



Mahathir expelled from his own party

REUTERS, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin's ruling party on Thursday terminated the membership of his predecessor Mahathir Mohamad, a move widely seen as an attempt to consolidate power as he faces a possible challenge to his nascent premiership. Mahathir, 94, had said he would seek to oust Muhyiddin from office for making a "backdoor arrangement" that brought back into power a graft-tainted party rejected by voters in an election in 2018. In a letter circulated widely on social media, the party stated that Mahathir automatically ceased to be a member after he made a show of rejecting Muhyiddin's leadership as prime minister and party president by sitting with the opposition when parliament met last week. Similar letters were also issued to Mahathir's son and party deputy president, Mukhriz, and three others aligned with the former prime minister. An aide to Muhyiddin confirmed the letters were authentic. Mahathir's office declined an immediate response to a request for comment as it had not yet seen the letter itself, an aide said.

'When the looting starts, the shooting starts'

Twitter hides Trump's tweet over protests in Minneapolis for 'glorifying violence'; executive order signed targeting social media

AFP, Washington

Twitter yesterday concealed one of Donald Trump's tweets for "glorifying violence," ramping up a dispute with the US president who says social media companies censor conservative voices like his. In a move bound to infuriate one of the platform's most followed users, Twitter said it was placing a "public interest notice" on a Trump message about protests in Minneapolis over the death of an unarmed black man at the hands of the police.

In a late night tweet, Trump wrote: "These THUGS are dishonoring the memory of George Floyd, and I won't let that happen. Just spoke to Governor Tim Walz and told him that the Military is with him all the way. Any difficulty and we will assume control but, when the looting starts, the shooting starts. Thank you!"

Hours later, the micro-messaging platform hid the tweet behind a message that said it "violates our policies regarding the glorification of violence based on the historical context of the last line, its connection to violence, and the risk it could inspire similar actions today." "As is standard with this notice, engagements with the Tweet will be limited. People will be able to Retweet with Comment, but will not be able to Like, Reply or Retweet it." Users could still click through and view the full unedited tweet. Trump, who has more than 80 million followers on Twitter, lashed out at the platform on Thursday, signing an executive order seeking to strip social media giants of legal immunity for content they carry. The order calls on government regulators to evaluate if they should



PHOTO: REUTERS

A woman gestures during a protest against the police brutality on an African-American man George Floyd, in Denver, Colorado, on Thursday.

be eligible for liability protection for content posted by their millions of users. The move, which was slammed by critics as a legally dubious act of political revenge, came after Twitter labelled two earlier Trump tweets -- on the increasingly contentious topic of mail-in voting -- as misleading. If enforced, the action would upend decades of precedent and treat internet platforms as "publishers" potentially liable for user-generated content. Trump told reporters at the White House he acted because big tech firms "have had unchecked power to censor, restrict, edit, shape, hide, alter any form of communication between private citizens or large public audiences."

"We can't let this continue to happen," Trump said. Critics said however Trump has no authority to regulate private internet operators or change the law, known

as Section 230, which backers say has allowed online platforms like Facebook and Twitter to flourish. While the Trump order would not prevent platforms from moderating content, it could open them up to a flood of lawsuits from anyone who claims to be harmed by content posted online. "Social media can be frustrating. But an Executive Order that would turn the FCC into the President's speech police is not the answer," said Jessica Rosenworcel, a Democratic member of Federal Communications Commission, one of the agencies tasked with enforcing the executive order.

Internet firms have denied Trump's claims of bias, and point to his massive social media following. But the president's move plays into his narrative ahead of his difficult November reelection battle that liberal forces are trying to censor Republicans.

'Double-edged sword'

HK warns US over removal of city's special status

REUTERS, Hong Kong

Hong Kong told the United States to keep out of the debate over national security legislation being imposed by China, and warned that withdrawal of the financial hub's special status under US law could backfire on the US economy. President Donald Trump is due to announce later yesterday his response to the Chinese parliament's advancement this week of security legislation for Hong Kong, which many lawyers, diplomats and investors fear could erode the city's freedoms.

\$297 billion with Hong Kong was the biggest among all Washington's trading partners, and 1,300 US firms were based in the city, it said. Beijing says the new legislation, likely to come into force before September, will tackle secession, subversion, terrorism and foreign interference in the city. It could also see Chinese intelligence agencies set up bases in Hong Kong.

Chinese authorities and Hong Kong's government say the legislation poses no threat to the city's autonomy and the interests of foreign investors would be preserved. Reacting to US efforts to call a UN Security Council meeting over Hong Kong, China's foreign ministry reiterated on Friday that Hong Kong was an internal affair and no country had the right to interfere. It said China had lodged solemn representations to countries condemning its plans and was determined to take countermeasures against any US actions. Australia, Britain, Canada and the United States are among the countries that have condemned the proposed security legislation.

Hong Kong tells United States to stay out of its affairs

Trump expected to make China announcement later today

China security ministry to 'direct' Hong Kong police

The former British colony has been racked by civil unrest amid fears Beijing is curbing the high degree of autonomy it has enjoyed under a "one country, two systems" formula adopted when it returned to Chinese rule in 1997. "Any sanctions are a double-edged sword that will not only harm the interests of Hong Kong but also significantly those of the US," Hong Kong's pro-Beijing government said late on Thursday. From 2009 to 2018, the US trade surplus of

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Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen visits a bookstore of Lam Wing-kee, a bookseller from Hong Kong who in 2015 was detained in China for allegedly bringing banned books into the mainland, in Taipei, on Thursday. Sitting by a wall in front of banner reading "Free Hong Kong, revolution now" in the tiny shop, Tsai expressed support for the Hong Kong's democracy movement and reiterated her pledge to assist fleeing Hong Kong citizens. "Free Taiwan supports freedom in Hong Kong," Tsai wrote in a sticky note posted on a bookshelf.

NEWS IN brief

Taliban attack kills 14 Afghan forces

AFP, Kabul

Taliban fighters stormed an Afghan border post yesterday, killing at least 14 security force members, the insurgents and officials said, the latest in a series of attacks since the end of a brief ceasefire. Despite the clashes, Afghan authorities have vowed to press on with efforts to help reduce violence following the temporary pause in fighting. Officials had also accused the Taliban of carrying out two other raids on separate checkpoints on Thursday, killing 14 Afghan security force members.

Poll: Americans trust Trump on economy

REUTERS, Washington

US President Donald Trump is trusted more than Democratic nominee Joe Biden to handle the economy, polls show, even with more than 40 million Americans filing jobless claims and growth stalled due to the coronavirus pandemic. Though the former vice president has an edge on Trump in overall support ahead of the Nov. 3 election, Reuters/Ipsos polling this week showed Trump with a 42% to 34% lead over Biden in terms of which candidate was trusted more on the economy.

UN delays crucial COP26 summit

REUTERS, London

The coronavirus pandemic has prompted the United Nations to delay until late 2021 a crucial climate summit that had been scheduled for Britain this year, officials said. This year's meeting, known as the COP26, had been billed as the most important climate change summit since the 2015 talks that produced the Paris Agreement. The summit will be rescheduled to Nov 1 to 12, 2021, the UN's climate body decided, dates proposed by the British government. Glasgow, Scotland will remain the host city, and there will first be a warm-up summit in Italy.

No need for third party

China snubs Trump's mediation offer in India row

AGENCIES

China has rejected US President Donald Trump's offer to mediate between India and China as tensions over border disputes continue to rise.

"China and India are capable of properly resolving the issues through dialogue and consultation," the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said, news agency PTI and Reuters reported.

In a surprise move, Trump on Wednesday offered to "mediate or arbitrate" the raging border dispute between India and China, saying he was "ready, willing and able" to ease the tensions, amid the continuing standoff between the armies of the two Asian giants.

Reacting for the first time to the US President's offer, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said the two countries did not want the "intervention" from a third party to resolve the military standoff. "Between China and India we have existing border-related mechanisms and communication channels," Zhao told reporters. "We are capable of properly resolving the issues between us through dialogue and consultation. We do not need the intervention of the third party," he said.

Several areas along the Line of Actual Control or LAC in Ladakh and North Sikkim have seen major military build-up by both the Indian and Chinese armies, in a clear signal of escalating tension and hardening of positions by the two sides even two weeks after they were engaged in two separate face-offs. India has said the Chinese military was hindering normal patrolling by its troops along the LAC in Ladakh and Sikkim,

and strongly refuted Beijing's contention that the escalating tension between the two armies was triggered by trespassing of Indian forces across the Chinese side. The Indian Foreign Ministry has said all Indian activities were carried out on its side of the border, asserting that India has always taken a very responsible approach towards border management.

"The two sides have established mechanisms both at military and diplomatic levels to resolve situations which may arise in border areas peacefully through dialogue and continue to remain engaged through these channels," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Thursday.

INDIA DENIES TRUMP-MODI CALL Meanwhile, India has denied that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has spoken with Trump about the standoff with China, after Trump suggested Modi was upset about border tension. "They have a big conflict going with India and China. ... Two countries with very powerful militaries," Trump told reporters, according to a White House transcript. "And India is not happy, and probably China is not happy. But I can tell you, I did speak to Prime Minister Modi. He's not - he's not in a good mood about what's going on with China," Trump added.

But Indian officials expressed surprise at Trump's latest remarks. "There has been no recent contact between PM Modi and President Trump," a government source said. "The last conversation between them was on April 4, on the subject of hydroxychloroquine."



INDIA DENIES TRUMP-MODI CALL

Table with 2 columns: S.No. and Details. Contains information about the Bangladesh Police recruitment exam, including dates, locations, and exam details.