



## Allies fear a potential reshaping of NATO

If Trump is reelected, issue of defense spending could come to a head

BY ISAAC ARNSDORF, JOSH DAWSEY AND MICHAEL BIRNBAUM

When Donald Trump prepared to speak publicly at a NATO summit in 2018, his own advisers didn't know if he would blow up the alliance that has been a cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy since 1949.

Minutes before the remarks at the group's glass headquarters in Brussels, the then-president sat behind a horseshoe-shaped table in a room with his secretary of state, Mike Pompeo, and his national security adviser, John Bolton, as they begged him not to quit the alliance, Bolton recalled.

He didn't, not that day. But Bolton said in an interview that he believes Trump would seek to find a way to kill the alliance if reelected. "He's never lost the desire to get out," said Bolton, now a Trump critic.

The possibility that Trump, now the Republican front-runner for the 2024 presidential nominee, could turn his back on the United States' closest military, diplomatic, economic and cultural partners exploded back into headlines on both sides of the Atlantic this month after he suggested in a campaign speech that he would encourage Russia "to do whatever the hell they want" to an ally who wasn't meeting the treaty's military spending guidelines. President Biden responded last Tuesday: "It's dumb. It's shameful. It's dangerous. It's un-American."

SEE NATO ON A12

### ELECTION 2024

## In Michigan, two rallies offer sharp contrasts

Biden backers search for inspiration as Trump fans revel in taunts

BY ISAAC ARNSDORF

MADISON HEIGHTS, MICH. — The Biden-Harris pep rally at a union hall here was thrown together quickly, not wanting Donald Trump's visit to Oakland County the next day to go unchecked.

The two events could not have been more different, either in scale or in tone. A small community of Democratic activists came Friday, seeking the jolt of energy they thought their campaign lacked, and their anxiety was palpable, both for the difficulties of winning and the consequences of failure.

Then on Saturday, a mass of Trump supporters waited hours in the cold for a glimpse of their champion and the collective thrill of pouring out their passions to his routine of insults and vows and threats.

These competing gatherings offered a glimpse of the strategies both sides are pursuing in the run-up to November, with many expecting a Biden-Trump rematch at the ballot box. Democrats are

SEE MICHIGAN ON A2

"I don't know what will happen to them. I'm scared for them."

Wafaa Ibrahim, a nurse in Cairo caring for babies born prematurely in Gaza



SIMA DIAB FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## After a desperate Gaza rescue, babies have nowhere to go

For nearly a month, Shaima Abu Khater didn't know what had happened to her newborn daughter.

By the time Kinda arrived on Oct. 30 — more than a month before her due date — Abu Khater's home in northern Gaza had been destroyed by an Israeli airstrike, she said. Israel was signaling that it planned to target al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, where she gave birth. The fates of more than three dozen premature babies, including her daughter, hung in the balance.

Abu Khater, along with the rest of al-Shifa's obstetrics department, was transferred to another hospital immediately after delivering, as fighting got nearer. Kinda, whom she saw only briefly, remained behind in an incubator. The weeks that followed were hellish. "I used to cry every day," she said.

She learned from the radio that Israeli soldiers had besieged al-Shifa. The hospital had run out of fuel to power the incubators; babies were dying. She and her husband, Samer Lulu, 28, couldn't get through to medical staff there. Finally, in the third week of November, news

BY CLAIRE PARKER AND HEBA FAROUK MAHFOUZ

IN CAIRO

came from relatives in Jordan, who had seen a list online of babies evacuated from al-Shifa: Kinda was alive, and in Egypt.

She was among 31 newborns, wrapped in aluminum blankets and medical scrubs, spirited to relative safety by a United Nations and Palestine Red Crescent Society mission "under extremely intense and high-risk security conditions," the World Health Organization said. Eight of the original 39 premature babies died before the rescue, according to Palestinian health officials. Three stayed in southern Gaza.

The 23 infants who were evacuated to Egypt and survived face a future full of uncertainty. Some have been reunited with their parents but remain vulnerable. Others appear to be alone in the world, their families dead or unreachable — raising vexing questions about who is responsible for their care and what will happen to them when the war is over.

Abu Khater's journey to her daughter began with a harrowing trip south during a week-long pause in the fighting in late November. The couple slept in the streets of southern Gaza

SEE EGYPT ON A6

A nurse in the neonatal intensive care unit at a hospital in Egypt's new administrative capital, east of Cairo.



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### The river that flows through the heart of Ukraine

A monument celebrating the founding of Kyiv on the Dnieper River is boarded up to protect it from potential Russian drone attacks in February 2023. It is impossible to understand Ukraine without understanding the Dnieper. A Post photographer spent a year traveling the length of the river, from Kyiv to Zaporizhzhia and Kherson, to reveal its vital role in a country at war. **Story, A8**

## La. GOP works to undo prison system changes

Reforms modified parole, weakened drug laws, saved \$100 million

BY TIM CRAIG

Six years after reforming its criminal justice system, Louisiana is no longer the nation's most incarcerated state. Thousands of nonviolent offenders have been given a second chance. And the state has saved more than \$100 million, a windfall for scores of community groups.

The reforms, championed by former Democratic governor John Bel Edwards, shortened some prison sentences, recalculated who was eligible for parole, weakened drug laws and made it harder to send someone back to prison for violating parole or probation.

But the Bayou State's landmark prison reforms may soon be

scaled back as newly-elected Republican Gov. Jeff Landry calls for a special session starting Monday to tackle violent crime, which is higher than before the ambitious plan went into effect.

The former sheriff's deputy ran on a "tough on crime" platform and has characterized the measures as some of the state's "most failed policies."

"I sadly hear the victims of crime whose compelling voices have gone unheard for far too long, squelched by the misguided noise of those who had rather coddle criminals than live in peace," the governor said in his inaugural address. "I mince no words about the consequences that I feel are wholly appropriate for those who commit violent crime in our state."

The battle over Louisiana's reforms echoes a debate taking place across the country as the push to rethink who should go to prison and for how long encounters resistance even in liberal

SEE LOUISIANA ON A4

### IN THE NEWS

**Off the market** The Lerner family is no longer exploring a sale of the Washington Nationals, their managing principal owner said, telling The Post, "It's not the time or the place." **D1**

**D.C. Tool Library** Volunteers hope to fix up the free community resource in Petworth after a costly series of break-ins. **B1**

**THE NATION** A Delaware judge's rulings have earned Elon Musk's ire and the legal world's respect. **A3**

**In Wisconsin**, maps undoing gerrymandering for state legislative seats became law. **A4**

**THE WORLD** Five ways El Niño is wreaking havoc in South America. **A5**

**Palestinian and Israeli** officials traded claims about the unfolding situation at Nasser Hospital in Gaza. **A7**

**THE ECONOMY** The Biden administration announced \$1.5 billion in funding to help build a vast new computer chip factory in New York. **A14**

**A class-action lawsuit** accuses the owner of Tinder and Hinge of having a "predatory" business model. **A14**

**THE REGION** The campaign to recall D.C. Council member Charles Allen (D-Ward 6) is shaping up to be one of the most explosive local political dramas this year. **B1**

**Abraham Lincoln** pardoned President Biden's great-great-grandfather, documents reveal. **B3**

**STYLE** As the ever-boyish actor Michael Cera matures, his cinematic personas follow suit. **C1**

**HEALTH & SCIENCE** For more than a year, a man's severe throat pain baffled doctors. The cause was found when he suffered life-threatening bleeding. **E1**

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