

1776

US Congress proclaims the Declaration of Independence and independence from Great Britain



1785

James Hutton, geologist, publicly reads an abstract of his theory of uniformitarianism for the first time at the meeting of the Royal Society of Edinburgh

1803

The Louisiana Purchase is announced to the American people by President Thomas Jefferson

2017

North Korea tests first successful intercontinental ballistic missile into Sea of Japan

Labour set to surpass 1997 landslide in election: poll



Labour set to surpass 1997 landslide in election: poll

London, United Kingdom

The UK Labour party is 99 percent "certain" to secure more seats in Thursday's general election than when it won a landslide victory in 1997, a major new poll said on Tuesday.

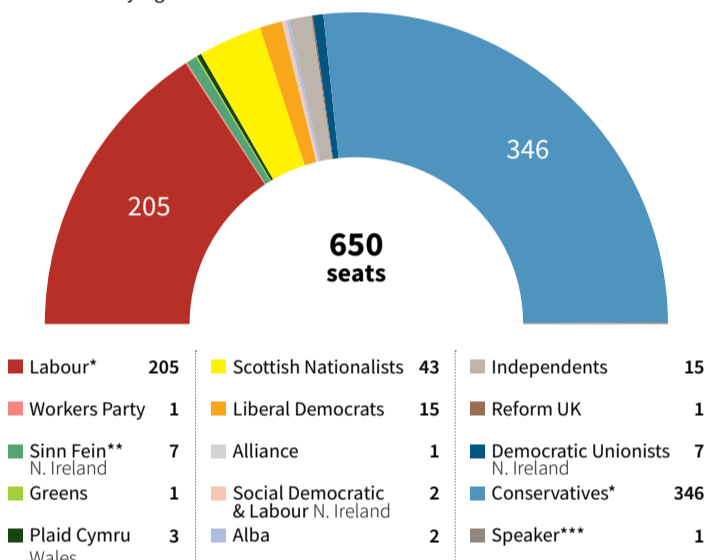
The centre-left opposition party -- out of power since 2010 -- is predicted to claim 484 out of a total of 650 seats in what would be an unprecedented victory in modern British history, pollster Survation said.

Meanwhile, the right-wing ruling Conservatives and the centrist Liberal Democrats (Lib Dems) are in a close race to come a distant second and form the country's official opposition, it added.

The prediction is the latest in a series of so-called MRP polls -- which use large national samples to forecast results for every UK constituency -- that estimate Labour will win emphatically on July 4.

UK state of the parties

before the July 4 general election



*Including non-voting deputy speakers (Labour 1, Conservatives 2)

**Does not take its seats in parliament

***Does not vote in parliament

Source: UK Parliament, as at dissolution of parliament on May 30



at the National Army Museum in London

But Johnson -- ousted by his own colleagues, including Sunak, in 2022 after a string of scandals, and who has been notably absent from the campaign -- urged supporters not to see the result as a "foregone conclusion".

The Brexit stalwart told a rally late Tuesday that Starmer would try to "usher in the most left-wing Labour government" since World War II.

Earlier, Survation pollsters predicted Labour was on track to win more than the 418 seats it won when Tony Blair ended 18 years of Conservative rule in 1997.

Labour requires at least 326 seats to secure a majority.

"There is more chance of lightning striking twice in the same place... than Rishi Sunak remaining as prime minister," Britain's pre-eminent political polling expert John Curtice said this week.

Attention in the British media is turning to what a Starmer government would look like when the results for the 650-seat

parliament start dropping from about 2230 GMT on Thursday into Friday morning.

Thursday's vote is Britain's first July election since 1945, when Labour under Clement Attlee defeated the Conservatives of World War II leader Winston

Churchill, ushering in a period of transformational social change.

Attlee's government created the modern welfare state, including the National Health Service, Britain's most cherished institution after the royal family.

Plastics pollution

One option is Ski Dubai, an indoor resort where temperatures drop to minus 2 degrees Celsius (28.4 degrees Fahrenheit).

"Hopefully we can get in there and do a little bit of training for a few hours. Just to give us the real kind of cold temperature," Savill said.

Dempsey is counting on her chilly Irish upbringing to see her through.

"I had the first 20 years of my life in cold conditions," she said with a laugh.

"I think it's just something that mentally and physically we'll adapt to when we get there, and I don't think it's going to be a problem for any of us."

Hezbollah says Israeli strike kills senior commander

AFP | Beirut, Lebanon

Hezbollah said an Israeli strike yesterday killed a senior commander from the group in south Lebanon, the Iran-backed movement's second such casualty in recent weeks.

Hezbollah has traded near daily cross-border fire with the Israeli army since its Palestinian ally Hamas attacked southern Israel on October 7, triggering war in Gaza.

"A Hezbollah commander responsible for one of three sectors in south Lebanon was killed" in an "Israeli strike on a

car in Tyre", a source told AFP, requesting anonymity as they were not authorised to speak to the media.

Hezbollah said later in a statement that "commander Mohammed Naameh Nassar", also known as "Hajj Abu Naameh" had been killed, while another source close to the group confirmed he was killed in the strike in Tyre.

That source, also requesting anonymity, said he was the third senior Hezbollah commander to be killed in almost nine months of hostilities.

Canada names first woman to lead military

Ottawa, Canada

Canada's prime minister announced Wednesday the appointment of Lieutenant-General Jennie Carignan as the first woman to lead the G7 and NATO member nation's military.

A highly decorated soldier and mother of four children, two of whom serve in the Canadian Armed Forces, Carignan will be promoted to the rank of general and take over from retiring General Wayne Eyre as chief of the Defense Staff at a ceremony on July 18.

Woman found dead swallowed by python in Indonesia

Makassar, Indonesia

A woman was found dead inside the belly of a snake after it swallowed her whole in central Indonesia, police said Wednesday, the second python killing in the province in a month.

Siriati, 36, had gone missing after she left her house Tuesday morning to buy medicine for her sick child, police said, prompting relatives to launch a search.

Her husband Adiansa, 30, found her slippers and pants

on the ground about 500 metres (yards) from their house in Siteba village, South Sulawesi province.

"Shortly after that, he spotted a snake, about 10 metres from the path. The snake was still alive," local police chief Idul, who like many Indonesians has one name, told AFP.

Village secretary Iyang told AFP that Adiansa became suspicious after he noticed the python's "very large" belly. He called the villagers to help cut open its stomach, where they found her body.

Most patients have fled European Gaza Hospital: WHO

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

Almost all the patients in the European Gaza Hospital and the Red Cross field hospital decided to flee following Israeli military evacuation orders for the surrounding area in southern Gaza, the WHO said Wednesday.

On Monday, 270 patients reportedly self-evacuated along with medical staff, and on Tuesday, the Gaza health ministry evacuated more patients, the World Health Or-

ganization said.

"Now only three patients remain at the European Gaza Hospital and three at the ICRC field hospital. Most patients have been referred to Nasser Medical Complex," the WHO said, citing figures from Tuesday. The Israeli army on Monday ordered the evacuation for most areas east of Khan Yunis and Rafah along the Egyptian border. It did not explicitly announce a military operation, but such orders have typically preceded major offensives.

240,000 people evacuated in China rainstorms

AFP | Beijing, China

Nearly a quarter of a million people were evacuated in eastern China as rainstorms lashed swathes of the country and caused the Yangtze and other rivers to swell, state media reported Wednesday.

China has been enduring extreme weather conditions in recent months, from torrential rainfall to searing heat waves.

The country is the leading emitter of greenhouse gases, which scientists say drive

climate change and make extreme weather events more frequent and intense.

State news agency Xinhua said the storms had affected 991,000 residents in Anhui province and forced the evacuation of 242,000 people by Tuesday afternoon.

"As of 4 pm Tuesday, rainstorms had wreaked havoc in 36 counties and districts in seven prefecture-level cities in Anhui," Xinhua reported, citing the provincial emergency-management department.

Judge postpones Trump's New York sentencing to September 18

AFP | New York, United States

A judge postponed Tuesday Donald Trump's sentencing for covering up hush money payments until September 18, the first fallout of a Supreme Court ruling on presidential immunity, pushing it to after the Republican convention.

The United States' top court ruled Monday that Trump enjoys some immunity from

prosecution as a former president, a decision also set to delay his trial for conspiring to overturn the 2020 election.

Hours after the ruling was announced, Trump's legal team said in a letter to the New York court that the immunity ruling vindicated Trump's position that he should not be judged for his "official acts," and reiterated his call for the conviction to be set aside.

Nepal PM loses majority

Kathmandu, Nepal

Embattled Nepali Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal lost his government's majority yesterday after his key coalition partner withdrew support, triggering fresh political uncertainty in Kathmandu's volatile parliament.

Dahal is expected to face a vote of confidence in parliament within 30 days.

Dahal, a 69-year-old ex-Maoist guerrilla better known by his nom de guerre Prachanda, or "the fierce one", has held the prime minister's position since December 2022 through fragile alliances.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



I thank Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, for his warm welcome to his country. During our meeting, we discussed the world's most dramatic conflicts, the regional situation in Central Asia, and the strong collaboration between the @UN and Kazakhstan

@antonoguterres

02



Each of us is equal before the law. No one is above it -- not even a president. With today's Supreme Court decision on Presidential immunity, there are now virtually no limits on what a president can do. That is a new, dangerous precedent.

@POTUS

03



The European #Gaza Hospital is now completely empty -- all 320 patients and all the medical personnel have evacuated, following the evacuation orders in Khan Younis, in close proximity to the hospital.

@DrTedros

04



Secretaries of State Madeleine Albright and Colin Powell were trailblazers. Their legacy continues to guide me, the Department they led, and so many others around the world. Alongside their families, we are proud to dedicate two rooms in the State Department to them.

@SecBlinken

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stance)



The United Nations says plastics account for 85 percent of all marine trash.