



Trump-Xi meeting hints at trade truce

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Congress remains at odds over funding



Several measures from both sides of the aisle on Capitol Hill – including bills that would pay federal workers and save safety-net programs from running out of money even as the government stays shuttered – have failed or are expected to fail, at least until party leaders change their minds. KYLIE COOPER/REUTERS

SNAP cutoff looms as furloughs continue

WASHINGTON – The government shutdown is getting worse, and members of Congress are starting to realize it. That’s why they’ve begun proposing more standalone bills that, while not capable of fully reopening the government, would address the crisis’ biggest pain points – from an impending lapse in funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to widespread concern over military pay. Rank-and-file lawmakers, both Republicans and Democrats, seem to increasingly acknowledge that at some point soon, something’s got to give. “We can work out a lot of the issues we have,” said Sen. Mike Rounds, R-South Dakota. “We don’t need to have

the rest of government held hostage.” “I really don’t think the people at home right now who are about to lose their SNAP benefits, (whose) health care premiums are doubling, tripling, quadrupling ... I don’t think those people are thinking about Democrats or Republicans,” said Sen. Raphael Warnock, D-Georgia. “They’re trying to figure out how to make their families whole.” Still, lawmakers haven’t managed to pass anything to ease the shutdown pressure on Americans. Several measures from both sides of the aisle – including bills that would pay federal workers and save safety-net programs from running out of money even as the government stays shuttered – have failed or are expected to fail, at least until party leaders change their minds. “That is just the wrong way to do this,” Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-South Dakota, said on

Oct. 28. “The way to approach this is just to reopen government.” House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-Louisiana, told reporters it would be futile for his chamber to vote again on a short-term funding bill to reopen the government because most Senate Democrats would still oppose it. The House voted Sept. 19 to extend government funding through Nov. 21. As that date approaches with no resolution to the impasse, lawmakers have begun discussing temporarily funding the government into early 2026, to allow time to approve legislation for full-year funding. But Johnson told reporters on Oct. 29 that bringing the House back and holding another vote would be met with the same Democratic opposition. All but three Senate Democrats voted

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Chicago judge grills Trump ICE enforcer

Trick-or-treaters allegedly tear gassed on Oct. 25

Michael Loria
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CHICAGO – A federal judge in Chicago had a clear message for the Trump administration: She will enforce her court orders limiting the type of force agents can use in the city. On Oct. 28, U.S. District Court Judge Sara L. Ellis ordered Homeland Security officials to turn over all use-of-force reports and related body camera footage that the agency has in connection with the Chicago-area crackdown. She also cited an Oct. 25 incident in a North Side neighborhood in which she said trick-or-treaters were tear-gassed. Additionally, she warned that she better not receive any complaints on Halloween night of tear gas being used near children: “Know that it is a day when people are going to be out minding their own business.” She also ordered agents to provide information on anyone arrested in connection with protesting immigration enforcement and that the Border Patrol’s top leader in the area deliver daily reports in person at the courthouse, as well as begin using a body camera. Ellis – who issued orders limiting the kinds of tactics immigration enforcement agents can use amid the White House’s crackdown in Illinois – hauled the administration’s top enforcement official, Customs and Border Patrol Commander-at-Large Gregory Bovino, into court to ensure he understood those limits. The judge questioned Bovino, the face of President Donald Trump’s Operation Midway Blitz, in response to court filings contending he and his agents have violated her orders limiting how agents use chemical weapons and physical force. Ellis issued a temporary restraining order in connection with a lawsuit brought by journalists, clergy and protesters alleging that agents were using

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Jamaica reports damage, outages

Hurricane reaches Cuba as Haiti reports deaths

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USA TODAY

Hurricane Melissa churned over Cuba as a Category 2 storm Oct. 29 as authorities in Jamaica began surveying the extensive damage left in its wake as the strongest tropical cyclone of the 2025 Atlantic hurricane season. Melissa reached Jamaica on Oct. 28 as an extremely dangerous Category 5

hurricane, the highest level on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale, with damaging winds, catastrophic flash flooding and landslides. The storm caused widespread infrastructure damage, including power and communication outages that left hundreds of thousands of residents in the dark. The winds, which topped 185 mph on the island, were “like a roaring lion,” retiree Colin Henry McDonald told Reuters as the hurricane approached. “It’s mad. Really mad.” In Haiti, torrential rain from the storm caused a river to burst its banks, killing at least 25 people, the mayor of

Petit-Goâve, Jean Bertrand Subrême, told the Associated Press. Dozens of homes collapsed in the deluge and people were still trapped under rubble, overwhelming local authorities. Jamaican authorities said it was too soon to know how many people died there, but a tree fell on a baby in the island nation’s west, Abka Fitz-Henley, a state minister, told the local Nationwide News Network. At least seven people were killed in several Caribbean nations before Melissa made landfall. After hitting Jamaica, the hurricane

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A store stands destroyed following Hurricane Melissa in Manchester, Jamaica, on Oct. 28. The storm ripped up trees and knocked out power across the country as one of the most powerful hurricanes on record. RICARDO MAKYN/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

