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Democracy Dies in Darkness

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2024 • \$3

ELECTION 2024

Potential conflicts for Trump have grown

As president, he could shape policy in areas he has new financial stakes

BY JONATHAN O'CONNELL, DREW HARWELL AND TONY ROMM

Former president Donald Trump told cryptocurrency fans at a national bitcoin conference this summer that if elected to a second term, he would turn the United States into the "crypto capital of the planet" and adopt policies "written by people who love your industry."

Less than one month later, he began plugging his newest business venture: a cryptocurrency enterprise.

"For too long, the average American has been squeezed by the big banks and financial elites. It's time we take a stand — together," Trump wrote in an online post, linking to the new crypto operation and a photograph of himself, face bloodied and fist raised to the sky after he survived an assassination attempt in Pennsylvania.

Trump stands to benefit financially if the enterprise is successful, with 75 percent of net revenue flowing to a company he owns, according to terms of the arrangement released this week.

Trump's vow to use the presidency to support an industry in which he has a significant personal stake shows how recent shifts in his business activities could give rise to what ethics experts describe as new and unprecedented potential conflicts of interest in a second Trump term.

When Trump first ran for president in 2016, he was a reality television star who had invested much of his fortune in real estate. Before his inauguration, he held a news conference with his tax

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Policies: How Trump's and Harris's views on crime and guns differ. A4

In Wisconsin: Harris chides Trump for "gaslighting" about Jan. 6. A7

Hamas's leader killed in firefight



Deborah Galili, 43, holds a sign she made about the killing of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar during a protest in Tel Aviv on Thursday.

His death deals a major — but not fatal — blow to militant group, analysts say

BY CLAIRE PARKER AND HAZEM BALOUSHA

RAMALLAH — Few Palestinian leaders had gained a reputation like Yahya Sinwar's. He was at once a ruthless militant leader hunted by Israel and a man many Palestinians saw as an ardent defender of their cause.

His death in a firefight in the Gaza Strip on Wednesday — news of which was leaked and then confirmed Thursday — was a triumph for the Israeli military, but also held symbolic significance in a grinding year-long war that has killed more than 42,000 Palestinians.

"It is the greatest achievement of Israel since the beginning of

the war," said Michael Milshtein, a former head of Palestinian civilian affairs for the Israeli military. "But we shouldn't get into euphoria, and we shouldn't forget the war is not over."

For Hamas, the militant group that Sinwar led, his loss is a serious setback, analysts said, but it probably won't be a death knell for the movement or bring an immediate end to the bloodshed.

The group, which is both a political and military force, has survived the assassinations of multiple leaders over the decades — its staying power a testament to the depth of anger and disillusionment among Palestinians over Israel's occupation and the

SEE HAMAS ON A10



Sinwar in 2016. His death was confirmed by DNA analysis.

Obituary: His hard-line influence took Hamas on a radical path. A11

U.S. envisions 'better future' in region and an opening to wind down the war

BY KAREN DEYOUNG, LOVEDAY MORRIS AND MICHAEL BIRNBAUM

The death of Hamas military leader Yahya Sinwar is the opportunity for a "day after" in Gaza, a political settlement of the war, and "a better future for Israelis and Palestinians alike," President Joe Biden said in the wake of Thursday's confirmation that Sinwar had been killed by Israeli forces.

Sinwar, Biden said in a statement issued en route to Germany, "was an insurmountable obstacle to achieving all of those goals. That obstacle no longer exists."

Less than three weeks before the U.S. presidential election, the

ARCHITECT OF OCT. 7 ATTACK ON ISRAEL

Death renews hope for a hostage release deal

BY STEVE HENDRIX, HAZEM BALOUSHA AND CLAIRE PARKER

JERUSALEM — The Israeli military said Thursday it had killed Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, the architect of the deadly Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel, the commander of the group's ongoing battles in Gaza and one of the world's most wanted men.

His death, which the army said was confirmed by DNA analysis, marked a major milestone in Israel's year-long campaign to crush Hamas while also raising critical questions about the direction of the conflict and the future of the war-ravaged enclave.

"He who carried out the most horrific massacre in our history since the Holocaust, the architect who killed thousands of Israelis and kidnapped hundreds of our citizens, was today eliminated by our heroic soldiers," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told the country in a prime-time address.

Though Israeli officials had believed for months that Sinwar was hiding in the militant group's expansive network of

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widening conflict in the Middle East has inflamed both Jewish and Muslim Americans, left Democrats divided and the administration vulnerable to Republican charges of weakness and ineptitude.

As both Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris celebrated Sinwar's death, they also expressed hope that the moment would enable Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to declare victory in Gaza and bring Israeli operations there to a close, finally clearing the way to a hostage deal and easing the daily drumbeat of grim headlines: civilian casualties in Gaza, ongoing Israeli operations against Hez-

SEE ISRAEL ON A10

Swing states are swimming in shadowy spending

Get-out-the vote programs built by partisans are swarming unlikely voters for an Election Day edge

BY MICHAEL SCHERER

The world's richest man, Elon Musk, has offered Americans \$47 for each swing state voter they recruit to his effort to elect Donald Trump.

Democratic groups have started paying at least \$160 to more than 75,000 voters who agree to contact dozens of their friends and relatives with requests to support Kamala Harris.

In Philadelphia, a nonprofit plans to mail 102,000 copies of a comic book this weekend to every voter under the age of 32, featuring the Liberty Knights, a superhero squad that defeats Dr. Mayhem's quest to steal the city's spirit, entomb it in ruby shards and stop the youth from voting.

For those who would still rather party than do politics, there are free concerts, street festivals, coat drives, tailgates and daytime raves popping up near early voting centers in key states that blur the difference. Other operations are hiring thousands of people and organizing many more volunteers to knock on doors, place

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Trump Force volunteer Justin Berkheimer speaks to an Erie, Pa., resident in September.

N.C. in 'survival mode' as areas still lack water

BY SARAH KAPLAN, BRADY DENNIS AND SCOTT DANCE

ASHEVILLE, N.C. — King Sison has responded to natural disasters in Indonesia, Libya and Brazil. He's delivered clean water amid armed violence and collapsed infrastructure and immense poverty. But his nonprofit, Planet Water, had never deployed emergency water services in the United States until Hurricane Helene hit, turning western North Carolina into a disaster zone as desperate as anything Sison has seen.

It is likely to still be weeks or months before taps in this part of Appalachia begin flowing with clean, potable water. The hurricane demolished key components of a system that serves about 160,000 households in and around Asheville.

Perhaps half of them can now turn on faucets — authorities don't know how many, exactly, but say they have made progress restoring service in recent days — but what comes out is so muddy

and contaminated, it must be boiled and strained.

For weeks, residents have been forced to collect water from streams or pools to flush toilets, and to carefully husband supplies of water that are safe for drinking, washing dishes and washing hands. Volunteers have started distributing larger drums and tanks of water to carry the region through a crisis most here had never imagined.

Combine those hardships with thousands of weeks-long power outages, the loss of mountain roads and bridges and a struggle to restore cell networks and internet service, and for some, it's as if Helene sent the once-bustling tourist hub, with its trendy restaurants and plethora of breweries, back to a time when it was rugged frontier.

Natasha Moore said her anxiety deepens the longer the water problem persists. She said she cares for her mother, who has

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Disaster aid: Funds can be hard to access for immigrant families. A3

IN THE NEWS

Indian spy charged Vikash Yadav is accused of directing a foiled plot to murder a Sikh separatist in New York City last year. A13

Virginia basketball Tony Bennett, who led the Cavaliers to the 2019 NCAA title and two ACC tourney championships in 15 seasons, will announce his immediate retirement today. D1

THE NATION A panel probing July's assassination attempt called for a shake-up at the Secret Service. A2
A teen and his father were indicted on more charges in a school shooting in Georgia. A8

THE WORLD NATO appears unlikely to offer Ukraine an invitation to join the bloc anytime soon. A9
China's coast guard played an unprecedented role in drills around Taiwan this week. A14

THE ECONOMY Shifting tastes and the high cost of chocolate are making gummies and similar candies the stars of Halloween. A15
The White House approved a geothermal energy project in Utah that could eventually generate up to 2 gigawatts of electricity. A16

THE REGION Five new nonstop round-trip flights out of Reagan National Airport were tentatively approved by the Transportation Department. B1
A former county registrar has sued Virginia's attorney general, saying now-dropped election charges were false. B1

STYLE A tiny town in West Virginia has become a refuge for people fleeing the modern world's electromagnetic waves. C1
WEEKEND A hundred years of Howard University homecomings: More than a game, it's a party no one wants to miss.

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The Washington Post
Year 147, No. 54008

