

News in brief

◆ A new coalition led by former Malaysian

**Malaysia's Muhyiddin leads in general election, with Anwar close behind**

prime minister Muhyiddin Yassin was leading a hotly contested general election yesterday, with opposition chief Anwar Ibrahim a close second, early results from the Election Commission showed. As Malaysians headed out to vote in a country that has seen three prime ministers in as many years, opinion polls were forecasting Anwar's alliance would take the most seats in parliament but fail to reach the majority needed to form a government.



◆ **Elon Musk starts Twitter poll on whether to reinstate Trump**

◆ **Elon Musk is running a Twitter poll on whether he should reinstate**



former President Donald Trump to the platform, with early results showing slightly half of participants voting "yes." "Vox Populi, Vox Dei," tweeted Musk, mere minutes after posting the poll. The Latin phrase means "the voice of the people is the voice of God." The poll was set to remain open for 24 hours. With poll time halfway expired yesterday, more than 9.5 million votes had been cast. Musk's followers favouring to reinstate Trump held a slight advantage over the anti-Trump crowd, 52.4% to 47.6%.

◆ **Four Syrian soldiers were killed and one wounded in Israeli "air aggression" on some military posts in the coastal and central region of Syria yesterday morning, Syrian state news agency SANA reported.**

◆ **Four Syrian soldiers killed in Israeli "air aggression"**



Syrian air defences countered the attack, which came from the Mediterranean Sea side and also caused material damage, the agency said. "At approximately 6:30 this morning (0330 GMT), the Israeli enemy carried out an air aggression over the Mediterranean Sea, from the direction of Baniyas, targeting some posts in the central and coastal region," the agency quoted a military source as saying.

◆ **Australian PM says premature to discuss about any potential China trip**

◆ **Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese**



yesterday said it was premature to discuss any potential trips to China, days after he met President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Indonesia. "What we have had this week is first steps and I'm not getting ahead of myself," Albanese said at a media briefing during the APEC summit in Bangkok. Australia

has clashed with China - its largest trading partner - over trade disputes and the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic. The recently elected Labor government has been looking to repair the strained diplomatic relations.

Curioser & Curioser

**Beloved panda gifted by China to Taiwan dies**



Giant panda Tuan Tuan undergoes an MRI scan at Taipei Zoo

Reuters | Taipei

A male giant panda gifted by China to Taiwan as a symbol of warmer ties died yesterday after suffering a spate of seizures, Taipei Zoo said.

"Our medical team has confirmed that Tuan Tuan's heart stopped beating at 13:48 (05:48 GMT)," the zoo said in a short statement that did not state the cause of death.

Earlier yesterday, a separate statement said the panda's condition was "irreversible" and that he could no longer "live a quality life".

Vets first noticed Tuan Tuan, 18, was ill in August, when he began suffering seizures and appeared increasingly unsteady and lethargic.

Medical scans showed he had a brain lesion and he was placed on anti-seizure medication.

The zoo suspected Tuan Tuan had a brain tumour and he was moved into palliative care last month.

Tuan Tuan and his breeding mate Yuan Yuan were given to Taiwan by Beijing in late 2008, at a time when relations between the two were more cordial.

**North Korea's Kim reveals daughter at ballistic missile test**

● **First public appearance of Kim Jong Un's child**

● **Daughter may be groomed for leadership role, analysts say**

● **Launch was North Korea's largest missile ever**

Reuters | Seoul

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un oversaw a test of Pyongyang's newest intercontinental ballistic missile with his daughter in tow for the first time, state media reported yesterday.

Declaring he would meet perceived US nuclear threats with nukes of his own, he supervised the launch on Friday of a vast black-and-white missile, which KCNA said was the Hwasong-17, dubbed the "monster missile" by analysts.

The launch of the "new-type ICBM" was successful, KCNA said, adding that the "test-fire clearly proved the reliability of the new major strategic weapon system".

KCNA said that Kim attended the launch "together with his beloved daughter and wife", and state media images showed a beaming Kim accompanied by a young girl in a puffer jacket and red shoes



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, along with his daughter, walks away from an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM)

**YOU KNOW WHAT**

**North Korea has never announced who would follow Kim if he is incapacitated, and with few details known about his children, analysts had speculated that his sister and loyalists could form a regency until a successor is old enough to take over**

as he walked in front of the missile.

It is extremely rare for state media to mention Kim's children, and this is the first official confirmation that he has a daughter, experts said.

The latest launch shows that "the nuclear forces of the DPRK have secured another reliable and maximum capacity to contain any nuclear threat," KCNA said, using the country's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Since Kim declared North Korea an "irreversible" nuclear state in September, Washington has ramped up regional security cooperation, including its largest-ever joint air exercises with the South.

**Theranos founder sentenced to more than 11 years in prison**

Reuters | San Jose

A federal judge on Friday sentenced Theranos founder Elizabeth Holmes to 11 years and three months in prison for defrauding investors in her now-defunct blood-testing startup that was once valued at \$9 billion.

In San Jose, California, US District Judge Edward Davila sentenced Holmes, 38, on three counts of investor fraud and one count of conspiracy after a jury convicted her last January following a trial spanning three months. The prosecution had recommended a sentence of



Elizabeth Holmes

15 years in prison, while the defence had urged the judge to impose no prison time.

During the sentencing hear-

**"I have felt deep shame for what people went through because I failed them"**

ELIZABETH HOLMES

ing, Holmes cried as she said she was "devastated" by her failures and would have done many things differently if she had the chance.

"I have felt deep shame for what people went through because I failed them," Holmes said.

**COP27 draft climate deal published but gaps remain**

Reuters | Sharm el-Sheikh

The UN climate agency yesterday published an updated draft of a proposed final agreement for the COP27 summit, fleshing out some key parts of the deal countries are struggling to reach.

The document, which forms the overall political deal for COP27, would need approval from the nearly 200 countries at the climate summit in Egypt. Negotiators will spend the next few hours studying the texts and deciding whether they can back them.

The so-called 'cover decision' sits alongside a host of other agreements still subject to in-



An attendee poses for a picture near a model earth in Sharm el-Sheikh

tense negotiation a day after the summit was due to have closed.

The draft contained only a partial text on the contentious issue of "loss and damage" payments to countries hit by climate-driven disasters. It left a placeholder in the section for

funding arrangements on loss and damage where text could be added later if countries reach agreement.

In line with earlier iterations, the draft did not contain a reference requested by India and some other delegations to phasing down use of "all fossil fuels". It instead referred to a phase down of coal only, as agreed at last year's summit.

In an attempt to close the yawning gap between current climate pledges and the far deeper cuts needed to avert disastrous climate change, the draft requests that countries which have not yet done so upgrade their 2030 emissions cutting targets by the end of 2023.

**Situational forces**

Iran soldiers open fire

● **Death toll reaches 378 including 47 minors**

AFP | Dubai

Iranian security forces killed at least three protesters yesterday in the latest violence against demonstrations sparked by the death of Mahsa Amini, a rights group said.

The country's clerical leadership under Ayatollah Ali Khamenei is facing its biggest challenge since the Islamic Revolution of 1979, in the two months of civil unrest following Amini's death in custody on September 16.

The state has responded with a crackdown that Oslo-based group Iran Human Rights said in an updated toll yesterday had left at least 378 people dead, among them 47 children.

Hengaw, a Norway-based rights group which monitors abuses in Kurdish areas, warned the situation was "critical" in the town of Divandarreh in the western province of Kurdistan, where gov-

**Two deaths reported snowstorm paralyse**



Cars drive along Ellicott Street as snow falls

Reuters | New York

An early winter "lake effect" storm dumped heavy snows on parts of western New York state on Friday, with at least two deaths reported, travel disrupted and icy powder expected to pile higher through the weekend.

The squalls blowing in from Lake Erie and Lake Ontario had dumped 3 to 5 feet (1-1.5 meters) or more of snow. Authorities said the deaths appeared to be from heart attacks due to overexertion while clearing snow in hard-hit Erie County.

As temperatures plunged, the region's first major snowstorm of the season materialized on Thursday and intensified overnight into Friday, well before the start of winter on Dec. 21.

Lake-effect squalls unleashed sporadic bursts of heavy precipi-