Protests Continue in Iraq despite fall of Government

After six weeks of protests, Adel Abdul Mahdi, the Prime Minister of Iraq, stepped down and is now leading a caretaker government while elections are being organised. The protests were initially spurred by Iraq’s poorly performing economy and the call for economic reforms, but those escalated after the Iraqi government tried to suppress the protests by force on the orders of Iran. The deaths of more than 50 protestors at the hands of security forces, combined with widespread anger at politicians who have profited from the country but have not been able to repair it after the fall of ISIS, resulted in demonstrators demanding widespread political reform and an end to sectarian politics. As of this moment, protestors remain on the streets and want to make sure that politicians fulfil their demands for political reforms. They are also demanding that the officials and leaders responsible for the death of the protestors be tried for murder. The fall of the Iraqi government has wider repercussions in the Middle East. Just like the fall of the Lebanese government last month, it shows that Iranian influence is waning in the Middle Eastern democracies. It also turns up the pressure on Iranian government, whose attempts to suppress domestic protests have resulted in over 200 deaths.

Mexico Looks Back at One Year of AMLO

This week, Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, also known as AMLO, celebrated one year in office. AMLO came to power on a wave of leftist politics and promised to reduce inequality and corruption in politics. He implemented several widely-lauded efforts such as cutting government salaries, turning the lavish presidential compound into a public park, increasing social spending on education, health and infrastructure. However, a poorly performing economy and increasing drug violence are threatening to overshadow his triumphs.

US Congress Gears Up for President Trump’s Impeachment

After 100 hours of testimony and 30 hours of public hearings, the House Intelligence Committee of the US Congress released a damning 300-page report that accused US President, Donald Trump, of abusing his office for personal gain. The House investigation has found that Trump had ordered the withholding of military aid to Ukraine to pressure the Ukrainian government into opening an investigation into the business dealings of US Democratic Presidential candidate Joe Biden’s son, Hunter Biden. However, it is yet to be seen if the Republican-controlled Senate will accept the findings of the House committee and allow the impeachment to proceed.