

Saturday, October 3, 2026 Morning Edition

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Maya: Good morning, and welcome to Global Politics, your morning briefing on the stories shaping the world. Today is Saturday, October third, twenty twenty-six. I'm Maya.

Devon: And I'm Devon. Four big stories this morning, Maya, and we start in South America, where one of the most watched elections on the planet is now just one day away.

Maya: That's right. Tomorrow, Brazilians vote for president, and it is a rematch with enormous stakes. The incumbent, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, eighty years old, is seeking a fourth term. His challenger is Flavio Bolsonaro, forty-five, a senator and the eldest son of former president Jair Bolsonaro.

Devon: And the polls say this is essentially tied. Surveys from Datafolha, Quaest, and others have the two men within a few points of each other, with Lula slightly ahead in some and a technical tie in others. Neither is above fifty percent, so a runoff on October twenty-fifth looks likely.

Maya: The backdrop here matters. Jair Bolsonaro is serving a twenty-seven year prison sentence over a plot to overturn his twenty twenty-two loss to Lula, and he is barred from running himself. So his son carries the family name into this race. Lula closed his campaign with a big rally in Rio de Janeiro, warning supporters that democracy itself is on the ballot.

Devon: One notable moment this week: Lula skipped the televised debate on the Globo network, three days before the vote, while Flavio Bolsonaro showed up and challenged him to face him directly. Voting runs from eight A M to five P M, Brasilia time, on electronic machines, with thirteen tickets on the ballot.

Maya: Why it matters: Brazil is South America's largest country and economy, and Washington is watching closely. Reporting this week says the United States pressed Brazil over access to rare earth minerals in exchange for holding off on tariffs, an offer Lula rejected. Whoever wins will shape that relationship for years.

Devon: From South America to the Middle East, where the war between the United States and Iran is entering its eighth month, and Washington is sending more firepower.

Maya: The Pentagon has ordered a third aircraft carrier strike group to the region. The U S S Theodore Roosevelt left San Diego on Sunday, followed by the Makin Island amphibious group carrying more than two thousand Marines. They join two carriers already there, the George H W Bush and the George Washington.

Devon: By the end of November, the United States could have three carrier strike groups and two amphibious groups near Iran, with roughly fifty thousand American troops already stationed across the region. A U S official told Al Jazeera the buildup gives President Trump, quote, a wider menu of options.

Maya: The timing is pointed. In an interview with Time magazine published Thursday, Trump said resuming bombing of Iran after the November midterm elections is quote

try to impeach him again.

Devon: The polling is rough for Republicans. Quinnipiac and N P R Marist surveys show Democrats leading by more than ten points in the race for the House. And a Fox News poll found seventy-one percent of voters say the administration has no clear strategy for ending the Iran war, with sixty percent saying launching it was the wrong decision.

Maya: Finally, to Britain, where counterterrorism police have been busy. Two Iranian men have been charged over an alleged bomb plot targeting Manchester's Jewish community, with prosecutors telling a court the Manchester synagogue was identified as a target.

Devon: Separately, a dual U K Iran national arrested under the Terrorism Act over an incident at R A F Fairford has been released on bail. Officials say there are strong indications of Iranian involvement in these plots, and the cases have deepened the strain between London and Tehran.

Maya: That's the world this morning. We'll be watching Brazil's vote tomorrow, any movement in the Iran diplomacy, and the final month of the American midterm campaign.

Devon: Thanks for starting your day with us. I'm Devon.

Maya: And I'm Maya. We'll be back this evening with the day's developments. Have a good one.