

White House
vows Ukraine
support

The White House on Monday said US support for Ukraine's war effort will be "unwavering" even if Republicans, who have expressed concerns about the level of spending, win midterm elections. "We are confident the United States' support will be unflinching and will be unwavering," Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters.

Twitter girds
for surge in
polls misinfo

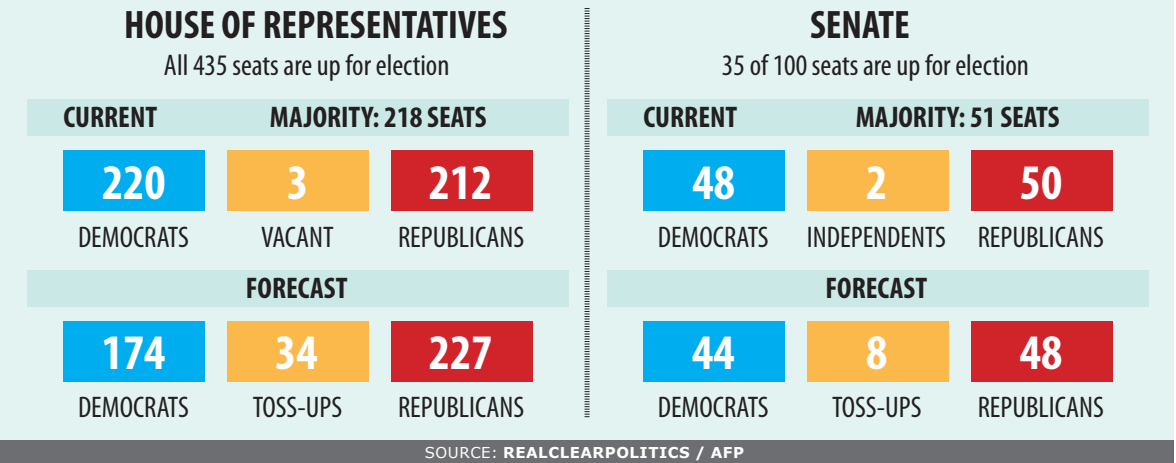
Days after Twitter Inc fired half its staff and new owner Elon Musk tweeted the midterm elections will turn on just a few key issues — but they disagree on what those will be. Democrats believe they can win at least some of the fights in the final stretch over abortion rights and former President Trump. Republicans would rather battle it out on the margins over inflation and crime. And both sides want to claim victory in the immigration debate.

40m cast early
ballots

More than 40 million Americans have cast early ballots ahead of yesterday's midterm elections, surpassing the numbers from two years ago, the US Elections Project said Monday. Most of the 50 US states allow voters to cast ballots early, either in-person or by mail, a practice which became widespread during the 2020 presidential election, which was held at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

US MIDTERM ELECTION



Blue wave or red?

Key factors which might decide US midterms

AGENCIES

Democrats and Republicans agree the midterm elections will turn on just a few key issues — but they disagree on what those will be.

Democrats believe they can win at least some of the fights in the final stretch over abortion rights and former President Trump. Republicans would rather battle it out on the margins over inflation and crime. And both sides want to claim victory in the immigration debate.

Non-partisan election forecasters predict that Republicans are likely to pick up roughly 25 seats in the 435 seat House of Representatives, more than enough to win a majority. Analysts said Republicans also could pick up the one seat they need to win control of the Senate, reports Reuters.

Here are the four issues that could shape the elections' outcome:

INFLATION

Republicans believe inflation will be the issue most top of mind for voters as they head to the ballot box and believe what they call President Biden's economy gives them the edge.

They see Biden's lackluster poll numbers and the stubbornly high prices as a sign they can win if they convince voters to trust Republicans to improve their financial situations.

While Biden's standing has recently improved, many Americans are still wrestling with higher costs

for basic daily needs, a reality that has privately worried Democrats who see their opposition making headway.

Inflation consistently polls as a top issue for Americans. A Reuters-Ipsos poll found that 30 percent named it as their top concern, and the party in power almost always gets the blame for economic woes.

ABORTION

Democrats saw the Supreme Court's ruling to overturn Roe v. Wade as horrible and inhumane, so they got right to work trying to turn that anger into votes.

Democrats are "working to make sure voters hear every horrifying quote, see the antipathy they have for women" on the other side, said Julie McClain Downey, vice president of communications at American Bridge 21st Century, a Democratic advocacy and lobbying firm that has focused heavily on reproductive freedom since the ruling in June.

Polls have shown the issue has a strength that surprised many, reports The Hill. Democrats have also won every special House election since the court's ruling, and House, Senate and gubernatorial candidates across the country have centered their campaigns around convincing voters Republicans are working to take away reproductive rights.

CRIME

Republicans have made headway in recent weeks in two Senate battlegrounds by characterizing

the Democratic candidates as crime apologists who are closely aligned with a party that wants to "defund the police."

GOP operatives and national strategists have increased their attacks on Mandela Barnes, the Democratic Senate nominee in Wisconsin and a young Black progressive, and Pennsylvania Democratic Senate nominee John Fetterman.

In Wisconsin, Republicans have run ads seeking to tie Barnes to criminal justice reforms they characterize as soft on crime. In Pennsylvania, the GOP has highlighted crimes taking place around Philadelphia. And, the tactic appears to be working.

IMMIGRATION

If there's one midterm issue likely to preview a big part of the 2024 presidential primary, it's immigration. Look no further than Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis's (R) recent decision to move migrants from Texas to Martha's Vineyard, a wealthy coastal area of Massachusetts.

DeSantis is one of the leading Republicans trying to make a national platform out of the country's divided stance on immigration. His approach, which critics say amounts to political theatre, shares some of the broad contours of Trump's own policy platform, which included his signature support for building a wall across the border with Mexico.

UN warns of
worsening food
crisis in Lanka

AFP, Colombo

The United Nations yesterday warned of a worsening food crisis in bankrupt Sri Lanka and said the number of people needing urgent humanitarian help had doubled to 3.4 million.

UN agencies had estimated in June that 1.7 million out of the 22 million population in Sri Lanka required help.

The UN agencies in Colombo in a joint statement said they had raised \$79 million to feed those in need, but the increasing number of poor people meant they needed an additional \$70 million. "Food insecurity in Sri Lanka has increased dramatically due to two consecutive seasons of poor harvests and foreign exchange shortages," the statement said.

NZ, Pakistan

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but only after a stunning upset of South Africa by the Dutch in the final round of group matches had cleared the path.

You get the impression, however, that that is pretty much the way Pakistan like it. If Pakistan will be looking to ride the momentum of their great escape from the group, New Zealand will be relying on a tried and tested philosophy as they seek to reach the final against India or England.

Blue skies are forecast for the Sydney Cricket Ground on Wednesday for what could be an intriguing contrast between two well-balanced teams boasting some fine pace bowling.

For some, the match has echoes of the 1992 50-overs World Cup in Australia, where Pakistan scraped into the last four before beating tournament favourites New Zealand in the semis and England in the final.

“Double standards are unacceptable. Developed nations should be giving leadership to work on climate challenges rather than abdicating their responsibilities.”
Sri Lankan President
Ranil Wickremesinghe

PROTEST IN PAKISTAN

Imran's supporters
block roads

REUTERS, Islamabad

Supporters of former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan blocked roads near the capital yesterday, disrupting traffic and forcing schools to close, as they protested against a bid to assassinate their leader at a recent anti-government rally.

"People are finding it very hard to go to work," said police official Yawar Ali. "Families have been stuck in the traffic for hours. We've even got reports that the protesters have not let ambulances pass." Khan's successor as prime minister, Shehbaz Sharif, has rejected his demand for new polls and the deadlock has stoked instability in the nuclear-armed country of 220 million people.



An Election Judge presents a two-page paper midterm election ballot to Tiara Williams at the Eastport Volunteer Fire Company polling location in Annapolis, US, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

182 and counting

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Tahmina Shirin, director of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research.

Entomologists said multiple serotypes not only caused the rise in dengue cases but also turned the patients' conditions severe.

Mohammad Robed Amin, line director at the Non-Communicable Disease Control Division (NCDC) of the DGHS, said it is important to watch for other symptoms rather than worrying about platelets to reduce the risk of death from dengue.

These symptoms are: the patient's blood pressure drops, lethargy, sweating and nausea.

According to him, if these symptoms appear, the physical condition of the patient may become serious.

Robed, talking to the journalists after a programme at Bangladesh University of Health Sciences, also suggested that

if these symptoms appear, it is necessary to immediately admit the patient to a hospital and give fluid or saline.

He warned that if the right amount of fluid is not given at the right time, there is a risk of death for the patient.

Asked about the increasing number of deaths from dengue in hospitals, Robed said the number of deaths in government hospitals is not high. Dengue deaths are increasing in private hospitals.

He hoped that if private hospitals follow the guidelines of the World Health Organization in the treatment of dengue, the number of deaths will decrease.

To avoid death, IEDCR Director Tahmina Shirin, suggested taking sufficient fluids in any form like oral saline, fruit juice and coconut water.

"A patient will take fluids during fever and

also continue it even after the fever goes away as there will be the chance of deterioration after fever ends," she added.

The patients need to be hospitalised when they feel like vomiting, pain in the stomach, breathing issues or bleed from any part of the body, she advised.

HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate prof at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College, said the risk of fatalities increases if an individual previously infected with one serotype gets infected with another serotype.

He said the patients who are coming to the facility have mostly faced multiple exposures. It means they were infected by another variant of dengue earlier.

"Early detection of the infection and immediate hospitalisation can significantly lower the risk. Late admission is another reason for the rising number of deaths this year," Nazmul said.

"Many hospitals or clinics, especially private ones, do not follow guidelines on fluid management, he said, adding that this is one of the reasons for the increasing number of deaths, he said.

Prof MA Faiz, former director general of DGHS, recently told The Daily Star that a lack of proper information about the actual number of dengue patients and laboratory diagnosis data is a "big weakness" for the country's health system.

"We have to know the total number of dengue patients [to control the outbreak]. But we don't have the mechanism," he said yesterday.

He said the country's health system is so weak that it is not possible for the authorities to improve the overall dengue situation overnight.

"If the health system can't be improved as a whole, similar outbreaks will happen every now and then."