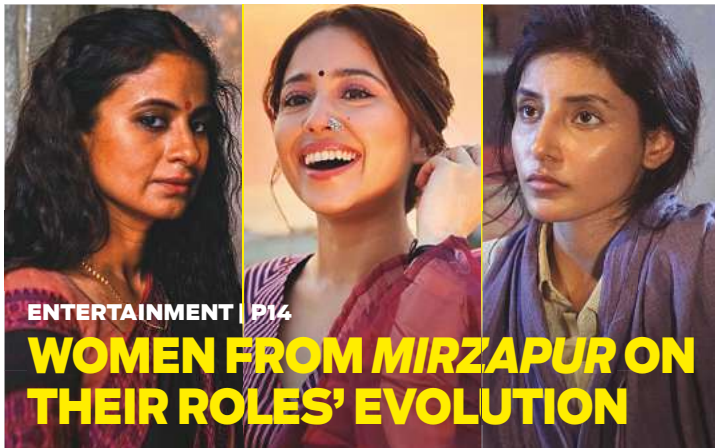


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Far right's run thwarted as no group wins majority in France

IN SHOCK RESULT, NEWLY FORMED LEFT-WING ALLIANCE LEADS TIGHT POLL

PARIS

A loose alliance of French left-wing parties thrown together for snap elections was on course yesterday to become the biggest parliamentary bloc and beat the far right, according to shock projected results.

The New Popular Front (NFP) was formed last month after President Emmanuel Macron called snap elections, bringing together socialists, greens, communists and the hard-left into one camp.

Veteran presidential candidate Marine Le Pen's National Rally (RN) led the race after the June 30 first round, with opinion polls predicting that she would lead the biggest party in Parliament after yesterday's run-off.

No absolute majority

But projections based on vote samples by four major polling agencies and seen by AFP, showed no group on course for an absolute majority, and the left-wing NFP ahead of both Macron's centrist Ensemble and Le Pen's eurosceptic, anti-immigration RN.

The left-wing group was predicted to take between 172 and 215 seats, the president's alliance on 150 to 180 and the National Rally — which had hoped for an



AFP

■ People react as they listen to the announcement of the projected results of the second round of France's crunch legislative elections during a rally in Nantes, France, yesterday.

absolute majority — in a surprise third place on 115 to 155 seats.

This marks a new high water mark for the far right, but falls well short of a victory that would have been a rebuke for Macron, who called the snap election in what he said was bid to halt France's slide towards the political extremes.

Hard-left France Unbowed leader Jean-Luc Melenchon,

giving his first reaction, called on French Prime Minister Gabriel Attal to resign and said the left-wing coalition was ready to govern.

The election campaign, the shortest in French history, has been marked by a febrile national mood, threats and violence against dozens of candidates and canvassers.

—AFP

172-215

seats left-wing group is predicted to win, ahead of Macron's alliance's 150 to 180 and National Rally's (in a surprise third place) 115 to 155 seats.

Dubai to develop its longest open beach

Stretching 6.6km, Jebel Ali Beach set to be a recreational destination

DUBAI

BY KHITAM ALAMIR
Chief News Editor

Dubai yesterday unveiled plans to develop its longest public open beach at Jebel Ali. Stretching 6.6km and covering an area of 330 hectares, the master plan for the Jebel Ali Beach Development Project was approved by Shaikh Hamdan Bin Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Executive Council of Dubai, yesterday.

Part of the Dubai 2040 Urban Master Plan, the beach is poised to become a distinctive recreational destination that places a high priority on environmental preservation and the protection of local ecosystems and wildlife.

Shaikh Hamdan also approved the architectural designs for the project's buildings and facilities, which

feature a unique blend of aesthetics and functionality tailored for various beach activities.

The project features exceptional services, facilities, and public amenities. Offering a new eco-tourism experience, visitors to the beach can enjoy watching turtles in their natural habitat. Various measures and regulations will be put in place to protect turtles and provide them a safe nesting environment. These efforts align with the efforts of relevant bodies in the UAE to rescue, rehabilitate, and return turtles to their natural habitat and preserve the UAE's rich marine environment.

SEE ALSO P4

The project features exceptional services, facilities, and public amenities. Offering a new eco-tourism experience, visitors to the beach can enjoy watching turtles in their natural habitat.

Emiratis aged 21 and above to get 10-year passport

ABU DHABI

BY ABDULLA RASHEED
Abu Dhabi Editor

Starting today, Emiratis aged 21 years and above will be issued passports that are valid for 10 years.

The Emirates Passport Authority will begin implementing procedures to extend the validity period of Emirati passports to 10 years from five years in accordance with a previous decision issued by the UAE Cabinet in March 2024.

The new amendments include more facilities and comprehensive digital services that will be provided by the concerned authorities.

No change in procedures

The new Emirati passports will be issued with the same procedures and approved delivery channels as the current passports. Citizens can apply for the new service when their current passports expire.

The UAE passport is among the most powerful passports in the Arab world. The Ministry of Interior recently began issuing electronic passports to the country's citizens in accordance with international technical and security requirements.

SEE ALSO P3



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