"It won't change for the better, that's for sure. But I don't think it will stop completely," she added, referring to American backing.

Olga Prykhodko, a teacher in

Kyiv, said the election results underscored that Ukraine had to make even greater efforts at home to make sure it could prevail in the war.

"Because our lives and our country's future is in our hands," she said.

Yet she was still hoping that Ukraine's allies abroad would make good on promises to stand by the war-battered country.

"I'm concerned that support could decrease, but I hope that reason and democratic principles will prevail," she told AFP.

Igor Stryzheus, a 52-year-old resident of the Ukrainian capital, was less upbeat about the outlook for Ukraine with Trump in the White House.

"It worries everyone. It worries the whole world -- not only Ukraine," he told AFP in central Kyiv.

"We'll have to wait and see what happens next," he added.



Why many Israelis welcome another Trump term

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Donald Trump's return to power in the United States will have a positive outcome on Israeli interests, several experts interviewed said yesterday.

Still, some were cautiously optimistic at the prospect of a second Trump term, given his unpredictability during his first term from 2017 to 2021, particularly when it came to foreign policy.

Why such enthusiasm over Trump's win?

Former president Trump favoured Israel many times in his first term, and Israeli leaders were among the first to congratulate him yesterday as soon as he claimed victory.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu congratulated Trump over "history's greatest comeback!", and newly appointed foreign affairs minister Gideon Saar hailed him as a "true friend of Israel".

Opinion polls showed that 66% of Israelis wanted Trump back in power, with pundits pointing to his family ties to Israel and his daughter's conversion to Judaism.

During his first term, Trump broke the historic US policy of neutrality over the status of Jerusalem, whose eastern half has been occupied by Israel since



A sculpture made by Indian sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik depicting former US president and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump after he won a sweeping victory in the US presidential election in Puri of India's Odisha state

1967.

As early as 2017, he recognised the city as Israel's capital and the following year moved the American embassy there.

Trump also recognised Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights, the strategic northern region annexed by Israel in 1967 and which the international community views as Syrian territory. Trump's government also said it did not view Israeli settlements in the West Bank as illegal, despite international law saying they are.

Lastly, American diplomats in Trump's first administration

largely facilitated the normalisation of Israeli ties with more Arab states, which Israelis view as a way of securing their country's future.

What do Israelis expect from him?

With Israel at war for more than a year and amid several diplomatic setbacks, "Trump's win is a big emboldening for Netanyahu", according to Mairav Zonszein, an expert at the International Crisis Group, pointing to the two leaders' similar political style.

She added that the result was

hailed by the "far right and the settler right in Israel", who expect a US policy that is more favourable to settlers in the West Bank.

Analysts noted that Trump will favour Israel's interests on the international scene.

"Considering what he said and what he's done before, we expect him to be tougher on Iran," said international relations expert Yonatan Freeman of Jerusalem's Hebrew University.

Freeman predicted new talks with Iran pushing "for a better deal for Israel's security", enabled by the new American

president.

Several experts pointed to the issue of US military support. President Joe Biden waved this as a potential pressure point in Gaza war ceasefire talks, but it would no longer be a threat under Trump.

What are the main challenges?

"It is sometimes preferable to deal with predictable people even if we don't really like them, rather than unpredictable people," Yossi Mekelberg, an expert on Israeli geopolitics at Chatham House, told AFP.

Mekelberg pointed to past

disputes between Trump and Netanyahu, including in 2020 when Trump saw Netanyahu's congratulations to Biden on winning the election as a betrayal.

Trump's statements since then have sometimes seemed contradictory, between his support for Israel and his wish for an end to the war in Gaza, despite overtures from Netanyahu.

In July, both men met when the Israeli prime minister visited the United States, suggesting that the two may have patched things up.

"You can't really analyse someone that has no coherent line of thinking," Mekelberg concluded.

Zonszein said some Israeli leaders appear to have prematurely decided on Trump's position on "Israel's treatment of Palestinians".

"It's not necessarily clear that he would kind of just stand aside while Israel continues to de facto annex the West Bank", she said, pointing to his past opposition to aspects of Israel's annexation plan and his support for the Abraham Accords.

The 2020 Abraham Accords saw Bahrain, Morocco and the United Arab Emirates establish formal ties with Israel.

Because of strategic alliances and diplomatic dynamics, "it's not at all certain that Trump will be happy to support Israel's war on all fronts", Zonszein said.

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Americans must wait for their first woman prez

AFP | Washington, United States

For the second time in eight years, a woman has won the Democratic nomination for US president, only to come up short in a campaign where gender was a central issue.

Like Hillary Clinton in 2016, Kamala Harris had a shot at becoming the first woman to occupy the Oval Office but stumbled at the final hurdle.

While the charisma of their opponent -- Donald Trump, in both cases -- clearly played a role in these historic defeats, many observers also saw misogyny as a factor.

In their dueling campaigns, Harris and Trump laid out starkly different visions for women's status and rights.

Trump, who has faced multiple accusations of sexual assault he denies, sought to broadcast a hypermasculine image, appearing alongside mixed martial artists and offering praise for autocratic world leaders.

He and his campaign surrogates also made multiple comments that were criticized as insulting or contemptuous of women. He called Harris "crazy" and "mentally disabled," and claimed she would be "like a play toy" for other world leaders if elected.

His running mate, Ohio Senator J.D. Vance, doubled down on a quip he made in 2021 about "childless cat ladies" running the country, saying "I've got nothing against cats."

Trump also presented himself as a "protector" of women, saying he would protect them whether they "like it or not."

Defender of women's rights

Harris by contrast relied heavily on female celebrities such as Beyonce, Jennifer Lopez, Lady Gaga and Oprah Winfrey, betting that they would help her reach even conservative women voters.



A cutout of US Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris as people watch election results in a bar in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Harris did not campaign openly on the fact that she would have been the first female president of the United States. But she made the defense of women's rights, and abortion in particular, one of the cornerstones of her campaign.

This does not appear to have won over enough moderately conservative women.

At a campaign rally last month, former first lady Michelle Obama denounced the apparent double standard by

which the two White House candidates were judged.

"We expect her to be intelligent and articulate, to have a clear set of policies, to never show too much anger, to prove time and time again that she belongs," she said of Harris.

"But for Trump, we expect nothing at all. No understanding of policy, no ability to put together a coherent argument, no honesty, no decency, no morals."

The Center for American Women and Politics also pointed to that double standard in a

statement on Trump's victory.

Harris had been a "formidable fundraiser" who "connected with voters," it said.

"Unfortunately, this contest also exemplified research on the obstacles women face when running for office, chief among them the unequal expectations placed upon women, and women of color in particular, who run for office."

Women have held "every political office in America. Except one," it continued, vowing: "The work continues."



Harris did not campaign openly on the fact that she would have been the first female president of the United States.

Trump's Middle East peace promise wins over voters

Dearborn, United States

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 Israel 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, 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."

Unpopular Biden

Others, like Yemeni-American activist and real estate agent Samra'a Luqman, were defiant.

Like other Arab Americans, she was outraged by the Biden-Harris administration's unswerving military and diplomatic support for Israel 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.'"

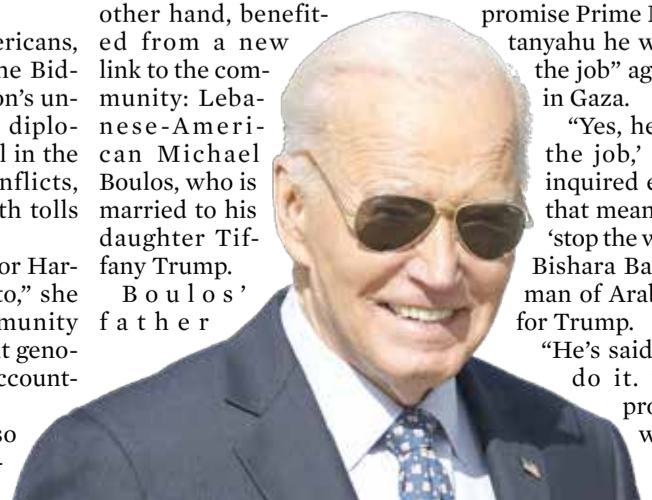
The Trump team also did what Harris notably did not: show up in

Dearborn.

Her 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.

Still, skepticism lingers.

While Trump struck a note of peace, he simultaneously touted his status as Israel's strongest ally, even going so far as to promise Prime Minister Netanyahu he would "finish the job" against Hamas in Gaza.

"Yes, he said 'finish the job,' but when I inquired exactly what that means, I was told 'stop the war,'" insisted Bishara Bahbah, chairman of Arab Americans for Trump.

"He's said it, and he'll do it. Trump has proven he does what he says."

Olympic champion Zheng moves into last four of WTA Finals



Zheng Qinwen

AFP | Riyadh

Zheng Qinwen continued to deliver in her breakthrough season as she advanced to the semi-finals of the WTA Finals in Riyadh yesterday with victory over Wimbledon finalist Jasmine Paolini.

Picking up a 30th win from her last 35 matches, the Chinese Olympic gold medallist swept past the fourth-seeded Paolini 6-1, 6-1 in a mere 67 minutes.

In the last day of round-robin action in the Purple Group, Zheng and Paolini were fighting for the second qualification spot behind Aryna Sabalenka, who had already secured her semi-final place on Monday.

With one defeat against Sabalenka and one victory over Elena Rybakina in her opening matches this week in Riyadh, the seventh-seeded Zheng locked down her spot in the final four with a dominating performance against Paolini.

It made the 22-year-old the first Chinese player since Li Na in 2013 to make it out of the group stage at the WTA Finals.

"It was 11 years ago, I'm really proud I could make it. I didn't know what to expect coming to these WTA Finals for the first time. I was in a very difficult group," said Zheng.

"It's one of the best performances I had during this year, really good percentage of first serves, I felt really good on my groundstrokes and I made a couple of good volleys, I really enjoyed it."

An aggressive return earned Zheng her first break of the match in game three and the seventh seed doubled her advantage to go up 5-1.

Paolini, who was also a finalist at the French Open this year, saved a set point on her own serve in game seven but Zheng kept her foot on the pedal and closed out the set on her second opportunity.

The second set was just as impressive from Zheng and after saving a break point while serving for the match at 5-1, she wrapped up the encounter with her 12th ace of the match.

It was Zheng's fourth victory in as many meetings with Paolini, who won't leave Riyadh just yet as she continues to fight for a semi-final spot in doubles alongside fellow Italian Sara Errani.

HH Shaikh Khalid inaugurates World Padel Academy in Bahrain

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports (SCYS) and Chairman of the General Sports Authority (GSA), inaugurated the first branch of the World Padel Academy (WPA) in Bahrain.

The academy, a collaborative project developed by Kanoo Real Estate in partnership with the UAE's Spadrec Investments and Bahrain's Courtside Sports, is set to elevate the kingdom's standing in the rapidly growing world of Padel.

Strategic Partnerships

The inauguration ceremony was attended by notable figures, including HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa, Vice President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC); HH Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa, Vice President of the Bahrain Football Association;



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa with other officials during the event

Sheikh Saeed bin Maktoum Al Maktoum, President of the UAE Padel Federation and Honorary President of the Arab Padel Federation (APF); and Fahad bin Mohammed Salem Kardous Al Ameri, UAE Ambassador to Bahrain. The involvement of these regional sports leaders emphasizes the academy's potential as a hub for Padel development in

the Arab world.

State-of-the-Art Facilities

Located in Bahrain, this latest branch of the WPA adds to the academy's established network across the UAE. Equipped with five state-of-the-art indoor courts, including a main court that meets international standards, the academy offers an un-

paralleled training environment. This facility caters to all skill levels, aiming to nurture talent and grow the sport within Bahrain, aligning with His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's vision to strengthen Bahraini sports on the global stage.

A Home Base for the Victorious Padel Team

The new branch will serve as

the official home for Bahrain's Victorious Padel Team, providing a world-class training environment with top-tier coaching to develop athletes for regional and international competition. By offering access to expert coaching and advanced resources, the academy positions itself as a key player in Bahrain's ambition to become a central hub for Padel in the region.

Promoting Future Events

The WPA is poised to attract major Padel tournaments, with its high-tech facilities and strong support from the local and regional sports community. The academy's launch reflects Bahrain's commitment to becoming a leader in sports development, positioning it among the elite global centers for Padel. The opening of this academy marks a significant step in Bahrain's journey to diversify its sports offerings, aligning with its strategic goals in sports tourism and international sports success.

Bahrain 1 dominates Las Vegas strip

Bahrain's premier racing team sweeps top three spots at World Drag Racing Championship

● Bahrain 1 Racing Team shines with unprecedented win

● Crowned first, second, third, and fifth in Las Vegas

● HH Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad credits royal and sponsor support

TDT | Manama



Bahrain 1 Racing Team members celebrate the victory

In a night that will echo through Bahrain's racing legacy, Bahrain 1 Racing Team seized an unprecedented win at the World Drag Racing Championship in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Competing on one of the world's most iconic drag strips, Bahrain's premier racing team clinched the top three positions and an impressive fifth-place finish.

The spectacular showing in Las Vegas is a result of relentless preparation, talent, and high-powered engineering – Bahrain's pride now surges through the veins of the sport.

Powered by Support and Dedication

HH Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa, owner of Bahrain 1, credited this landmark achievement to the unwavering support of Bahrain's leadership. "This victory is not just ours," Shaikh Abdullah said.

"It is a testament to the vision and backing of HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and HRH Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, who have both stood behind Bahrain's drive to excel globally." The royal support has allowed Bahrain

1 to evolve into a powerhouse, fuelled by partnerships with Bahraini giants Bapco Energies, Alba, BEYON, the National Bank of Bahrain, and the Bahrain International Circuit.

A Clean Sweep and Local Heroes

With powerful cars and skilled drivers, Bahrain 1 outpaced a field filled with powerhouse teams. Leading the charge was Jordan Latic, crowned champion in first place, followed by Justin Bond and Khaled Al Balooshi securing second and third, respectively. Kris Thorne

rounded out the Bahrain team's achievement with a solid fifth-place finish.

This historic sweep speaks to the dedication of each driver, who went head-to-head with some of the toughest names in the sport. Bahrain 1's success wasn't just in horsepower but in the relentless focus, grit, and unity of its drivers and the technical crew.

A Tribute to Bahrain's Motor Racing Aspirations

Shaikh Abdullah praised the team's rigorous preparation, dedication, and adaptability,



especially under the challenging Las Vegas spotlight. He extended personal gratitude to the drivers, acknowledging their commitment.

"The victory represents Bahrain's essence of perseverance and strength," he added, saluting the exceptional teamwork that carried Bahrain 1 to global prominence.

Bahrain 1 has now set a high bar for the future, further entrenching Bahrain as a force to be reckoned with in the world of motorsports. For Bahrain's racing fans and the nation itself, this achievement signals an exciting new chapter.

Chelsea are 'one team' despite rotations, says Maresca

AFP | London

Enzo Maresca said yesterday that Chelsea are "one team, one squad" despite his policy of making wholesale changes for Conference League matches.

The Italian, in his first season at Stamford Bridge, has effectively been fielding two sides so far this season -- one in the Premier League and the other in Europe.

He made 11 changes to the starting line-up for last month's 4-1 win at Panathinaikos, which took Chelsea to the top of the Conference League table after two games.

But speaking on the eve of



Enzo Maresca

his team's home match against Armenian side Noah on Thursday, he defended his approach.

"We make changes because we have 24, 25 players, all fit, all good enough to play different competitions," he said.

"The season is so long, we have so many games," he added. "And for sure, all of them, they are going to play Conference League and Premier League games or FA Cup, the next one."

"So it's not, I already said, I can understand that from outside, you can see two teams, but we have just one team, one squad, 24, 25 players, all fit, fortunately."

"And we're going to try to use all of them."

Maresca, whose team are fourth in the Premier League, was asked about the situation of forward Joao Felix, who is yet to start a league game this season.

Man City told to pay majority of Mendy's unpaid wages

AFP | London

Former Manchester City footballer Benjamin Mendy should be paid the majority of the £11.5 million (\$15 million) in wages withheld by the club after he was charged with rape and sexual assault in 2021, a ruling by a UK judge said yesterday.

The ex-French international, who had earned £500,000 a month at the English Premier League Champions, took his case to an employment tribunal last month.

Mendy claimed he had



Benjamin Mendy

been assured by a senior club official he would receive his unpaid wages once he had been cleared of the charges.

Bahrain racing championships rev up

National Race Day Returns to Bahrain International Circuit for Round Two

● Action-packed racing from 4:30 pm to 9 pm on Friday

● Features Bahrain Touring Car Challenge and Motorcycle Championship

TDI | Manama

The Kingdom's premier local racing championships are back in action this weekend in round two of National Race Day at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), 'The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East', in Sakhir.

Taking place Friday from 4.30pm to 9pm, the 2024/2025 Bahrain Touring Car Challenge (BTCC) and 2024/2025 Bahrain Motorcycle Championship (BMC) will once again be lighting up BIC's 2.55-kilometre track.

The upcoming meeting follows a hugely exciting opening round held last month.

All are welcome to attend Fri-



Cars in action at BIC

day's night racing events. Tickets cost just BD2 for adults and BD1 for children. Fans will get to witness some of the best Bahrain-based racers compete in the pair of highly competitive series.

National Race Day is organised and run by BIC, in cooperation with the Bahrain Motor

Federation, the Circuit Racing Commission, the Bahrain Motorcycle Commission, the Bahrain Autocross and Drift Commission, and the Motorsport Marshals Club.

The BTCC continues its inaugural season in its current format, as it builds on the success of

its predecessor, the BIC 2,000cc Challenge, with new regulations allowing for more flexibility on the cars that are allowed to enter. This makes it easier for new participants to join the grid and reduce costs for drivers.

Set to compete this round are Hamad Khamis, Isa Ebrahim,



Seven National Race Day rounds are set for the 2024/2025 season, continuing through May

Moaaz Elzahrawi, Ali Baqer, Andreas Buelow, and Wiebke Buelow, all of whom will be behind the wheel of Honda Civics. Joining them in a Honda Integra is the Radio Bahrain entry.

Friday's events in the BTCC will feature a practice session at 4.30pm, to be followed by qualifying at 5.45pm, setting the stage for two 15-lap races – the first at 6.54pm followed by the second at 8.24pm.

Meanwhile, the BMC will see a large group of riders battling it out in two categories – the 1,000cc and 600cc.

The 1,000cc class features Nawaf Al Shuabi in a Honda CPR

100 RR, Bander Bahlul in a BMW 10004R, Fahed Al Hashash in a Suzuki GSXR, Marta Di Lauro in a Ducati 899, Bradley Stewart in a Ducati 949 Evo, Abdulaziz Al Fharm in a KTM Superduke EVO, Hassan Al Awadhi and Mujahed Alkashram in a pair of Yamaha R1 motorbikes, and Saud Al Toura and Abdulrahman Hassan in a pair of BMW S 1000 RR motorbikes.

The 600cc category will see Shaikh Khalid Al Khalifa in a Triumph Daytona, Achraf Hamoud in a Suzuki GSXR600, Ali Boushahri and Abdulrahman Ahmed in a pair of Honda CBR600RR bikes, and Nasser Al Khadra, Saif Al Buainain, and Ahmed Abdulrahman in Yamaha R6 contenders.

Al Toura and Boushahri were the winners from round one in their respective categories.

BMC practice will be at 5.05pm Friday, and then qualifying will take place at 6.15pm. The round's single race is scheduled to flag off at 7.34pm.

Seven rounds of National Race Day are scheduled to take place this 2024/2025 season, to be held all the way through to May.

Sporting's rout of Man City doesn't guarantee success with Man United: Amorim

AFP | London

Rubén Amorim insisted Sporting Lisbon's stunning 4-1 rout of Manchester City in the Champions League does not guarantee he will be able to make an immediate impact at Manchester United.

Sporting manager Amorim has accepted United's offer to replace Erik ten Hag and will officially take charge of the troubled Premier League club on November 11.

Regarded as one of Europe's brightest young managerial minds, the 39-year-old delivered a tantalising glimpse of his acumen as Sporting exposed injury-hit City's defensive weaknesses.

Phil Foden put City ahead in the opening moments at the Jose Alvalade stadium, but the visitors wasted a string of chances to increase their lead and Sporting made them pay.

Viktor Gyokeres equalised before half-time and Maximiliano Araujo bagged Sporting's second after the break before



Sporting Lisbon boss Ruben Amorim is tossed in the air by his celebrating players (file photo)

Gyokeres's penalty capped their incredible fightback with two penalties.

Amorim, who led Sporting to two Portuguese titles in four years, will take charge of his first United game at Ipswich on November 24.

But he is far too astute to claim one victory proves he can revitalise moribund United after

the club's worst start to a season since 1986-87.

"What I can tell you is that this doesn't mean anything in particular, don't take anything from this," Amorim said.

"It's misleading, we were very lucky today. We cannot transport one reality to another. Manchester United cannot play the way we play and we will

matches so far.

Van Nistelrooy was asked yesterday whether he had spoken to Amorim, who masterminded a 4-1 win for Sporting against Manchester City in Lisbon on Tuesday.

"No, I didn't have contact so far, there are no changes in that," he said, adding that he did not know when he would speak to the Portuguese manager, who takes charge at United on November 11.

“What I can tell you is that this doesn't mean anything in particular, don't take anything from this”

RUBEN AMORIM

have to adapt.”

Amorim was lauded by Sporting fans throughout his last home game before his jubilant players gave him a memorable send-off by tossing him in the air in celebration after the final whistle.

"The feeling with my players, the moment with the fans was very special. So I take this to Premier League," he said.

"When I arrive there it's a different world, a different pressure. I will try to be the same. It will be fun, very fun and I'm ready."

Despite handing Guardiola his heaviest defeat since 2020, Amorim paid his respects to the manager he must outwit over a whole season, rather than one game, if the balance of power in Manchester is to shift back to Old Trafford.

City have won six titles in eight years under Guardiola, while United haven't been crowned champions since 2013.

Amorim, who led Sporting to two Portuguese titles in four years, will take charge of his first United game at Ipswich on November 24

T20 World Cup finalists India and South Africa meet again



India teammates celebrate winning the ICC men's Twenty20 World Cup 2024 final (file photo)

AFP | 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

Panday, 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 management 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."

Van Nistelrooy says no contact with Amorim

Manchester United interim boss Ruud van Nistelrooy says he has not yet spoken with incoming manager Ruben Amorim over his future at the club as he seeks to kickstart their Europa League campaign.

Former star striker Van Nistelrooy, put in temporary charge at Old Trafford after Erik ten Hag was sacked last week, has overseen a 5-2 win against Leicester in the League Cup and a 1-1 draw against



Ruud van Nistelrooy

Chelsea in the Premier League.

United, who face Greek side PAOK on Thursday, have got off to a sluggish start in Europe, drawing all three of their