Trump's Senate picks cost GOP dearly

REUTERS, *Washington*

President Trump urged voters to treat him as being on the ballot in the midterm elections and personally backed Republican candidates in several key Senate races. But voters rejected his choices, helping Democrats take control of the Senate.

Trump-backed candidates in South Carolina, North Carolina and Texas lost, while his preferred candidate trailed in early results in Michigan. The defeats exposed the limits of Trump's influence over the Republican Party, which he has reshaped around his MAGA movement for more than a decade.

Trump's defeats exposed limits to his influence over a Republican Party reshaped by his MAGA movement

Trump repeatedly favoured loyalists and ideological allies over established Republicans with stronger state-wide networks and electoral records, betting his endorsement would overcome their political weaknesses. Tuesday's results challenged that strategy.

In South Carolina, Democrat Annie Andrews defeated Darline Graham, sister of Republican Senator Lindsey Graham. In North Carolina, Roy Cooper beat Trump's choice, Michael Whatley. In Texas, James Talarico won a seat Democrats had not captured since 1988, defeating Ken Paxton. Trump remained defiant, writing on social media: "I wasn't on the Ballot and if I was, we would have won IN A LANDSLIDE!"

Some analysts blamed his interventions in Republican primaries for costing the party winnable seats.



Democratic US Senate candidate and Texas State Representative James Talarico speaks after his victory in the US midterm elections during an Election Night rally in Austin, Texas, US, early yesterday. PHOTO: **REUTERS**

Bottoms elected first Black woman governor

AFP, *Washington*

Democrat Keisha Lance Bottoms, a former Atlanta mayor, won the race for governor in the southern state of Georgia on Tuesday, making her the first Black woman elected to the top office in any US state, media projections showed.



Bottoms defeated billionaire health care executive Rick Jackson, the Republican candidate. Outgoing Republican Governor Brian Kemp was term-limited and could not run again. Her win returns the governor's office to Democrats after more than two decades of Republican control.

Iran readies plan for 'maximum deterrence'

AGENCIES

Iran said its military has prepared a "maximum deterrence" plan against any fresh attack by the United States or Israel, with Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei ordering an immediate response without geographical restrictions in any future conflict.

The preparations include expanding lists of potential targets to cover American and Israeli assets and infrastructure, while increasing military production. The warning follows recent US strikes on Iran and stalled diplomatic efforts, despite continued Qatari mediation.

During an October 31 meeting with Iran's three senior military commanders, Khamenei called for "maximum deterrence" against renewed military action by Washington or Tel Aviv, Axios reported.

He instructed them to prepare an "immediate and effective response" to any new attack and expand the list of targets to include US and Israeli assets within reach of Iranian forces.

The commanders briefed Khamenei on readiness along Iran's Gulf coastline, the Strait of Hormuz, the Gulf of Oman and the country's north-western and south-eastern borders. They also reported a "several-fold increase" in production of ammunition, reconnaissance equipment and combat weapons.

The preparations follow US strikes on Iran's Qeshm Island.

What next as voters curb Trump's power?

AGENCIES

Democrats have taken control of both chambers of the US Congress from Republicans in the midterm elections, dealing a major setback to President Donald Trump. The new majority, which takes office in January, will be able to block parts of his legislative agenda, delay judicial appointments and increase scrutiny of his administration. According to NBC News projections, Democrats secured control of the House of Representatives and the Senate, although some close races remained undecided.

DEMOCRATS WIN BOTH CHAMBERS

Democrats needed a net gain of four Senate seats and three House seats to take control of Congress. In Maine, Democrat Troy Jackson defeated incumbent Republican Senator Susan Collins. In Iowa, Democrat Josh Turek defeated Republican Ashley Hinson. Democrats also made gains in traditionally Republican areas, including Texas and Kansas, amid voter dissatisfaction over high prices and the war in Iran, reports AP.



ABSENCE FROM BALLOT

In a phone interview with CBS News on election night, Trump congratulated Democrats but blamed his party's losses on his absence from the ballot. "If I had been on the ballot, we would have won," he said, arguing that some Republican candidates were unpopular and that his supporters consequently stayed home. Trump said he was willing to work with Democrats but warned he retained full veto powers. "I will veto everything," he said, if the opposition refused to cooperate.

WHAT CAN DEMOCRATS DO?

Democrats will control congressional committees, allowing them to investigate the administration, issue subpoenas and scrutinise its policies. They can also block funding for Trump's priorities, including controversial immigration enforcement programmes, as Congress controls federal spending.

Senate Democrats will gain control of the confirmation process, giving them the power to delay or reject Trump's judicial nominees and potentially postpone filling a Supreme Court vacancy. Democrats could also launch impeachment proceedings against Trump, although removing him from office would require a two-thirds Senate majority.

TRUMP RETAINS VETO POWER

Despite the Democrats winning both chambers, Trump retains veto power and broad executive authority, limiting the ability of his rivals to enact major legislation.

Article I, Section 7 of the Constitution states that the President can veto bills passed by Congress before they become law. Congress can override the veto, but it requires a two-thirds majority in both chambers.

The veto does not allow the President to change the content of the legislation.

Numbers that tell the story of Democrats' midterm blowout

AFP, *Washington*

Turnout figures were unavailable, but Americans had cast more than 61.7 million votes before election day, according to the University of Florida's Election Lab.

The early vote helped Democrats, who traditionally vote early more often than Republicans. African Americans, young people and other groups that typically support Democrats also turned out in large numbers, National Public Radio reported.

Spending on the 2026 midterms reached a record $11.9 billion, up from $8.9 billion in 2022, according to OpenSecrets. Outside spending, led by billionaire Trump ally Elon Musk, favoured Republicans by about $360 million.

Democratic candidates also spent heavily. House and Senate candidates spent a record $3.7 billion, with Democrats outspending Republicans by $800 million, OpenSecrets said.

Kansas elected a Democrat to the Senate for the first time since 1932, as Adam Hamilton defeated Republican incumbent Roger Marshall.

Hamilton, a Methodist megachurch pastor and former registered Republican, made history in the conservative state.

Texas elected a Democratic senator for the first time since 1988, with Talarico flipping the seat.

Young men and Latino voters, groups crucial to Trump's political support, moved towards Democrats, exit polls showed.

In recent weeks, several Latino voters have expressed anger at Trump, saying they felt betrayed.

NBC News exit polls found Latino voters backed Democrats over Republicans by 62 percent to 35 percent.

Voters aged 18 to 29 supported Democrats by 72 percent to 25 percent, a sharp shift from 2024, when young voters were divided between Trump and Kamala Harris.

তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিসন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন পিএলসি.

(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানী)

জনসচেতনতামূলক বিজ্ঞপ্তি

মেঘনাঘাট পাওয়ার লিমিটেড (৪৫০ মেগাওয়াট) মেঘনাঘাট, সোনারগাঁও, নারায়ণগঞ্জ-এর বিদ্যুৎ কেন্দ্রটি নিলামে বিক্রয়ের লক্ষ্যে অতিসম্প্রতি পত্রিকায় প্রকাশিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিশন অ্যান্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন পিএলসি-এর দৃষ্টিগোচর হয়েছে। মেঘনাঘাট পাওয়ার লিমিটেড (৪৫০ মেগাওয়াট) , গ্রাহক সংকেত নম্বরঃ ৪৩৭-০০০৬ - কে অত্র কোম্পানির একজন গ্রাহক হিসেবে দীর্ঘদিন গ্যাস সরবরাহ করা হয় এবং গ্যাস সরবরাহ চুক্তির (GSA) মেয়াদ ১৬/০৮/২০২৬ তারিখে উত্তীর্ণ হওয়ায় বর্তমানে গ্যাস সরবরাহ বন্ধ রয়েছে। উক্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিশন অ্যান্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন পিএলসি-এর গ্যাস বিল ও অন্যান্য পাওনা বাবদ মোট ৳৩৪৭,৯৭,৪২,৪৯০.২১/- (তিনশত সাতচল্লিশ কোটি সাতানব্বই লক্ষ বিয়াল্লিশ হাজার চারশত নব্বই টাকা একুশ পয়সা) বকেয়া রয়েছে।

এমতাবস্থায়, বিদ্যুৎ কেন্দ্রটি ক্রয়ের লক্ষ্যে চুক্তিবদ্ধ হওয়ার ক্ষেত্রে অত্র কোম্পানির দায়-দেনা পরিশোধের বিষয়ে অবহিত থাকার জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট সকল পক্ষকে অনুরোধ জানানো হলো।

কর্তৃপক্ষের আদেশক্রমে
কোম্পানি সচিব
কোম্পানি সচিবালয় ডিভিশন
তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিসন অ্যান্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন পিএলসি.

GD-2677

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Directorate General of Food
Supply, Distribution and Marketing Division
16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000
web: www. dgfood.gov.bd

"Tender Notice"

An Open tender is hereby invited for selection of blending mills for a total of 170 Upazilas for the period from 01.01.2027 to 31.12.2028 under the Vulnerable Women Benefits programme of the Department of Women Affairs. The selected mills shall lift regular rice and premix kernels from LSDs/CSDs, transport them to the blending mills, blend the premix kernels with regular rice following the prescribed process, and transport the fortified rice to the union parishad premises for distribution under the programme.

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Food;
2	Agency	Directorate General of Food, Dhaka;
3	Name of Procuring Entity	Director, Supply, Distribution and Marketing Division, Directorate General of Food, Dhaka;
4	District of Procuring Entity	Dhaka;
5	Description of the Work	Selection of blending mills for a total of 170 Upazilas for distribution of fortified rice under the Vulnerable Women Benefits programme of the Department of Women Affairs by lifting regular rice and premix kernels from LSDs/CSDs, transporting them to the blending mills, blending premix kernels with regular rice following the prescribed process, and transporting the fortified rice to the union parishad premises.
6	Tender Notice No. and Date	13.01.0000.051.57.025.26.909 Date: 04.11.2026
7	Date of Publication of Tender Notice	05.11.2026
8	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM);
9	Budget and Source of Funds	Revenue Budget, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh;
10	Last Date for Sale of Tender Schedule	02.12.2026
11	Office Selling Tender Schedule	Office of the Director, Accounts and Finance Division, Room No.-401, 5th Floor, Directorate General of Food, Dhaka;
12	Tender Submission Deadline	03.12.2026 up to 2:00 PM;
13	Place of Tender Submission	Room No. 202, 3rd Floor, Directorate General of Food, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka;
14	Date and Time of Tender Opening	03.12.2026 at 2:30 PM;
15	Place of Tender Opening	Room No. 202, 3rd Floor, Directorate General of Food, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka;
16	Date and Time of Pre-Tender Meeting	19.11.2026. at 11.00 AM;
17	Venue of Pre-Tender Meeting	Conference Room (Training Division), 7th Floor, Directorate General of Food, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000;
18	Tender Validity Period	120 (One hundred Twenty) days from the date of opening of tender;
19	Tenderer's Experience	The tenderer shall have at least 01 (one) year of practical experience in blending kernels with regular rice. Millers having previous experience in blending premix kernels with regular rice shall submit a certificate, signed by the concerned Upazila Controller of Food, confirming that the blending activities were previously performed properly; Or, Tenderers who have approval from the Ministry of Food and proper validation certificate issued by concerned committee as specified in "Guidelines for Fortified Rice Production, Distribution, and Management, 2021" are eligible to participate this tender
20	Procedure for Tender Submission	Tender must be submitted under the two-envelope system. The technical proposal regarding the millers' qualifications and the financial proposal must be sealed in 2 separate envelopes, and "Technical Proposal" must be written in the middle of the upper side of the technical proposal envelope and "Financial Proposal" in the middle of the upper side of the financial proposal envelope. On the right side of both envelopes, Director, Supply, Distribution and Marketing Division, Directorate General of Food, Dhaka and on the left side, the name and address of the concerned establishment must be written. The 2 envelopes must be placed together and submitted sealed in another large envelope. On the right side of the large envelope, Director, Supply, Distribution and Marketing Division, Directorate General of Food, Dhaka and on the left upper side, the name and address of the tenderer must be clearly mentioned. In addition, the name of the programme and the name of the upazila must be clearly written in the middle of the envelope;
21	Price of Tender Schedule	1,500/- (One Thousand and Five Hundred) Taka (non-refundable);
22	Name, Designation, Address, Phone, E-mail of Tender Inviting Officer	Md. Zahirul Islam Khan, Director, Supply, Distribution and Marketing Division, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000; Phone: 41050091; E-mail: dsdm@dgfood.gov.bd
23	Duration of Work	01.01.2027 to 31.12.2028
24	Tender Security	30,000/- (Thirty Thousand) Taka
25	Goods Security Deposit	An amount equivalent to 100% of the economic price of regular rice and premix kernel to be lifted for preparation of fortified rice.
26	Applicable Rules and Rights of Procuring Entity	This tender shall be conducted in accordance with the Public Procurement Rules, 2025 & related document published by BPPA. The Procuring Entity reserves the right, without assigning any reason, to cancel or amend this notice or to accept, reject, or cancel any or all tenders.

03/11/2026
Md. Zahirul Islam Khan
Director
Phone: 41050091
dsdm@dgfood.gov.bd

GD-2682