

Shehbaz steps out of shadows to lead Pak

AFP, Islamabad

Shehbaz Sharif, who became Pakistan's new prime minister yesterday after leading the opposition alliance that ousted Imran Khan, is a tough administrator with a penchant for quoting revolutionary poetry.

Shehbaz is the younger brother of three-time prime minister Nawaz Sharif, who was dismissed then jailed on corruption charges in 2017 and is currently in Britain after being released from prison two years later for medical treatment.

He is a seasoned politician in his own right, however, having served for years as chief minister of Punjab province, the Sharif family's power base, and also president of the Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N).

The 70-year-old jointly inherited the family's steel business as a young man and was first elected to provincial office in 1988.

Officials were reportedly kept on their toes by workaholic Shehbaz's habit of surprise visits to government offices, which he would inspect clad in a favoured safari suit and hat.

Shehbaz has also been linked to graft and corruption -- charges supporters say sprang from a political vendetta by Khan. Unlike his elder brother -- whose relations with the country's powerful military and his opponents were strained -- Shehbaz is seen as a more flexible dealmaker, capable of compromising even with his enemies.



Zinaida Makishaiva, 82, reacts as she recounts how Russian soldiers treated her, amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine, in Borodyanka, Kyiv region, Ukraine yesterday. Zinaida said "They came to my house and said go to the basement, "bitch". She put a sign on her house reading "there are people here". Soldiers started to shoot around her to scare her. "God saved my life". PHOTO: REUTERS

FRENCH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION Macron, Le Pen qualify for run-off

AFP, Paris

French President Emmanuel Macron and far-right rival Marine Le Pen yesterday embarked on a final fortnight of bruising campaigning for a French presidential election run-off whose outcome is far more uncertain than their encounter five years ago.

With 97 percent votes counted, Macron came in first in Sunday's first round of voting with 27.6 percent of the vote. Le Pen was second with 23.4 percent.

As the top two finishers, they



advance to a second round on April 24.

Far-left candidate Jean-Luc Melenchon came close to beating Le Pen for the second spot, after a late surge gave him a score of just under 22 percent.

The duel between Macron and Le Pen is a re-run of the 2017 election final from which Macron emerged victorious with 66 percent. But this time polls predict a closer contest which will crucially hinge on voters who backed other candidates in the first round.

"Make no mistake: nothing is decided," Macron told cheering supporters at his campaign headquarters Sunday night.

Le Monde daily headlined: "Macron-Le Pen -- A more uncertain Act II."

ANTI-WAR STUNT German paper hires Russian journo

AFP, Berlin

German newspaper Die Welt said yesterday it has hired Marina Ovsyannikova, the Russian journalist who protested against Moscow's military action in Ukraine during a prime-time news broadcast on state TV. Ovsyannikova, 43, "is now a freelance correspondent for Die Welt, reporting from Ukraine and Russia, among other places", the newspaper said in a statement.

Ovsyannikova, an editor at Russia's Channel One television, barged onto the set of its flagship Vremya (Time) evening news in March holding a poster reading "No War" in English. After her protest she was detained and questioned for 14 hours before being released and ordered to pay a fine of 30,000 rubles (\$280).

Israel army in new operations around West Bank city

AFP, Jenin

Israeli forces yesterday launched a third day of operations around the flashpoint West Bank city of Jenin following heavy gun battles in recent days and 20 arrests overnight, the army said. Tensions have soared since a spree of attacks in Israel left 14 people dead in the past three weeks, with Prime Minister Naftali Bennett warning the Jewish state is now "on the offensive". Four Palestinians were killed in separate incidents across the occupied territory Sunday, and militant groups in Jenin braced for more battles.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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Reference: e-GP/2021-2022/1496(32) Date: 11/04/2022

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of:

Tender ID	Tender Package No. and Description	Last selling date and time	Closing & opening date and time
685385	e-GP/EE/NRD/Rev./24/2021-2022 Supplying of Reflecting Road Studs works Ch: 1+000 to 15+600 & Ch: 21+000 to 21+845 of Narail-Kalia Road (Z-7502) under Road Division Narail during the year 2021-2022.	27-Apr-2022 17:00pm	28-Apr-2022 12:00pm

- This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
- The submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
- The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any Member of Schedule Banks for e-GP.
- Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Ashrafuzzaman
ID No. 602164
Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Narail

GD-724

'Evil has been defeated'

FROM PAGE 1

after Khan loyalist Shah Mahmood Qureshi, the former foreign minister, withdrew his candidacy and resigned his seat.

"It's a victory of righteousness, and evil has been defeated," he said in his maiden speech as premier, suggesting no end to what has been a bitter political battle.

Later in the day, Shehbaz was sworn in as the country's prime minister at the President House.

The oath was administered by the chairman of Pakistan's Senate, Sadiq Sanjrani, in the absence of President Arif Alvi, a member of Khan's party, who said he was unwell.

Shehbaz's first task will be to form a cabinet that will also draw heavily from the centre-left Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), as well as find space for the smaller

conservative Jamiat-ulema-e-Islam-F (JUI-F) group.

The PPP and PML-N are dynastic parties that have dominated Pakistani politics for decades -- usually as bitter rivals -- but their relations are sure to fray in the lead-up to the next election, which must be held by October 2023.

"History knows there is no ideological convergence among them," Qureshi said before storming out.

They need to tackle soaring inflation, a feeble rupee and crippling debt, while militancy is also on the rise -- with Pakistan's Taliban emboldened by the return to power last year of the hardline Islamist group in neighbouring Afghanistan.

"The situation is very bad, but I am sure that we will change it with the blessing of Allah and with hard work," said Shehbaz.

Energy, commodity

FROM PAGE 12

In the long term, if the Russia-Ukraine conflict affects the planting seasons in Ukraine, which seems quite likely, then the shortages of wheat, maize and corn could become more acute.

Eventually, it could also put price pressure on rice as some countries start to substitute rice consumption for other grain consumption, he added.

Asia is going to see a 5.2 percent GDP growth this year and 5.3 percent growth next year.

Besides, South Asian countries will see 7 percent growth this year and 7.4 percent growth next year, outperforming their East Asian and Southeast Asian peers.

Among the South Asian nations, Bangladesh will see 6.9 percent growth this year and 7.1 percent growth next year.

On the other hand, ADB's headline forecast on inflation in Asia is "modest", Park said.

To manage the challenges, each government needs to do a "balancing act", Park said.

On the one hand, governments want to support recovery, achieve sustainable development goals and support a green transition.

But at the same time, they are worried about elevated macroeconomic

risks, he said.

If inflation stays modest as per the ADB's projection, some central banks in Asian countries might resist raising the interest rates.

However, that could lead to the depreciation of their currencies, Park added.

India can provide some answer to the concerns surrounding food grain supply, said Raimondo Serra, the EU's directorate-general for Agriculture and Rural Development for Asia and Australasia.

The neighbouring country is the world's second-largest producer of wheat but because of its population size, it is not a big player in the global market.

India accounted for less than 1 percent of global wheat exports in the past seven years, he said.

However, there has been a boom in Indian wheat exports between 2021 and 2022, he added.

Pauline Weil, research analyst at Brussels-based think-tank Bruegel; Anintita Praokaew, vice-president of PTT's international trading business unit; and Prinn Panichpakdi, chairman of the advisory committee to the Thai commerce minister, also spoke at the webinar.

ANN Executive Director Pana Janviroj moderated the event.

NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY
Center of Excellence in Higher Education

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

North South University (NSU), the first private university in Bangladesh, seek applications from candidates with required qualifications and experiences for the following position:

Deputy Director (Public Relations) : 1 (one) position

Please read the full job description carefully to see if you have the skills, knowledge and experience we are looking for. Only eligible candidates will be contacted by NSU for interview.

Job Description:

- Word processing, graphic designing, desktop publishing (DTP).
- Assisting in content development for NSU website.
- Keeping liaison with social media management for NSU.
- Contributing in the planning and producing NSU branding related materials.
- Any other task assigned by Director (Public Relations).

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- Minimum 10 (ten) years of experience in relevant field.
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- Willingness to work in holidays and after-hours if necessary.
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NSU reserves the right to accept or reject any one or all applications without showing any reason.

Candidates should apply from his/her own e-mail address with a complete CV, photograph, copies of certificates, transcripts and writing sample (Bangla and English) by 23rd April 2022.

Those who have applied earlier need not apply again.

Director (Administration)
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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

শিক্ষা নিয়ে গড়ব দেশ
শেখ হাসিনার বাংলাদেশ

Office of the Project Director
Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for
Economic Transformation (ASSET) Project
Directorate of Technical Education
F/4-B, Agargaon A/A, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

Invitation for Tenders for Supplying of Manpower Through Outsourcing

	1	Ministry/Division	Technical & Madrasa Education Division.
	2	Agency	Directorate of Technical Education.
	3	Procuring entity name	Project Director, Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET) Project.
	4	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
	5	Invitation for	Procurement of Non-consulting Service (Selection of firm for supplying of Manpower).
	6	Invitation Ref No. & Date	57.03.0000.000.07.21.22-51; 10/04/2022
	7	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).
	8	Budget and source of funds	GoB Development.
	9	Development partners (if applicable)	N/A.
	10	Project code	P167506
	11	Project name	Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET).
	12	Tender Package No.	S-31
	13	Tender package name	Selection of firm for supplying of manpower (Designer (Graphic), Data Entry Operator, Driver (Light), Electrician cum operator, Office Sohayak, Dispatch Rider, Security Guard, Cleaner) through outsourcing method.
	14	Tender publication date	12.04.2022
	15	Tender last selling date	26.04.2022
	16	Tender closing date and time	27.04.2022 and 1.00pm.
	17	Tender opening date and time	27.04.2022 and 2.00pm.
	18	Name & address of the office(s)	
		- Selling tender document	Office of the Project Director, Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET), Directorate of Technical Education, F/4-B, Agargaon A/A, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.
		- Receiving tender document	Office of the Project Director, Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET), Directorate of Technical Education, F/4-B, Agargaon A/A, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.
		- Opening tender document	Office of the Project Director, Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET), Directorate of Technical Education, F/4-B, Agargaon A/A, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.
	19	Eligibility of tenderer	Bidders that fulfill the criteria described in the bidding documents.
	20	Brief description of services	Selection of firm for supplying of manpower (Designer (Graphic), Data Entry Operator, Driver (Light), Electrician cum operator, Office Sohayak, Dispatch Rider, Security Guard, Cleaner) through outsourcing.
	21	Price of tender document (Tk)	BDT 2000.00 (two thousand Taka only).
	22	Tender security	BDT 2.10,000.00 (two lac ten thousand only).
	23	Completion time	For the period of 02 (two) years from the date of Contract Signing.
	24	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Mohsin.
	25	Designation of official inviting tender	Project Director (Additional Secretary).
	26	Address of official inviting tender	Project Director, Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET), Directorate of Technical Education, F/4-B, Agargaon A/A, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.
	27	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 02-41024954
	28	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all the tenders or annul the tender proceedings.	

Md. Mohsin
Project Director (Additional Secretary)
Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for
Economic Transformation (ASSET)
Directorate of Technical Education, Dhaka

GD-720