TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 5, 2024
JUMADA AL ULA 3, 1446

gulfnews.com

GULF NEWS

Scan for
our social
media

NATION | P4
UAE rolls out booster dose of measles vaccine

THE VIEWS | P8
Can Badenoch restore people's faith in Tories?

BUSINESS | P5
LuLu hikes IPO offer size to 30% on high demand

ENTERTAINMENT | P14
JACKIE CHAN AT 70 TALKS ABOUT HIS LOVE FOR ACTION

Courtesy: Dubai Media Office

■ Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid and Shaikh Mansour Bin Zayed arrive for the special cabinet meeting in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

UAE approves new anti-drugs strategy

Over 500 top officials to attend government annual meetings

ABU DHABI
Gulf News Report

The UAE cabinet yesterday approved the National Anti-Drugs Strategy to combat drug trafficking locally and internationally. The decision came during a cabinet meeting on 'Day Zero' of the UAE Government Annual Meetings attended by more than 500 influential officials in the UAE.

The cabinet meeting, chaired by His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, also approved 22 international agreements covering economic and commercial partnerships, as well as cooperation in legal, judicial, and educational fields, and memoranda of cooperation in energy, competitiveness, and research with 17 different countries.

Taking to his X account on the occasion, Shaikh Mohammad said: "Today, I chaired the annual meetings of the UAE government, which commenced in the capital, Abu Dhabi. We kicked off this significant national gathering with a special cabinet meeting.

Collaborative teamwork

"Such annual meetings, which bring together 500 of the most influential officials in the UAE, hold special importance. Collaborative teamwork between federal and local authorities is no longer just an option—it is an essential path for accelerating the country's development."

He added: "Our goal from these meetings is to develop national projects, programmes, and a clear agenda for 2025. We look forward to fostering a unified vision, shared spirit, and coordinated efforts across all levels of government to serve the union and its people."

SEE ALSO P4

BUSINESS
Adipec 2024: UAE rallies energy sector support to leverage AI | P5

MIDDLE EAST
Israel bombs last functioning hospital in Gaza's north | P9

EmSAT scrapping to aid grade 12 students

Move aims to help graduates prepare for job market

DUBAI
BY SAJILA SASEENDRAN
Chief Reporter

The UAE's decision to scrap the Emirates Standardised Test (EmSAT) as a university entrance requirement, has been described as a move that will help every 12th-grade graduate get higher education access, equipping them for the job market.

Announced on Sunday, the decision allows universities more flexibility to set admission criteria suited to students' academic and career goals.

Minister of Education Sarah Al Amiri yesterday emphasised that this shift supports "quality, flexibility, and global competitiveness" in the UAE's education system, streamlining policies to help students transition smoothly into higher education.

Dr Abdulrahman Al Awar, Minister of Human Resources and Emiratisation (MoHRE) and Acting Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MoHESR) noted that the aim is to increase access to higher education, ensuring that every 12th grade graduate has the opportunity to enrol in bachelor's degree, higher diploma, diploma, or skill certificate programmes, thereby equipping them appropriately for the job market.

SEE ALSO P2

SPORT
'Beautiful challenge' for Alonso on his first return to Anfield | P11

US on edge as Americans go to the polls

A STRESSED-OUT NATION FACES TWO RADICALLY DIFFERENT CANDIDATES

DUBAI
BY STEPHEN N. R.
Senior Associate Editor

Election Day is here, and the world is watching as American voters find themselves on a razor's edge, sharply divided between Donald Trump and Kamala Harris, with tensions running high.

Republican Trump, 78, has promised a "landslide" victory as he seeks a sensational return to the White House, while Democrat Harris, 60, asserts that the "momentum" is on her side in her bid to become America's first female president. On Election Eve, America is stressed out — faced with two radically different candidates and visions for the country's future — voters are bracing themselves for the results and the potential unrest that could follow "It feels out of my control. It's like this base level of stress," Cheryl Stevens, 55, told AFP, after a yoga session aimed at easing election anxiety in Reston, Virginia.

Polls indicate a nail-biting race, with the latest *New York Times*/Siena survey showing results within the margin of error across key swing states. With nearly 78 million votes already cast, new poll shows Harris leading among early voters in battleground states, holding an 8 per cent advantage.

However, Trump leads among those who are very likely to vote but have not yet done so.

Voters today are not just electing a president; they are also choosing congressional candidates for the House and Senate. The tightness of the race complicates predictions about when a winner will be declared.

History in making

History will be made either way. A Harris victory would make her the first female president in US history, as well as the first Black woman and person of South Asian descent to hold the office. Conversely, a Trump victory would mark a different kind of historical milestone — he would become the first person convicted of a felony elected to the US presidency, having faced 34 felony counts in a New York hush-money case just five months ago.

SEE ALSO P10