

US POLI
brief

Haaretz endorses Obama

POLITICO

President Obama — who has battled accusations that he is insufficiently committed to the US relationship with Israel — locks down the endorsement of that country's left-of center newspaper.

In an editorial, the paper calls Obama "good for Israel".

While Obama has come under constant criticism for his testy relationship with the Israeli government, a recent IBD/CSM/TIPP poll shows him leading among Jewish American voters 59 percent to 35 percent.

Christie was Romney's first choice VP

POLITICO

Chris Christie was Mitt Romney's first choice for the Republican ticket ahead of Paul Ryan, Republican insiders tell Politico.

Christie, Republican governor of storm-devastated New Jersey, has been in the spotlight this week for praising Obama over his handling of the federal response to the superstorm Sandy.

Twitter, FB to push voters to poll

AFP, Washington

Both Republican and Democrats are campaigning online through Twitter, Facebook to convince the undecided voters to cast their ballot in the upcoming poll.

As the election nears, social networks are being used extensively to try and persuade people of the importance of voting and even beat the record 2008 turnout, when two-thirds of US voters cast a ballot in the election.

Whether they will cast their ballot will only become apparent on Tuesday, and it is still unclear how effective social media is in getting concrete results.

Obama early vote edge tenuous

POLITICO

President Barack Obama is leading in an unprecedented early voting push by both campaigns that has already seen an estimated 22 million people cast ballots.

But some independent observers said that the president's lead may not be wide enough to make up the difference between Obama and Mitt Romney in some key battleground states on Election Day.

In its poll, conducted this week, Pew reported that neither Obama nor Romney "has a clear advantage among early voters. This is in sharp contrast to early voting at this point four years ago, which favored Obama by a wide margin."



US PRESIDENTIAL POLL 2012



2 MORE DAYS TO GO

Romney trails in states with personal ties

CNN ONLINE

President James K Polk holds a distinction among those who have sought the nation's top job: He's the only major candidate to win the White House despite losing the vote in the state where he was born and the state where he lived.

It happened in 1844, and now 168 years later, Republican nominee Mitt Romney may need to duplicate Polk's feat if he wants to defeat President Barack Obama in Tuesday's election.

According to polls, Romney faces the prospect of losing both the state of his birth, Michigan, and the state where he lives and served as governor, Massachusetts.

Obama holds a double digit lead in Massachusetts, but the race is closer in Michigan, with the polls tightening, though the president remains in front.

Winners who overcame the loss of a state with strong personal ties included Abraham Lincoln, Richard Nixon and both George HW Bush and his son, George W Bush.

Honest Abe won his home state of Illinois, but lost his birth state of Kentucky in both of his presidential runs in 1860 and 1864. In 1968, Nixon won his birth state of California, where he also ran unsuccessfully as governor, but lost his home state of New York, where he had been working as a lawyer for a few years.



US President Barack Obama and former president Bill Clinton reacts during a campaign rally at Jiffy Lube Live in Bristow, Virginia on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

Gender gap rules race

POLITICO

Don't be fooled that the gender gap -- the measurable difference in the way women and men vote for candidates and in the way they view political issues -- is disappearing. To the contrary, it is driving the 2012 election.

Nate Silver of the New York Times' FiveThirtyEight blog, after a thorough analysis of many presidential polls, concluded on October 21st: "Gender Gap Near Historic Highs."

Silver's calculus revealed an 18 percent gender gap, with President Obama up among women by 10 percent and trailing among men by 9 percent. But women and men do not cancel each other out.

Women will be casting 10 million more votes than men in the 2012 election.

Women both register and vote in higher percentages than men. In 2008, women cast 9.7 million more votes than men, according to the Center for American

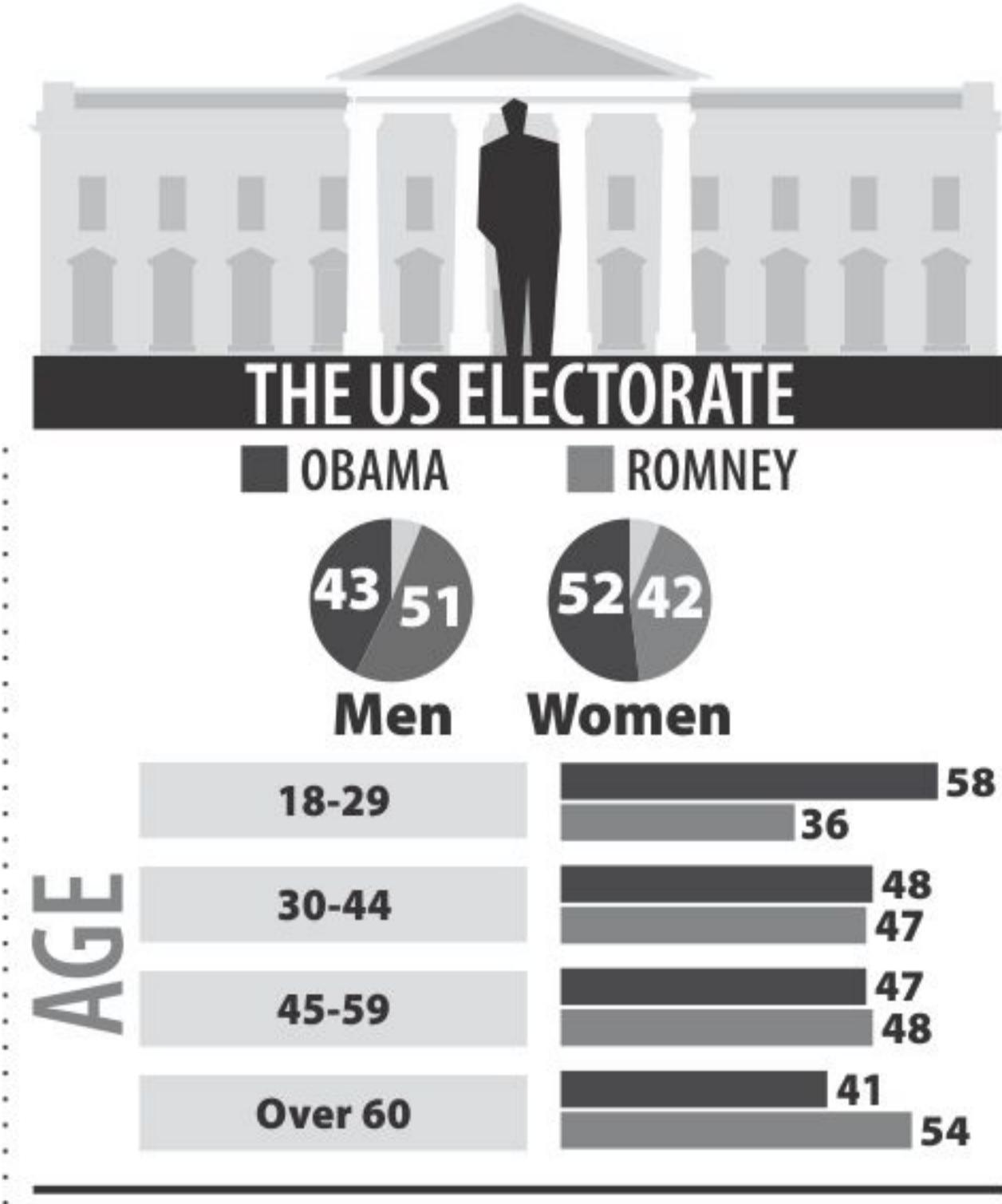
Woman and Politics (CAWP). Overall, Gallup found that 53 percent of the vote was cast by women and 47 percent cast by men.

More important than national polls, Obama is leading in swing states precisely because of the gender gap. In Ohio, for example, a newly released (October 31)

Quinnipiac University/New York Times/CBS poll of likely voters has Obama leading 50 percent to 45 percent with 56 percent of women for Obama and only 44 percent of men, creating a 12 percent gender gap. According to the same poll, in Florida and Virginia, Obama is leading by a slight margin and is boosted by a 10 percent gender gap.

The gender gap first appeared during the Equal Rights Amendment campaign in 1980. It persisted and has grown because of the increasingly different stances of the two major political parties and most of their candidates on women's rights. Issues ranging from equality in pay and employment, abortion and contraception, medicare, medicaid and social security have all fueled the gender gap.

The gender gap is also making a pronounced impact on many key US Senate races. For example, according to the October 31st Quinnipiac poll, in Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown (D) leads challenger Josh Mandel because of a 12 percent gender gap. In Connecticut, Chris Murphy (D) leads against Linda McMahon with a 10 point gender gap, despite the tens of millions of dollars McMahon is spending on her race.



FIVE FAMOUS QUOTES

With Election Day almost upon the US, here's a selection of some great lines about voting.

6 *Dear Jack: Don't buy a single vote more than necessary. I'll be damned if I'm going to pay for a landslide.* — then-Senator John F Kennedy at the Gridiron Club dinner in 1958, reading a "telegram" from his father.

6 *Half the American people never read a newspaper. Half never vote for President — the same half?* — American writer Gore Vidal in "Screening History," published 1992.

6 *Always vote for principle, though you may vote alone, and you may cherish the sweetest reflection that your vote is never lost.* — Sixth US President John Quincy Adams.

6 *A vote is like a rifle: its usefulness depends upon the character of the user.* — Commonly attributed to 26th US President Theodore Roosevelt.

6 *If voting changed anything, they'd make it illegal.* — Commonly attributed to anarchist Emma Goldman.

Source: Politico

Pakistan to honour Malala companions

AFP, Islamabad

Two Pakistani girls who were injured in an attack that nearly took the life of their classmate, schoolgirl activist Malala Yousufzai, are to be honored with a medal of courage, Interior Minister Rehman Malik said Saturday.

Kainat Riaz Ahmed and Shazia Ramzan were both hurt in the ambush on October 9, when armed thugs stopped their school van in Swat Valley.

The medal, known as Sitara-e-Jurra, or star of courage, is the third highest military award in Pakistan and is not normally given to civilians.

The militants' targeted Malala for her efforts to encourage education among girls.



Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Rahul Gandhi join Congress President and UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi as she waves towards supporters during a party rally at The Ram Lila Grounds in New Delhi yesterday. In a showdown, Sonia Gandhi used the platform to challenge the corruption charges levelled against the ruling UPA government and promised to bring a much discussed anti corruption bill in the next parliamentary session.

Police super

FROM PAGE 20

the SP's withdrawal was a punitive measure.

Selim would hand over the charge of his office to Patuakhali district SP Mohammad Azad Mia today, said police headquarters sources.

On Saturday, the Buddhist community in Ramu placed their demand for Selim's removal to visiting Industry Minister Dilip Barua and Prime Minister's Adviser Gowher Rizvi.

After Muslim fanatics had destroyed 18 pagodas and 50 houses in Ramu upazila of Cox's Bazar on the night of September 29, many Buddhists and socio-political leaders pointed the finger at inaction by local police force.

Selim as well as AK Nazibul Islam, Ramu police station's officer-in-charge who was withdrawn on October 2, had played the most dubious role.

Also yesterday, the Rapid Action Battalion recovered a Buddha idol, one of several hundred looted from different monasteries during the ram-page.

Major Sarwar-e-Alam, Rab Cox's Bazar camp commander, said a Rab-7 team found the 14.5cm brass idol weighing 1.10kg in a clump of bamboo in Ukhia around 3:30pm yesterday.

It is their second such recovery; they found another stolen idol on October 25.

End unrest: EU urges Myanmar

AFP, Yangon

European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso has called for an end to communal killings in Myanmar following talks with President Thein Sein, while pledging aid to the former pariah state.

More than 100,000 people have been displaced since June in two major outbreaks of violence in western Rakhine state, about 30,000 of them in the latest clashes between Buddhists and Rohingya Muslims which began last month.

Wanted Senior Manager - Research and Development

Perfetti Van Melle Bangladesh Pvt. Ltd. (part of the European Perfetti Van Melle Group), manufacturer of confectionery products, seeks applications for the position of Senior Manager-Research and Development.

Job Description / Responsibilities:

1. Responsible for R & D, Product Development, Process & Technology
2. Responsible for product design & specification in line with market
3. Responsible for new product lab trial as well as industrial trial
4. Responsible for cost reduction programs for Process & Raw material
5. Responsible for stability study for local & imported samples
6. Responsible for new Raw Material development
7. Support installation projects involving new processing technology & new machinery
8. Handel instruments like HPLC, Karl Fischer, Density Meter, Viscometer, Minolta Chromo Meter, UV spectrophotometer, Texture Analyzer (stable micro systems), Retsch Sieve Shaker, Aniometer
9. Coordinate with all the departments to implement and sustain system requirements
10. Plan and monitor the various quality plans in order to maintain the finished product parameters within the given standard limits
11. Coordinate with Legal department and external labs
12. Coordinate with consultants, institutions for updates in the industry

Educational Requirements: M.Sc. in Microbiology.

Experience Requirements: At least 8-10 years experience in Food industries, with a minimum of 7 years experience in Sugar confectionery industries

Additional Job Requirements:

- Age: 31 - 38 Years.
- Certified lead auditor for ISO 22000 food safety management system
- Excellent communication skill to communicate on daily operational issues
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Salary Range: Negotiable.

Job Location: Sreepur, Gazipur.

Attractive remuneration package will be offered to the deserving candidate. Interested applicants are invited to send their full resume with contact number and a photograph to the Human Resource Department through email: hosna.khan@pvmgrp.com. Only short-listed candidates will be called for interview.

Application deadline: 11th November, 2012.

Copts elect new pope

AFP, Cairo



Bishop Tawadros

Bishop Tawadros was chosen as new Pope of Egypt's Coptic Christians yesterday when a blindfolded altar boy picked his name from a chalice in a ceremony invoking divine guidance for the beleaguered minority.

Acting head of the church Bishop Pachomius took the ballot from the boy's hand and, showing it to those crowded into St Mark's Cathedral, announced: "Bishop Tawadros."

The crowd erupted in cheers and applause as church bells tolled in celebration across the country.

The new Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of All Africa in the Holy See of St Mark the Apostle succeeds Pope Shenouda III, who died in March leaving behind a community anxious about its future under an Islamist-led government.

On November 18 Tawadros will assume his new position as spiritual head of the largest Christian minority in the Middle East, becoming the 118th pope in a line dating back to the origins of Christianity.

'Palestine's UN bid will bring instability'

AFP, Jerusalem

A Palestinian bid to achieve the status of non-member state at the United Nations will not bring about peace but instability, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday.

He urged Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas to resume long-stalled direct talks.

Abbas has said he will table the resolution later this month, on either November 15 or 29. Such a move is likely to be voted through easily.

SANDY STRIKE
Cold bites as US races to secure power

AGENCIES

Victims of superstorm Sandy on the East Coast struggled against the cold yesterday amid fuel shortages and power outages, two days ahead of general election.

Nearly a million people in New York state remain without power after Storm Sandy, as frustration grows over the slow pace of recovery.

The power outages combined with a heating oil shortage meant some homes would be cold as unseasonably frigid weather set in. Forecasters saw temperatures dipping into the upper 30s Fahrenheit (around 3 degrees Celsius) on Saturday night with freezing temperatures expected next week.

In New Jersey, 32% of customers remained without power, the report said. Power has been restored to most of Manhattan but other parts of New York City are still without electricity.