

POLITICAL UPHEAVAL IN PAK

What it means for rest of the world

REUTERS, Washington

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan blocked a no-confidence vote he looked sure to lose on Sunday and advised the president to order fresh elections, fuelling anger among the opposition and deepening the country's political crisis.

His actions have created huge uncertainty in Islamabad, with constitutional experts debating their legality and pondering whether Khan and his rivals can find a way forward.

Here is what the upheaval, which many expect to lead to Khan's exit, means for countries closely involved in Pakistan:

AFGHANISTAN

Ties between Pakistan's military intelligence agency and the Islamist militant Taliban have loosened in recent years.

"We (the United States) don't need Pakistan as a conduit to the Taliban.

Qatar is definitely playing that role now," said Lisa Curtis, director of the Indo-Pacific Security Program at the Center for a New American Security think-tank.

CHINA

Khan has consistently emphasised China's positive role in Pakistan and in the world at large.

At the same time, the \$60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which binds the neighbours together was actually conceptualised and launched under Pakistan's two established political parties, both of which want Khan out of power.

INDIA

There have been no formal diplomatic talks between the rivals for years because of deep distrust over a range of issues including Khan's extreme criticism of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his handling of attacks on minority Muslims in India.

UNITED STATES

US-based South Asia experts said that Pakistan's political crisis is unlikely to be a priority for President Joe Biden, who is grappling with the war in Ukraine, unless it led to mass unrest or rising tensions with India.



Protestors hold banners and placards during a demonstration against the surge in prices and shortage of fuel and other essential commodities in Colombo, Sri Lanka yesterday. Sri Lanka's president offered to share power with the opposition, as protests escalated across the country demanding his resignation over worsening shortages of food, fuel and medicines.

PHOTO: AFP

99pc of people on Earth breathing polluted air: WHO

AFP, Geneva

A full 99 percent of people on Earth breathe air containing too many pollutants, the World Health Organization said yesterday, blaming poor air quality for millions of deaths each year.

Fresh data from the UN health agency showed that every corner of the globe is dealing with air pollution, although the problem is much worse in poorer countries. "Almost 100 percent of the global population is still

breathing air that exceeds the standards recommended by the World Health Organization," the agency's environment, climate change and health director Maria Neira told reporters. "This is a major public health issue."

In its previous report four years ago, WHO had already found that over 90 percent of the global population was affected, but it has since tightened its limits, it said.

"The evidence base for the harm caused by air pollution has been growing rapidly and points

to significant harm caused by even low levels of many air pollutants," WHO said.

While UN data last year indicated that pandemic lockdowns and travel restrictions caused short-lived improvements in air quality, WHO said air pollution remains a towering problem.

"After surviving a pandemic, it is unacceptable to still have seven million preventable deaths and countless preventable lost years of good health due to air pollution," Neira said.

Hong Kong leader to leave office

AFP, Hong Kong

Hong Kong's leader Carrie Lam announced yesterday that she will step down in June, ending a divisive term that saw democracy protests squashed and strict pandemic curbs plunge the business hub into international isolation. Ending months of speculation, Lam confirmed she would not seek a second term when a committee made up of the city's political elite chooses a new leader next month. "I will complete my five-year term as chief executive on June 30, and officially conclude my 42-year career in government," Lam told reporters. Lam said China's leaders "understood and respected" her choice not to seek another term and that she wanted to spend more time with her family.

MED BOAT TRAGEDY

Nearly 100 die in int'l waters: MSF

AFP, Geneva

Nearly 100 people have died in international waters after setting off from Libya in an overcrowded boat, international organisations said. A commercial tanker, Alegria 1, rescued four



people from a life raft in the Mediterranean early Saturday morning, the Doctors Without Borders charity said. "We know from our initial contact with Alegria 1 that the survivors reported being at sea for at least four days on a boat with nearly 100 people on board," the charity, which goes by its French

acronym MSF, said in a tweet. According to a transcript of the logbook of exchanges with the tanker, seen by AFP, the tanker said "around 96 people died in the water."

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INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

1	Ministry/Division	Internal Resources Division (IRD), Ministry of Finance		
2	Agency	National Board of Revenue (NBR)		
3	Procuring Entity Name	Member(VAT: Policy)		
4	Procurement Entity Code	N/A		
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka		
6	Invitation for	Hardware (Server, Storage, Load Balancer etc.) Support Service and Maintenance at Data Center in BCC and Disaster Recovery Center at Customs, Excise & VAT Commissionerate, Dhaka West and Other related services for 03(Three) years.		
7	Invitation Ref No	08.01.0000.068.11.005.12(18)/2021.48		
8	Date	05/04/2022		
KEY INFORMATION				
9	Procurement Method	NCT Open Tendering Method		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
10	Budget and Source of Funds	Government Budget (GOB)		
11	Development Partner	N/A		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
12	Project / Programme Code	N/A		
13	Project / Programme Name	N/A		
14	Tender Package No.	Lot - 01		
15	Tender Package Name	Hardware (Server, Storage, Load Balancer etc.) Support Service and Maintenance at Data Center in BCC and Disaster Recovery Center at Customs, Excise & VAT Commissionerate, Dhaka West and Other related services for 03(Three) years.		
16	Tender Publication Date	05/04/2022		
17	Tender Last Selling Date	11/05/2022		
18	Tender Closing Date and Time	12/05/2022 Time: 02:00PM		
19	Tender Opening Date and Time	12/05/2022 Time: 02:30PM		
20	Name & Address of the Office(s)	Address(s) Joint Commissioner iVAS Administrative Unit IDEB Bhawan, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000.		
21	Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tender Meeting	Meeting Date: 26/04/2022 Time: 11:00 AM Queries Submission Date: 21/04/2022, before 5:00 PM Place: Conference Room, iVAS Administrative Unit IDEB Bhawan, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000.		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
22	Eligibility of Tenderer	Qualification criteria described in the Tender Document.		
23	Brief Description of Goods & Service	Hardware (Server, Storage, Load Balancer etc.) Support Service and Maintenance at Data Center in BCC and Disaster Recovery Center at Customs, Excise & VAT Commissionerate, Dhaka West and Other related services for 03(Three) years.		
24	Tender Document Price	Tk. 3000/- (Taka Three Thousand) only.		
25	Lot No.	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender Security (BDT)
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COMPLETION TIME				
				As per tender document
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
26	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Zakia Sultana		
27	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Member(VAT: Policy), National Board of Revenue		
28	Address of Official Inviting Tender	National Board of Revenue, Rajashaw Bhawan, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000		
29	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Phone: 8321308	Email: tender@vat.gov.bd	
30	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.			

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GD-650

‘Now or never’ Landmark UN report says only severe emissions cuts will avoid climate extremes

REUTERS

Drastic cuts to fossil fuel use. Growing forests and eating less meat. These are just some of the actions needed in this decade to contain global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above preindustrial temperatures, a major report by the UN climate science agency said yesterday.

Despite climate change warnings issued by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) since 1990, global emissions have continued to rise in the last decade, reaching their highest point in history.

The result: global emissions are on track to blow past the 1.5 degrees C warming limit

envisioned in the 2015 Paris Agreement and reach some 3.2 degrees C by century's end.

"We left COP26 in Glasgow with a naive optimism, based on new promises and commitments," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said with the report's release.

"But current climate pledges would (still) mean a 14% increase in emissions. And most major emitters are not taking the steps needed to fulfill even these inadequate promises."

At this point, only severe emissions cuts in this decade across all sectors, from agriculture and transport to energy and buildings, can turn things around, the report says.

Imran nominates

FROM PAGE 12
has said he will not be a part of the process, that's his choice.

"We have sent two names (to the president) today. If (Shehbaz) does not send the names within seven days, one of these will be finalised".

Earlier in the day, the Cabinet Secretariat issued a notification stating that Khan had "ceased to hold the office of the prime minister of Pakistan with immediate effect".

However, under Article 94 of the Constitution, the president "may ask the Prime Minister to continue to hold office until his successor enters upon the office of Prime Minister".

"Mr Imran Ahmad Khan Niazi, shall continue as Prime Minister till the appointment of caretaker Prime Minister under Article 224 A (4) of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan," the President said on Twitter.

President Alvi had dissolved the National Assembly (NA) on the advice of Prime Minister Khan, minutes after Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri rejected a no-confidence motion against the premier, who had effectively lost the majority in the 342-member lower house of Parliament.

Supreme Court Chief

Justice Umar Ata Bandial, after taking a suo motu cognizance of the political situation in the country, said that all orders and actions initiated by the Prime Minister and the President regarding the dissolution of the National Assembly will be subject to the court's order as he adjourned for one day the hearing of the high-profile case.

A three-member bench held the initial hearing and issued notices to all the respondents, including President Alvi and Deputy Speaker of the NA Suri.

The Supreme Court also ordered all parties not to take any "unconstitutional" measures and adjourned the hearing until yesterday.

The opposition has challenged Khan's decision in the legal case that began yesterday, with a five-member Supreme Court bench hearing arguments in a packed courtroom.

The court failed to come to a verdict during the three-hour hearing and will return today.

Ahsan Bhoon, President, Supreme Court Bar, said that the action of the prime minister and deputy speaker was against the constitution and "they should be prosecuted for treason under Article 6 of the constitution".

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