Americans vote in midterms

Trump calls it 'most important midterm' of his lifetime

AGENCIES

Americans delivered their verdict on Donald Trump's tumultuous second presidency yesterday in midterm elections that threaten to shatter his grip on Washington, with Democrats widely favoured to retake the House but facing a greater challenge in the Senate.

Republicans losing the House would give Democrats the power to stall Trump's legislative agenda and launch sweeping investigations of his administration. A Senate defeat would also threaten his ability to appoint Supreme Court justices and senior officials.

The election amounts to a nationwide judgment on Trump. All 435 House seats and 35 of the 100 Senate seats are at stake, along with governorships in 36 states. Democrats need only three House gains and a net four seats in the Senate to wrest both chambers from Republican hands.

Democrats could block Trump's agenda and launch investigations if Republicans lose the House

Trump labeled the elections as "the most important midterm in our lifetime."

Congressional candidates made their final arguments to US voters on Monday evening, the eve of the midterm elections, with tensions running high in Michigan, where Abdul El-Sayed aims to become the first Muslim elected to the Senate, and in California, where the Supreme Court quashed an attempt by President Donald Trump's Justice Department to intervene.

The top court rejected the Trump administration's attempt to temporarily block California from counting mail-in ballots from more than 20,000 registered voters who federal officials alleged were likely non-US citizens.

Some Republican supporters, however, remain confident.



People vote during the midterm elections early in the day at the Brooklyn Museum in New York, US, yesterday. About 210 million registered voters are set to decide how much power Donald Trump will have for the remainder of his presidency. PHOTO: AFP

Blue wave or red surprise?

Key factors that could decide the US midterms

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Americans voted in the midterm elections to decide who would control Congress for the final two years of Donald Trump's presidency, along with dozens of governorships and thousands of state offices. The campaign unfolded against a backdrop of economic concerns, the Iran war, immigration, ethics questions and the growing impact of artificial intelligence.

IT'S THE ECONOMY

Affordability remains the top issue for many voters. Although inflation stood at 3.7 percent in September, Americans continue to face higher costs for fuel, housing, electricity, groceries and borrowing.

Polling suggests economic concerns dominate voter priorities. Pew found 65 percent of Americans believe Trump's economic policies have harmed the economy, while a Joseph Rainey Center survey found 57 percent ranked groceries, gas or utility bills among their top three issues. Trump's tariffs remain a key battleground, with critics blaming them for rising costs and supporters arguing they protect US industry.

IRAN WAR

The conflict with Iran has become a major domestic issue as rising energy prices affect household budgets.

Emerson polling identified the war as the most important issue among those surveyed, while Reuters/Ipsos found only 34 percent approved of Trump's handling of the conflict. Several Republican candidates have called for an end to the fighting, reflecting divisions within the party.

IMMIGRATION

Immigration remains central to the political debate, but public opinion has become more complicated.

Support for Trump's hardline policies has weakened following controversies surrounding deportations, detention practices and ICE operations. Reuters/Ipsos found 55 percent disapproved of Trump's handling of immigration, while surveys show Democrats and Republicans running nearly even on voter trust regarding the issue. Opposition is particularly strong among Latino voters in competitive House districts.

TRUMP, MONEY AND POWER

The election is also a referendum on Trump's second term. Government ethics ranked among voters' leading concerns, with polling showing widespread perceptions of corruption in federal government. Many voters also expressed doubts about Trump's ability to separate presidential duties from his family's business interests.

AI COMES TO TOWN

Artificial intelligence has emerged as an unexpected campaign issue. Voters express concerns about jobs, safety, regulation and the expansion of data centres needed to support AI technology. Debate over the costs and local impacts of data centres has become particularly visible in several states.

OTHER FAULT LINES

Transgender rights and healthcare remain divisive issues. While not as dominant as the economy, Iran or immigration, they continue to mobilise key segments of both parties' supporters.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (All 435 seats up for election)		SENATE (35 out of 100 seats up for election)
214 seats	DEMOCRATS HOLD	45 seats
219 seats	REPUBLICANS HOLD	53 seats
2 seats	INDEPENDENTS/ VACANTS	2 seats

Is US preparing to resume its war with Iran?

AGENCIES

As Americans voted for the midterms, attention in the Middle East is focused on whether a pause in major US military operations against Iran could end once the elections are over.

Signs of possible escalation have been mounting for weeks. Israel has conducted military exercises near Iran, the US has reinforced its naval presence in the region, and attacks on commercial shipping and threats against Gulf infrastructure have continued.

President Donald Trump has repeatedly ruled out military action before the midterms, but has left open the possibility of action afterwards.

US officials have reportedly advised regional partners to prepare for potential renewed strikes and Iranian retaliation, while emphasising that no final decision has been made.

On October 19, Israeli fighter jets reportedly flew to within striking distance of Iran before returning, while US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth made an unannounced visit to Israel. Analysts said the developments fuelled concerns that military preparations were underway.

Trump has repeatedly hinted at possible action after the vote. On October 28, he said: "We are going to have something one way or the other that'll happen fairly soon."

Media reports suggest American and Israeli planners have discussed options for a short but intensive campaign targeting Iranian energy facilities, as well as missile, drone and nuclear-related infrastructure.

US and Israeli planners reportedly discussed a short, intensive campaign targeting Iran's energy, missile, drone and nuclear facilities.



The prospect worries Gulf states, which fear any conflict could spread beyond Iran. Tehran has warned it would retaliate against US bases, warships and civilian infrastructure across the region if attacked, reports Aran News online.

Commercial shipping has already come under pressure. Numerous incidents have been reported in and around the Strait of Hormuz, affecting vessels, seafarers and energy supplies. Iran-backed Houthis have meanwhile continued attacks on Saudi targets, including airports and oil facilities.

The Saudi-led coalition fighting Yemen's Houthis said yesterday it had intercepted a drone in the region of Makkah, as the Houthis reported 17 people killed in Yemen over two days.

Saudi Arabia has accused the Houthis several times of targeting Makka and Medina, another holy city, accusations the Iran-backed fighters systematically reject, reports AFP.

At the same time, the US has assembled a powerful military presence near Iran, including aircraft carriers, amphibious assault ships and Marine units capable of carrying out air, missile and limited ground operations.

An operation to capture the Kharg Island would fall within the capabilities of Marine Expeditionary Units, particularly with support from the F-35B fighters carried aboard the Boxer.

Whether such an operation is actually being contemplated remains unknown. But the combination of naval deployments, military planning and increasingly pointed political rhetoric has left little doubt that Washington is preparing to keep its options open.

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e-Tender Notice

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID No. & Reference No.	Description of works	Tender Document Last Selling Date and time	Tender closing Date and time	Tender opening Date and time
01	1354455	Remaining works of Construction of 02 nos slipway each 2000 M.T max with all other's incidental works at Dockyard 1 & 2 of BIWTC, Narayangonj.	29-Nov-2026 16:00	30-Nov-2026 12:00	30-Nov-2026 12:00

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 portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the http://www.eprocure.gov.bd have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's branches. It is noted that bill payment will be done upon availability of fund after acceptable work done.
Further information & guidelines are available in the National e-GP system Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd). The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Tenders.

02.11.26
(Md. Ziaul Islam)
Chief Engineer
&
Project Director
BIWTC, Dhaka.

GD-2667

Russian strikes on Ukrainian aid point kill 29

Power grid facilities also hit in separate attacks



AFP, *Kyiv*

Ukraine said Monday that Russian strikes on a school distributing humanitarian aid killed at least 29 people, dashing fragile hopes of "progress toward peace" after a local ceasefire in the south expired without violations.

Russia resumed its strikes on the southern region of Kherson after the end of a ceasefire in the area, the longest truce in the war raging between the neighbours since Russia's 2022 invasion, Kyiv said.

Hours after the truce, Russia targeted a village in Zaporizhzhia, adjacent to Kherson, with repeated strikes that killed at least 29 people, the acting regional governor said. Some of the dead had come to collect aid at a local school.

President Zelensky warned there were "still people under the rubble" in the village of Komyshuvakha after the attack, where he said "rescue operations continue as far as the security situation allows."

Russia also launched a massive overnight strike on Ukrainian electricity facilities in the Vinnytsia, Dnipropetrovsk and Kharkiv regions which supply power to military factories and the Ukrainian army, the Russian Defence Ministry said yesterday.

বি,আই,ডব্লিউ,টি,এ ভবন
১৪১-১৪৩, মতিঝিল বা/এ
পোস্ট বক্স ৭৬,
ঢাকা-১০০০

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File No.: File No.: 18.11.0000.311.14.161.2026-884 Date: 01-11-2026

Corrigendum-II & III

Ref.: Invitation Reference No.:
(i) 18.11.0000.311.14.161.2026.660; Dated: 07-Oct-2026
(ii) 18.11.0000.311.14.163.2026.661; Dated: 07-Oct-2026

e-Tenders have been invited in the national e-GP system portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the (i) Procurement of 05 (five) Nos. 20-inch Cutter Suction Dredgers and Ancillary Vessels with Other Accessories (Package-21 & 22) and (ii) Procurement of 04 (four) Nos. 18-inch Cutter Suction Dredgers and Ancillary Vessels with Other Accessories (Package-23 & 24). Amendments have been made to the tenders that can be found in the websites mentioned below:

Sl. No.	Tender Name	Tender ID	Website
1.	Procurement of 05 (five) Nos. 20-inch Cutter Suction Dredgers and Ancillary Vessels with Other Accessories	1346529	https://www.eprocure.gov.bd https://biwta.gov.bd
2.	Procurement of 04 (four) Nos. 18-inch Cutter Suction Dredgers and Ancillary Vessels with Other Accessories	1346578	

01-11-2026
(Md. Moznu Miah)
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GD-2662