Afghans fear violence, fraud as presidential election looms

Record numbers of people killed as troops, insurgents battle

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President Brazilian Jair Bolsonaro tested positive for Covid-19

Indonesia to put presidential polls on hold

JAKARTA: Indonesia will put presidential polls on hold until September after President Joko Widodo tested positive for Covid-19, according to a statement by the country’s election commission. The move comes after a number of presidential candidates have been hospitalised with Covid-19.

The Indonesian Commission for Elections (KPU) said the decision was made after consulting with Widodo, who tested positive on Friday. The commission said the polls would be postponed until September 6, when the next election is scheduled. The decision was taken after consultations with the government and the courts.

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JAKARTA: Drone footage showed a large explosion in the heart of Jakarta on Wednesday, killing at least 10 people and injuring dozens more, as the Indonesian capital was plunged into chaos.

The explosion occurred at a busy market near the city’s main train station, sending smoke and debris soaring into the sky. At least 10 people were killed and dozens more were injured, with the death toll expected to rise.

The Indonesian capital has been hit by a number of such attacks in recent years, but this was the deadliest one yet. It comes just days after another blast killed 45 people in the city.

The Indonesian government has said it believes the blast was caused by a bomb, but has not yet confirmed the details.

The attack comes just days after the government announced a crackdown on terrorism, following a series of suicide bombings in the city.

President Joko Widodo, who is running for a second term, has vowed to crack down on extremism and has said he will not tolerate any more attacks.

The government has also launched a wide-ranging investigation into the blast, with authorities appealing for information from the public.

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