

US MIDTERM ELECTIONS 2022

Is American democracy at risk?



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Today, the United States will be holding its fourth national elections since 2016, when Donald Trump became president. Each of these elections - two presidential and two midterms - has been deeply consequential. The last, in 2020, led to the attack on the US Capitol on January 6, 2021 by thousands of disgruntled Trump supporters seeking to overturn the election result. Then followed two years of stability and remarkable but unsung achievements of President Joe Biden and the Democratic Party-led 117th Congress of the US.

But what the latter was unable to do amid these two busy years was to strengthen laws and institutions to protect democracy. Meanwhile, the threats to democratic rule have metastasised. The midterm elections of November 8 will shake the foundations of US democracy for three reasons.

First, some 300 Republican candidates, including more than half of them running as governors and senators, deny the validity of the 2020 presidential elections. That is so even though more than 60 cases challenging the election result were dismissed by judges, many of them Republican appointees.

Second, several candidates are ambiguous about whether they will accept the election result if they lose. The leader here is Kari Lake, likely the next governor of Arizona and an emerging national leader.

Third, some candidates have suggested they would ensure that the 2024 presidential elections would not be "stolen." Many of these 2020 election result deniers are candidates running for state offices that will be running the 2024 elections. They are implying that, under them, the 2024 elections will have one result: a Republican victory.

These Republican candidates challenge a central tenet of democracy: fair elections and peaceful transfer of power. A radical change has occurred in US politics in the last two years.

The 2020 elections displayed the profound integrity of election workers, especially of the Republican officials supervising voting in key

battleground states of Arizona, Georgia, and Pennsylvania - where the race was close and largely determined the national results. Republican election officials, state county clerks, secretaries of states, governors, and ultimately the US vice-president stood steadfast in protecting election results. They withstood pressure from local party officials and even the president to "find" votes to win. After being challenged, the recounts of ballots of the most contested counties in Arizona, Texas, Wisconsin, and Georgia confirmed the outcome. Then came the storm of January

The Republican Party now threatens the US Constitution by challenging free elections and peaceful power transfer. By doing so, it is paving a "path to chaos" and violence, as President Biden warned last week. Last week, too, security agencies warned candidates and election officials about possible violence.

6, 2021. That day, the then President Donald Trump called his supporters to Washington and exhorted them to march to the US Capitol Building and stop the US Congress proceedings to certify the results of the 2020 elections. As asked, his supporters marched to the Capitol and went further: they broke into the building and the legislative chambers, causing Congress members to stop their proceedings and flee. Violence ensued, with many injured and five dying. It is to be noted that the only other time the US Capitol was attacked was during the war in 1814 when the British Army set fire to it.

The January 6, 2021 assault was no less significant. It was an insurrection against the US government to prevent



FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

A Trump supporter holds a sign during the Pennsylvania general election vote count three days after the 2020 US presidential elections.

fair elections and the peaceful transfer of power. Rubbing salt in the wound, 147 Republican members of Congress voted against certifying the 2020 election results the next day.

How did the Republican party, the Grand Old Party (GOP) of Abraham Lincoln, Teddy Roosevelt, and Dwight Eisenhower, which preserved and led the US to greatness, come to this point? Historians will debate this question for years, but there can be no question about the GOP's glorious past.

The Republican Party led the US through the 1861-65 Civil War, when more than half a million Americans died to preserve their country and free African Americans from slavery. In that war, they armed nearly 200,000 African Americans, free men and former slaves to fight in the Union Army and Navy. They built the infrastructure of the 19th century and again in the mid-20th century, making the US an economic giant. In 1890, they restrained the growth of monopolies, saving the country from the clutch of oligarchies. In 1954, their government sent the US Army's 101st Airborne Division to Arkansas to enforce the Supreme Court decision to allow African American children to attend desegregated schools. Republican President Eisenhower warned the country and the world about the dangers of the military-industrial complex.

That Republican Party now threatens the US Constitution by challenging free elections and peaceful power transfer. By doing

so, it is paving a "path to chaos" and violence, as President Biden warned last week. Last week, too, security agencies warned candidates and election officials about possible violence. Then came the hammer assault on 82-year-old Paul Pelosi, husband of House Speaker and Democrat Nancy Pelosi.

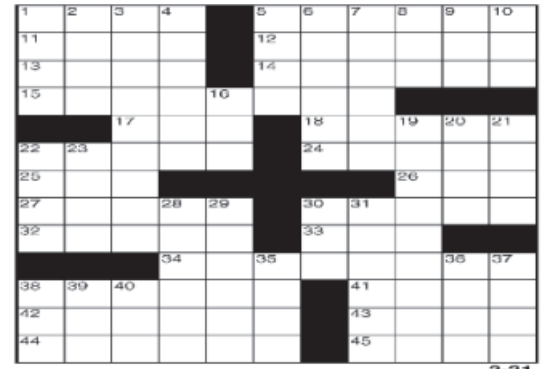
CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Contemptible
5 Grow sick of
11 Diva's piece
12 Climate-affecting current
13 Sprightly dances
14 Bath problem
15 Sticky stuff
17 Chiding sound
18 Key
22 Grating
24 Stage comment
25 Sculpting medium
26 Collins base
27 Stews
30 Phoenix source
32 Wild

- 33 Exciting, in slang
34 Look like
38 Pate cover
41 Dessert fruit
42 Show up
43 Luke's sister
44 Ready for the body shop
45 Screws up

- 9 Count start
10 At present
16 Sow site
19 Bar choice
20 TV's Falco
21 Addition column
22 Musical phrase
23 Land unit
28 La Brea sight
29 Shirt part
30 Bar choice
31 Not flashy
35 Parrot morsel
36 Den
37 Important times
38 Smidgen
39 Raw metal
40 Hot water dispenser



YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS



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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
অধিনায়কের কার্যালয়
৬ আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন
মহালছড়ি, ঝাংড়াছড়ি।
Website: www.police.gov.bd
-৪ উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান বিজ্ঞপ্তি -৪-
এতদ্বারা 'The Public Procurement Act-2006 & The Public Procurement Regulations-2008' এর
প্রবিধান অনুযায়ী ২০২২-২০২৩ অর্থ সালে ৬ আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন, মহালছড়ি, ঝাংড়াছড়ি'র নিম্নবর্ণিত কাজের তিকাদার নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে প্রকৃত
বাংলাদেশী সরবরাহকারী ফর্ম/প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

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MBA ADMISSION TEST
Regular Program | Session: 2022-2023
Required Academic Qualifications
MBA Admission Test (2022-23) of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), University of Dhaka will be held on Friday, 09 December 2022, at 10:00 AM.
The test has two components. Written test and Interview. The written test component evaluates applicant's aptitude in Language, Mathematics, and Analytical Ability. An applicant must obtain a minimum qualifying score in each of the above areas to pass the written test. After qualifying in the written test, candidate must appear before an interview board.
An applicant with a foreign nationality and university degree(s) having a GMAT score of minimum 75 percentile may be exempted from taking the written test. However, s/he is required to appear before an interview board.
For all foreign certificates/degrees (excluding O and A Levels), equivalence will be determined by the Equivalence Committee of IBA. Without such equivalence, an applicant is not eligible to apply for the admission test.
An applicant with degree from UGC unapproved program of any university is not eligible to apply for the admission test.
The application fee is Tk. 2000. The application must be submitted online by Thursday, 01 December 2022. For detailed application procedure, please visit: www.iba-du.edu or http://www.iba-mba.registrationbd.com
For further information, please call 01764119001 or 01764119002 between 10:00 am to 06:00 pm on any working day until Thursday, 01 December 2022.
Director
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