

2 wars changed Syria's fortune

CNN ONLINE

In every crisis lies opportunity, and in every opportunity lurks crisis. The startling advance of Syria's opposition in a week is the unintended consequence of two other conflicts, one near and one far.

Syria has absorbed so much diplomatic oxygen in the past 20 years, it is fitting this week of sweeping change popped up as if from a vacuum.

Syria has always been the wing nut of the region: linking Iraq's oil to the Mediterranean, the Shia of Iraq and Iran to Lebanon, and Nato's southern underbelly Turkey to Jordan's deserts.

It has been in the grip of a horrifically brutal dictatorship for decades. The swiftly changing fate of Bashar al-Assad was not really made in Syria, but in southern Beirut and Donetsk.

Israel's brutal yet effective two-month war on Hezbollah probably did not pay much mind to Assad's fate. But it may have decided it.

Likewise, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, 34 months ago, likely considered little how few jets or troops it might leave Moscow to uphold its Middle Eastern allies with. But the war of attrition has left Russia "incapable" of assisting Assad, even President-elect Donald Trump noted on Saturday.

And indeed Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov cut a weakened figure



Syrian Kurds stand next to the destroyed statue of Bashar al-Assad, the late elder brother of Syria's president Bashar al-Assad as they celebrate the fall of capital Damascus to anti-government fighters, in the city of Qamishli, Syria yesterday. Inset, demonstrators trample a carpet with a design showing president Bashar al-Assad during a protest outside the Syrian consulate in Istanbul.

PHOTO: AFP

South Korea's Yoon faces criminal investigation

REUTERS, Seoul

South Korea's leadership crisis deepened yesterday as prosecutors named President Yoon Suk Yeol as a subject of a criminal investigation over last week's martial law attempt, a media report said, and his former defence minister was arrested.

Yoon survived an impeachment vote in the opposition-led parliament late on Saturday, prompted by his short-lived attempt to impose martial law on Tuesday, but the leader of his own party said the president would effectively be excluded from his duties before stepping down.

That proposal, which appeared to win tacit approval from prime minister yesterday, drew condemnation from opposition lawmakers.

Without the physical crutches of Russia's air force and Iran's Hezbollah, Assad toppled when finally pushed

this weekend, saying: "What is the forecast? I cannot guess. We are not in the business of guessing." These are not the words of a steadfast and capable guarantor, rather those of a regional power seeing its spinning plates hit the floor.

Iran has been wildly hamstrung in the past six months, as its war with Israel, usually in the shadows or deniable, evolved into high stakes and largely ineffective long range missile attacks.

Its main proxy, Hezbollah, was crippled by a pager attack on its hierarchy, and then by weeks of vicious airstrikes. Tehran's pledges of support have done little so far but result in a joint statement with Syria and Iraq on "a need for collective action to confront" the rebels.

The Middle East is reeling because ideas taken as a given - like pervasive Iranian strength, and Russian solidity as an ally - are crumbling as they meet new realities.

Assad prevailed as the leader of a blood-drenched minority, not through guile or grit, but because Iran murdered for him and Moscow bombed for him.

Now these two allies are wildly over-stretched elsewhere, the imbalance that kept Assad and his ruling Alawite minority at the helm is also gone.

'Waiting a long time for this' Say Syrians as Damascus wakes up in rebel hands

AFP, Damascus

Syria's capital woke up yesterday to chanting, cheering and gunfire in celebration of the fall of president Bashar al-Assad, after rebels said they entered the city and toppled the longtime ruler.

"I can't believe I'm living this moment," tearful Damascus resident Amer Batha told AFP by phone from the capital's Ummayyad Square, where witnesses said dozens of people had gathered to celebrate.

"We've been waiting a long time for this day," said Batha, as Islamist-led rebels and a war monitor declared the end of decades of Assad family rule amid 13 years of grinding civil war.

"We are starting a new history for Syria,"

Batha added.

At the dawn call to prayer, some mosques were broadcasting religious chants usually reserved for festive occasions, while also urging residents to stay home with the city engulfed in uncertainty just hours into the rebels' takeover.

Rebel group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham and allied factions have pressed a lightning offensive since November 27, sweeping swathes of the country from government control, including major cities Aleppo, Hama and Homs and entering capital Damascus early yesterday.

In extraordinary images, rebel fighters announced on state television that they had toppled "tyrant" Assad, who war monitor the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said had "fled".



Trump calls for immediate Ukraine truce

REUTERS, Paris

US President-elect Donald Trump yesterday called for an immediate ceasefire and negotiations between Ukraine and Russia to end "the madness", prompting President Volodymyr Zelensky to say that there could be no peace without guarantees.

Trump made his comments just hours after meeting Zelensky in Paris for their first face-to-face talks since Trump won last month's US election. Trump has vowed to bring about a negotiated end to the conflict, but so far has not provided details.

"Zelensky and Ukraine would like to make a deal and stop the madness," Trump wrote on his social media platform Truth Social, adding that Kyiv had lost some 400,000 soldiers.

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SYRIAN JAILS Bewildered, elated prisoners pour out

REUTERS

Bewildered and elated prisoners poured out of Syrian jails yesterday, shouting with joy as they emerged from one of the world's most notorious detention systems and walked to freedom following the collapse of Bashar al-Assad's government.

Newly freed prisoners ran through the Damascus streets holding up the fingers of both hands to show how many years they had been in prison, asking passers by what had happened, not immediately understanding that Assad had fallen.

'Seize' Syria buffer zone Israeli PM orders military

AFP, Jerusalem

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday ordered Israeli military to "seize" a UN-patrolled buffer zone between Israeli- and Syria-controlled Golan Heights.

He said a 1974 disengagement agreement with Syria "has collapsed", so he "directed the (military) to seize buffer zone and commanding positions nearby. We will not allow any hostile force to establish itself on our border."

Taiwan reports near doubling of Chinese warships nearby

REUTERS, Taipei

Taiwan's defence ministry said yesterday that China had nearly doubled the number of its warships operating around the island in the previous 24 hours, ahead of what security sources expect will be a new round of war games.

China, which views democratically governed Taiwan as its own territory, has been angered by visits by President Lai Ching-te to Hawaii and the US territory of Guam as part of a Pacific tour. Lai returned from the week-long trip on Friday night.

In its daily morning report on Chinese military activities, Taiwan's defence ministry said there were 14 Chinese warships operating nearby, up from the eight it reported the previous day.

The ministry said it had detected four Chinese balloons flying over the Taiwan Strait, one of which had brushed the top of the island.

সামরিক চিকিৎসা সার্ভিস মহাপরিদপ্তর প্রতিরক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস. জরুরী মেরামত বিজ্ঞপ্তি. ১। এতদ্বারা প্রকৃত ইলেকট্রো মেডিক্যাল যন্ত্রপাতি মেরামতকারী ব্যবসায়ী/প্রযুক্তিকারী/সরবরাহকারীগণকে (যারা প্রতিরক্ষা ক্রম মহাপরিদপ্তরের তালিকাভুক্ত) জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, নিম্নলিখিত ইউনিটের নামের পার্শ্বে বর্ণিত ইলেকট্রো মেডিক্যাল যন্ত্রটি অকেজো হওয়ায় মেরামত করা প্রয়োজনঃ

CMH Chattogram. Table with columns: Ser, PVMS No., Name Eqpt, Faults/Requirement. ১। উল্লিখিত মেশিনটি পরিদর্শনপূর্বক প্রয়োজনীয় খুচরা যন্ত্রাংশের প্রস্তুতকারক দেশ এবং মেরামতের নির্দিষ্ট খুচরা যন্ত্রাংশ উল্লেখকরতঃ ইঞ্জিনিয়ার সার্ভিস রিপোর্টসহ দরপত্র আগ্রহী দরদাতা কর্তৃক সীলমোহরকৃত খামে আগামী ১৮ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৪ তারিখের মধ্যে এই মহাপরিদপ্তর এর মেডিক্যাল স্টোর শাখায় রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাস্তবে জমা দিতে হবে এবং একই তারিখ বেলা ১৩০০ ঘটিকায় দরদাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) খোলা হবে।

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি. ১। প্রতিষ্ঠানের নামঃ ৫০১ ডিওসি। ২। কাজের বিবরণঃ ২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থ বছরে প্রশিক্ষণ অনুদান (এটিজি সাধারণ), সূচ্যু প্রশিক্ষণ নিশ্চিতকরণে ৫০১ ডিওসি এর প্রশিক্ষণ শেড মেরামত এবং এতদসংক্রান্ত বিবিধ প্রশিক্ষণ ব্যয় নির্বাহ বাবদ। ৩। দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের তারিখঃ ১৫ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৪। ৪। দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখঃ ১৯ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৪। ৫। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখঃ ১৯ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৪।

পোস্ট-গ্র্যাজুয়েট স্টাডিজ অনুষদ সিলেট কৃষি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় সিলেট-৩১০০. ১। ভেটেরিনারি, এনিম্যাল অ্যান্ড বায়োমেডিক্যাল সায়েন্সেস, কৃষি, মাৎস্যবিজ্ঞান, কৃষি অর্থনীতি ও ব্যবসায় শিক্ষা, কৃষি প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি এবং বায়োটেকনোলজি অ্যান্ড জেনেটিক ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং অন্বেষণ অর্ন্তর্ভুক্ত বিভাগসমূহে ভর্তির জন্য সিলেট কৃষি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ডিভিএম, বিএসসি এজি, (অনার্স), বিএসসি ফিশারিজ (অনার্স), বিএসসি এজি ইকন, (অনার্স), বিএসসি এগ্রিল, ইজি., বিএসসি বিজিই, (অনার্স) ডিগ্রিদারী অথবা কোন স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে সমমানের ডিগ্রিদারী হতে হবে।

প্রেস ইনস্টিটিউট বাংলাদেশ (পিআইবি) ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি. সাংবাদিকতায় স্নাতকোত্তর ডিপ্লোমা. শিক্ষাবর্ষ: ২০২৪-২০২৫. প্রেস ইনস্টিটিউট বাংলাদেশ (পিআইবি) জাতীয় বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অধীনে সাংবাদিকতায় স্নাতকোত্তর ডিপ্লোমা প্রোগ্রাম ২০২৪-২৫ শিক্ষাবর্ষে (এক বছর মেয়াদি, দুই সেমিস্টার) ভর্তির জন্য উপযুক্ত প্রার্থীদের কাছ থেকে আবেদন আহ্বান করছে।