

Who is Mokhber, Iran's interim president?

REUTERS

Here are some key facts about Mohammad Mokhber, 68, Iran's first vice president who became interim president following the death of Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash.

As interim president, Mokhber is part of a three-person council, along with the speaker of parliament and the head of the judiciary, that will organise a new presidential election within 50 days of the president's death.

Born on September 1, 1955, Mokhber, like Raisi, is seen as close to Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, who has the last say in all matters of state. Mokhber became first vice president in 2021 when Raisi was elected president.

Mokhber was part of a team of Iranian officials who visited Moscow in October and agreed to supply surface-to-surface missiles



and more drones to Russia's military, sources told Reuters at the time. The team also included two senior officials from Iran's Revolutionary Guards and an official from the Supreme National Security Council.

Mokhber had previously been head of Setad, an investment fund linked to the supreme leader.

In 2010, the European Union included Mokhber on a list of individuals and entities it was sanctioning for alleged involvement in "nuclear or ballistic missile activities". Two years later, it removed him from the list.

In 2013, the US Treasury Department added Setad and 37 companies it oversaw to a list of sanctioned entities.

Setad, whose full name is Setad Ejraiye Farmane Hazrate Emam, or the Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam, was set up under an order issued by the founder of the Islamic Republic, Khamenei's predecessor, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. It ordered aides to sell and manage properties supposedly abandoned in the chaotic years after the 1979 Islamic Revolution and channel the bulk of the proceeds to charity.

Raisi's death upsets the plans of hardliners who wanted him to succeed Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and will stir rivalries in their camp over who will take over the Islamic Republic when he dies.

A protege of Khamenei who rose through the ranks of Iran's theocracy, Raisi, 63, was widely seen as a leading candidate to take over from the 85-year-old Supreme Leader - though it was far from being a foregone conclusion in Iran's opaque politics.



Rescue team carries a body following a crash of a helicopter carrying Iran's president Ebrahim Raisi, in Varzaqan, East Azerbaijan Province, Iran yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

What happens next in Iran after Raisi's death?

AGENCIES

The crash of a helicopter carrying Iran's president and foreign minister comes at an especially fraught moment in the Middle East - and for Iran domestically.

Israel's offensive in Gaza and the subsequent humanitarian catastrophe that has unfolded in the Palestinian enclave over the last seven months has inflamed global opinion and sent tensions soaring across the Middle East.

It has also brought a decades-long shadow war between Iran and Israel out into the open.

Last month Iran launched an unprecedented drone and missile attack on Israel - its first ever direct attack on the country - in response to a deadly apparent Israeli airstrike on Iran's consulate in Damascus that killed a top commander in Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards (IRGC).

Israel struck back a week later, according to US officials, hitting targets outside the Iranian city of Isfahan with a much smaller, calibrated response.

Since then the tit-for-tat direct strikes between the two have stopped. But the proxy war continues with Iran-backed militias such as Hamas and Hezbollah continuing to fight Israel's forces.

Meanwhile, Iran's hardline leadership has weathered an explosion of recent popular dissent on the streets at home where years of US-led sanctions have hit hard.

The country was convulsed by youth-led demonstrations against clerical rule and worsening economic conditions following the 2022 death of Mahsa Amini in the custody of Iran's notorious morality police.

Iranian authorities have since launched a widening crackdown on dissent in response to the protests.

That crackdown has led to human rights violations, some of which amount to "crimes against humanity," according to a United Nations report released in March.

And while the protests for now have largely stopped, opposition to clerical

leadership remains deeply entrenched among many Iranians, especially the young, who yearn for reform, jobs and a move away from stifling religious rule, reports CNN.

A former hardline judiciary chief with his own brutal human rights record, Raisi was elected president in 2021 in a vote that was heavily engineered by the Islamic Republic's political elite so that he would run virtually uncontested.

While he is president, his powers are dwarfed by those of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who is the final arbiter of domestic and foreign affairs in

the Islamic Republic.

His death now sets into motion a pre-established succession process that empowers current Vice President Mohammed Mokhber to assume the interim presidency and hold an election within the next 50 days.

According to Iran's government structure, the supreme leader, who has been Ayatollah Khamenei since 1989, is head of state and has authority over the police. He also controls the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) - which is responsible for national security - and its volunteer wing, the Basij Resistance



Guardian Council ultimately decides who is allowed on the ballot in the first place.

"What we've been seeing the last few years really is a power struggle between the IRGC on one side with other conservatives factions," Nader Itayim, Mideast Gulf Editor at Argus Media, told CNBC's Capital Connection on Monday.

Over the next 50 days of the interim presidency, the IRGC's role in Iran's upper echelons of power is "going to remain intact and even potentially intensify," Itayim said. "That interim presidency ... [is] going to potentially pave the way for even more IRGC control over policies."

Russia claims control of Ukrainian village in east

AFP, Moscow

Russia said yesterday its forces had captured the Ukrainian village of Bilogorivka, one of the few remaining settlements in the eastern Lugansk region under Kyiv's control.

Lugansk is one of four Ukrainian regions that Moscow claimed to have annexed in 2022 and taking full control of it has long been a priority for the Kremlin.

"As a result of active combat operations, units of the Southern grouping of troops completely liberated the settlement of Bilogorivka," the Russian defence ministry said.

Bilogorivka, which had a population of about 800 people before the conflict, was a symbol of Ukrainian resistance in Lugansk region and was retaken by Kyiv's forces in 2022.

Meanwhile, Russian shelling killed two people in southern Ukraine, regional authorities said yesterday, after the country intercepted a swarm of Iranian-designed attack drones launched by Russia overnight. The civilians were killed in the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions that the Kremlin claimed to have annexed in late 2022, despite not fully controlling them.

Stop military, political threats New Taiwanese president calls on China

REUTERS, Taipei

Taiwan President Lai Ching-te yesterday asked China to stop its military and political threats, saying in his inauguration speech that peace was the only choice and that Beijing had to respect the choice of the Taiwanese people.

China responded by saying Lai had sent "dangerous signals" that sought to undermine peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait.

Lai, addressing the crowd outside the presidential office in central Taipei, repeated a call for talks with China, which views the proudly democratic island as its own territory.

Nepal PM wins confidence vote in House

REUTERS, Kathmandu

Nepal's prime minister won a parliamentary vote of confidence yesterday amid protests by the opposition demanding a parliamentary probe into allegations that his home minister illegally took money from several companies before he entered politics.

Pushpa Kamal Dahal, a former Maoist rebel chief in the Himalayan nation sandwiched between China and India, formed a coalition cabinet in March with the support of the liberal Communist Unified Marxist-Leninist party and several smaller parties. A fresh vote of confidence became necessary after a junior partner in the coalition withdrew support following differences with the leader.

The main opposition Nepali Congress said Dahal must set up a parliamentary panel to probe allegations that Deputy PM Rabi Lamichhane illegally took large amounts of money from a number of cooperative companies.



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Director
Chittagong Medical College Hospital
www.cmch.gov.bd
Memo No. CMCH/Tender/2023-24/e-GP/5585 Date: 20-05-2024
Invitation for e-GP Tender
This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd). For more details, please contact support desk contract numbers. e-Tender are invited in e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) by Brigadier General Mohammed Taslim Uddin, Director, Chittagong Medical College Hospital, Chattogram for the Procurement of:

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়
চট্টগ্রাম দক্ষিণ বন বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রাম।
ইজারা দরপত্র বিক্রয় নং- ৯/পেত্রাএইচ (সামগ্র) অব ২০২৪-২০২৫ তারিখ ২-২০/০৫/২০২৪ খ্রি।
শেখ রাসেল এডিতোরী এন্ড ইকো-পার্ক, আবুলখায়ের, চট্টগ্রাম-এ * হোপওয়ারে ক্যাম্প কার উড্ডয়ন বি: আদার এর জন্য দরপত্রাদাতা/ইজারাদার নিয়োগের দরপত্র বিক্রয়
এছাড়া সরকারের অধিকারিত অন্য জায়গায় আছে যে, অত্র বন বিভাগের অধীন ২০২৪-২৫ আর্থিক সালের জন্য শেখ রাসেল এডিতোরী এন্ড ইকো-পার্ক, আবুলখায়ের, চট্টগ্রাম-এ * হোপওয়ারে ক্যাম্প কার উড্ডয়ন বি: আদারের নিমিত্তে যে কোন সরকারি/আধাসরকারি/স্বত্বস্বত্বপূর্ণ প্রতিষ্ঠানের অধিকারিত সম্পূর্ণ টিকাদার/ইজারাদার/প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে নির্ধারিত ছকে সীমাহীনকৃত বন খামে দরপত্র আবেদন করা যাবে। দরপত্রসমূহ শিফট/নির্ধারিত তফসিল অনুযায়ী সীমাবদ্ধকারীর দরপত্র ও বন সংরক্ষক, চট্টগ্রাম অঞ্চল, চট্টগ্রাম এবং জেলা প্রশাসক, চট্টগ্রাম এর দরপত্র রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাস্তবায়ন করতে পারবেন। দরপত্র দাখিলের পদ্ধতি বিধি/নির্ধারিত তফসিলের দরপত্র সিডি/নির্ধারিত তফসিল বর্ণিত সময় পক্ষে সীমাবদ্ধকারীর দরপত্র হতে নির্ধারিত মূল্য (অফার/ব্যাংক/অফার) জম করা যাবে।