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Weekly Highlights



In this edition of the newsletter, we turn our attention to Pakistan's elections. Millions of voters are heading to the polls today as the country grapples with an economic crisis and political turmoil following the jailing of former Prime Minister Imran Khan.

You can go [to this live page](#) to follow developments throughout election day, including all the latest updates, analysis and reaction from the ground.

Meanwhile, as Israel's war on Gaza crosses the four-month mark, we examine Hamas's counterproposal for a deal that includes the withdrawal of Israeli forces and a phased-exchange of Palestinian prisoners for Israeli captives in Gaza.

Finally, we take a look at a US security bill that would curtail funding to the UN agency for Palestinian refugees. Rights advocates say a years-long effort to dismantle the agency is gaining steam amid the war in Gaza.



Pakistan's real test begins after election

The country's struggling democracy faces a number of crises - political, economic and, above all, of legitimacy, say experts.



'India Out' campaigns simmer in Bangladesh amid election fallout

Calls to boycott Indian goods follow allegations of Indian interference in Bangladesh's elections.



What's in Hamas's 135-day proposal for a Gaza truce?

The group has presented a three-stage plan that would see captives held in Gaza and Palestinian prisoners freed.



Controversy after US adult performer visits Iran

Whitney Wright travelled to Tehran last week and posted a picture of herself at the site of the former US embassy.



[Proposed ban on US funding for UNRWA raises alarm](#)

Advocates say growing bipartisan support for curbs to the UN agency for Palestinian refugees is 'concerning' and 'reckless'.



[PODCAST 🎧: 'Lost trust': Gaza residents await ceasefire deal](#)

After more than 100 days of war, Palestinians in the besieged and bombarded territory are exhausted.


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