

AI chatbots can influence voters: studies

AFP, Paris

A brief conversation with a partisan AI chatbot can influence voters' political views, studies published Thursday found, with evidence-backed arguments -- true or not -- proving particularly persuasive.

Experiments with generative artificial intelligence models, such as OpenAI's GPT-4o and DeepSeek, found they were able to shift supporters of Republican Donald Trump towards his Democratic opponent Kamala Harris by almost four points on a 100-point scale ahead of the 2024 US presidential election.

Opposition supporters in 2025 polls in Canada and Poland meanwhile had their views shifted by up to 10 points after chatting with a bot programmed to persuade.



Rescuers help a woman trapped by floodwaters next to a logging truck in Bandung, West Java, Indonesia, yesterday, after heavy rain caused the Citarum River to overflow, submerging homes and the main road.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Asim Munir named Pakistan's first chief of defence forces

DAWN ONLINE

Pakistan Ministry of Defence yesterday officially notified Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir as the country's first chief of defence forces (CDF), a day after President Asif Ali Zardari approved the appointment on the advice of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

The notification, a copy of which is available with Dawn, said: "In exercise of the powers conferred under Article 243 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973, read with Section 8A of the Pakistan Army Act, the president on the advice of the prime minister, is pleased to appoint Field Marshal Asim Munir (NI) M as the chief of army staff, concurrently the chief of defence forces for a tenure of five years."

A separate notification issued by the ministry also notified Zardari's approval of the prime minister's advice regarding the leadership of the air force.

The army chief has been named the first CDF in the most sweeping restructuring of the military command since the 1970s.

The new arrangement consolidates operational, administrative and strategic authority in a single office established through amendments to Article 243 of the Constitution under the 27th Amendment.

The amendment also abolished the office of chairman joint chiefs of staff committee (CJCS).



Trump strategy shifts from global role

Vows 'resistance' in Europe, prioritises eliminating mass migration

AFP, Washington

President Donald Trump laid out a radical realignment of US foreign policy yesterday, shifting the longtime superpower's focus from global to regional, brutally criticizing Europe as facing "civilizational erasure" and putting a top priority on eliminating mass migration.

The national security strategy, meant to flesh out Trump's norms-shattering worldview, elevates Latin America to the top of the US agenda in a sharp reorientation from longstanding US calls to focus on Asia to face a rising China.

"In everything we do, we are putting America First," Trump said in a preamble to the long-awaited paper.

Breaking with decades of attempts to be the sole superpower, the strategy said that the "United States rejects the ill-fated concept of global domination for itself."

It said that the United States would also prevent other powers, namely China, from dominating but added: "This does not mean wasting blood and treasure to curtail the influence of all the world's great and middle powers."

The strategy called for a "readjustment

of our global military presence to address urgent threats in our Hemisphere," starting with migration.

"The era of mass migration must end," the strategy said. The strategy made clear that the US under Trump would aggressively pursue similar objectives in Europe, in line with far-right parties' agendas.

The new US security strategy elevates Latin America to the top of Washington's agenda, shifting focus from Asia and China's rise.

It also said the administration would be "cultivating resistance to Europe's current trajectory within European nations." Germany quickly hit back. The strategy pointed to Europe's slide in share of the global economy -- which is the result largely of the rise of China and other emerging powers -- and said: "This economic decline is eclipsed by the real and more stark prospect of civilizational erasure."

Such sensitive

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said, "The Arakan Army is not a state entity. Therefore, it is not possible to hold formal bilateral discussions with them. However, since our national interest is involved, the matter is being looked into seriously."

Touhid further announced that a 1,000-bed hospital funded by China, initially planned for Dhaka, will now be set up in Nilphamari. "The plan

has been designed in such a way that people from the Rangpur division, as well as from India, Bhutan, and other neighbouring countries, can receive medical treatment here," he said.

Highlighting the lack of industries in Rangpur, he stressed that employment remains the region's biggest challenge. "We are moving ahead with plans to create jobs and attract investment," he added.

US widens travel ban

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as tourists, students and business travelers. Noem did not specify which countries would be added to the list.

Trump's administration on Thursday also cut the validity of work permits for refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants to 18 months from five years.

The move came after two National Guard members were allegedly shot last week by an Afghan man who entered the United States as part of a resettlement program following the American

military withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021.

Joseph Edlow, director of US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), cited the November 26 shooting in the US capital as a reason for the work permit move.

"Reducing the maximum validity period for employment authorization will ensure that those seeking to work in the United States do not threaten public safety or promote harmful anti-American ideologies," Edlow said in a statement.

Argentina, Brazil

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Haaland's Norway in Group I, which will be completed by an intercontinental play-off winner from either Iraq, Bolivia or Suriname.

The 2026 tournament will be held across the United States, Mexico and Canada from June 11 to July 19, with 16 more teams added to the global showpiece, up from the 32 nations involved in Qatar in 2022.

That means a total of 104 matches, compared to 64 games last time.

While the US will host

the majority of matches including the final at the MetLife Stadium outside New York, three of the 16 venues will be in Mexico and two in Canada.

Co-hosts Mexico will take on South Africa in Group A in the opening game of the tournament at the Estadio Azteca in Mexico City on June 11.

Because of the complexity, teams will only learn the full details of their match venues and kick-off times on Saturday, a day after the draw.

Xi woos Macron with sightseeing trip

REUTERS, Beijing

Chinese leader Xi Jinping accompanied French President Emmanuel Macron to Chengdu yesterday, a rare gesture seemingly reserved for the head of Europe's second-largest economy that highlights Beijing's focus on Paris in its ties with the European Union.

Even when US President Donald Trump made a landmark visit to China early during his first term in 2017, and Xi lavished him with a private dinner within Beijing's Forbidden City, the trip was confined to the Chinese capital.

But despite the apparent bonhomie between Xi and Macron, the French president's visit so far has resulted in little beyond bolstering Beijing's diplomatic credentials, as world leaders turn to China seeking economic assurances due to Trump's tariffs, analysts say. It has also provided Macron with a

chance to project statesmanship after a tough summer in domestic politics.

Investors are watching to see whether a day that began with the French president surprising fellow joggers in the city's Jincheng Lake Park, before joining Xi at a historic dam site, will end with major commercial deals or a thaw in EU-China trade tensions, given that Macron has been joined on his fourth state visit to China by the heads of some of France's biggest firms.

A meeting in the Chinese capital on Thursday only resulted in 12 cooperation agreements covering areas such as population ageing, nuclear energy and panda conservation, and no monetary total was disclosed.

"I think they (France) thought that Xi would be in a position to offer a lot because Europe is really preparing this economic security doctrine," said Alicia Garcia-Herrero, senior fellow at the think tank Bruegel.



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e-Tender Notice (OTM) : 37/2025-2026

Memo No: 46.02.0100.000.07.067.25-3599 Date: 04-12-2025.

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of stated below:

Tender IDs	Package Description & No.	Last Date & Time of Depositing Document fees
1184885	(a) Improvement of Rajapur G. C.- Daksinrajapur via Culvert GPS (House of Mofij) Road By BC at Ch.00m - 1000m [Road ID: 201774049] [Salvage Cost: 4,37,958.00 Tk.] [Sharankhola] [Bagerhat] (b) Improvement of Rayenda Rajoir Sliper bridge - Rayenda GC Baniakhali GC Road By BC at Ch.00m - 550m [Road ID: 201775080] [Salvage Cost: 2,30,206.00 Tk.] [Sharankhola] [Bagerhat] (c) Improvement of Southkhali Nimno Maddhomik Balika Biddaloy (GPS) - Sonatala Cyclone Shelter Road By BC at Ch.2530m - 3530m [Road ID: 201774002] [Salvage Cost: 8,43,821.00 Tk.] [Sharankhola] [Bagerhat] (d) Improvement of Madinatul Ulum Dakhil Madrasa - Mofidia Mohila Madrasa via Gajibaripara Road By BC at Ch. 990m - 1990m [Road ID: 201774054] [Salvage Cost: 7,48,162.00 Tk.] [Sharankhola] [Bagerhat] (e) Improvement of Khada (Joinal member) - Jammadarbari via H/O Moslem Akon road. By BC at Ch.243m - 1243m [Road ID: 201775039] [Salvage Cost: 6,87,893.00 Tk.] [Sharankhola] [Bagerhat] & Bag/VR-111/FY 2025-26.	28.12.2025 Time : 5:00 PM
1184887	(a) Improvement of Bandhaghata Central Grave Yerd to Pollimongle RHD Beribandh Road Via -Sharankhola Degree College Road By BC at Ch.00m-2000m [Road ID: 201774095] [Salvage Cost: 1,88,005.00 Tk.] [Sharankhola] [Bagerhat] (b) Improvment of Paschim Nalbunia Mojid Amin Mosjid - B - Janerpar GPS Road By BC at Ch.00m - 975m [Road ID: 201775090] [Salvage Cost: 8,06,293.00 Tk.] [Sharankhola] [Bagerhat] (c) Improvment of Rayenda Baniakhali Upazila Road (H/O Lutfar Howlader) - Wapda Road By BC at Ch.00m - 1065m [Road ID: 201775025] [Salvage Cost: 9,26,583.00 Tk.] [Sharankhola] [Bagerhat] & Bag/VR-112/FY 2025-26.	28.12.2025 Time : 5:00 PM

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender shall be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies shall be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

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Reference: 35.01.6500.450.07.004.25-2295/3(29) Date: 04/12/2025

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of:

Tender ID	Tender Package No and Description	Last selling Date and Time	Closing & Opening Date and Time
1183783	e-GP/EE/NRD/Rev./04/2025-2026 Supplying of best quality 1st Class Bricks for Routine Maintenance Work of different Roads at RHD Stackyard under Road Division Narail During the year 2025-2026.	17-Dec-2025 17:00	18-Dec-2025 12:00
1183785	e-GP/EE/NRD/Rev./05/2025-2026 Supplying of best quality Pakur Stone (20mm & 12mm), Sylhet Sand (F.M-2.50), Local Sand (F.M-0.50) & Fire Wood for Routine Maintenance Work of different Roads at RHD Stackyard under Road Division Narail During the year 2025-2026.	17-Dec-2025 17:00	18-Dec-2025 12:30

- This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
- To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required
- The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any Member of Schedule Banks for e-GP.
- Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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GD-2568