Geographic Snapshot: Asia-Pacific



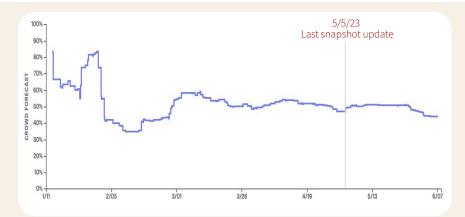
A summary of INFER forecasts on elections, diplomacy, and geopolitical events in the region. Data as of 8 June 2023

East Asia & Pacific Region • South & Central Asia Region

Will Myanmar hold national elections on or before 31 December 2023?

44% chance



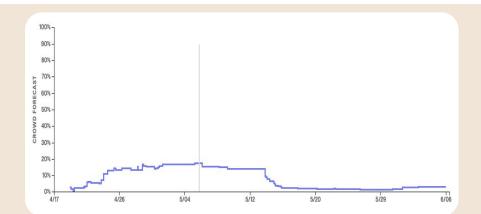


See detailed forecast rationales • See consensus trend and crowd profile

Will Prayut Chan-o-cha be re-elected as prime minister of Thailand by the Thai parliament after the next election and before 1 Jan 2024?

 $3\%_{\text{chance}}$



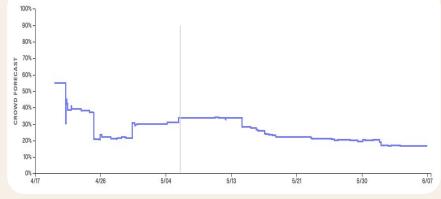


See detailed forecast rationales • See consensus trend and crowd profile

Will the Global Protest Tracker record a significant anti-government protest involving 10,000 or more participants in Thailand between April 2023 and April 2024?

17% chance

Down 14% from 5/5/23
Based on 76 forecasts

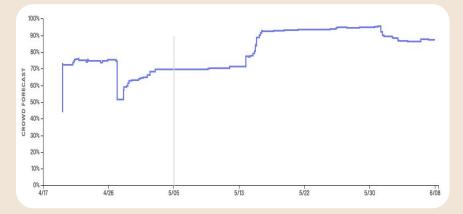


See detailed forecast rationales • See consensus trend and crowd profile

Will the Pheu Thai Party be part of a governing coalition in Thailand after the next election and before 1 Jan 2024?

87% chance

Up 17% from 5/5/23Based on 106 forecasts

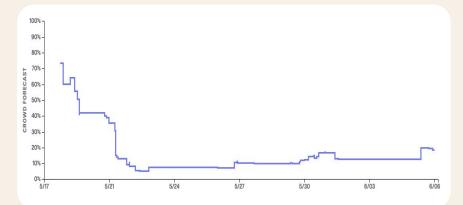


<u>See detailed forecast rationales</u> • <u>See consensus trend and crowd profile</u>

NEW ON INFER

Will Imran Khan be re-elected as prime minister following Pakistan's upcoming general election?

19% chance



See detailed forecast rationales • See consensus trend and crowd profile



APPENDIX: Forecaster Rationale Summaries

This section presents a high-level summary of forecasters' rationales for each question in the report. Rationales can be found in full by clicking "See detailed forecast rationales", and a list of sources linked within rationales can be found by clicking "See source links". The data in this report is from 1 May through 6 June 2023.

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Will Myanmar hold national elections on or before 31 December 2023?

Crowd Forecast: 44% chance | See detailed forecast rationales | See source links

Higher probability forecasts discuss...

International pressure: There is pressure from the international community, especially Western countries, for Myanmar to hold democratic elections. This could incentivize the military junta to hold elections, even if they are not free and fair, to regain some international legitimacy.

- Amnesty for political prisoners: The junta recently released over 2,000 political prisoners, which could be a goodwill gesture ahead of elections.
- Lack of cancellation news: The fact that there has been no formal announcement canceling the elections could suggest they are still planned.

- State of emergency: The junta has extended the state of emergency through September 2023. Given the violence, the state of emergency is unlikely to be lifted, making elections improbable.
- Loss of control: The military junta seems to be losing control of parts of Myanmar to opposition groups, including attacks by resistance groups on the junta's allies. This threatens their ability to hold elections where they can control the outcome. They may avoid elections they cannot rig.
- Support from allies: The junta has support from China and other neighbors, reducing its incentive to bow to international pressure for elections. With China's backing, the junta can avoid elections and still remain in power.
- Lack of recent news: The lack of recent news about election preparations or dates suggests to some forecasters that elections are unlikely to happen on schedule. More news would be expected if elections were imminent.
- Thai election results: Thailand's recent elections showed the difficulty of militaries controlling election outcomes. This could discourage Myanmar's junta from holding elections they cannot fully control.



Will Prayut Chan-o-cha be re-elected as prime minister of Thailand by the Thai parliament after the next election and before 1 Jan 2024?

Crowd Forecast: 3% chance | See detailed forecast rationales | See source links

Higher probability forecasts discuss...

Military-aligned senate: The Thai constitution and senate give the military significant power. The military-appointed senate, which is loyal to Prayut, holds significant influence over the selection of the prime minister and has supported Prayut in the past.

- Prayut lobbying senators: Prayut and his allies are lobbying senators and threatening legal cases against the opposition to try and maintain control.
- Legal challenges: The election commission and constitutional court, which have ties to the military, could potentially disqualify or dissolve opposition parties like Move Forward.
- Military may override elections: Despite
 Prayut's party losing badly in the election, the
 military may override the results or call for
 new elections.

- Large electoral defeat: Prayut and his party performed very poorly in the election. They only won 36 seats, while opposition parties won nearly 300 seats combined. This shows Prayut has little public support or legitimacy. The scale of the opposition's win makes it difficult for the military to plausibly overturn the results. Doing so would risk protests and instability.
- Prayut allies may back different PM:
 Prayut's allies in the military and senate may decide to support someone new during PM negotiations instead of going along with Prayut again given his and his party's poor election performance. They could find a more acceptable alternative for a coalition government partner.
- Prayut leaving politics: There are rumors
 Prayut may leave politics following his
 defeat. His party acknowledges the election
 results and seems to be preparing for the
 transition to a new government.
- Prayut term limit: Prayut faces a two-year term limit as prime minister which will be reached in mid-2025. This weakens his position in any negotiations, as the parliament may prefer to elect someone without a short term limit.



Will the Global Protest Tracker record a significant anti-government protest involving 10,000 or more participants in Thailand between April 2023 and April 2024?

Crowd Forecast: 17% chance | See detailed forecast rationales | See source links

Higher probability forecasts discuss...

- Historical precedent: Thailand experienced large-scale anti-government protests in 2018, 2019, and 2020. The issues driving these past protests, like dissatisfaction with the military government, may still exist. The pro-democracy opposition, especially younger Thais, have shown a greater willingness to protest in recent years.
- Military anti-democratic action: The military may intervene to prevent progressive parties from gaining power, sparking protests.
 Forecasters cite the possibility of the military staging a coup or the Election Commission dissolving progressive parties like Move
 Forward. Either event could prompt large protests.
- Senate blocking new PM: There is uncertainty about whether the new opposition coalition government will be allowed to form, with reports of military loyalists trying to prevent the Move Forward Party leader from becoming Prime Minister. If opposition parties are blocked from power, it could spur protests.
- Progressive parties' exclusion: The formation of a coalition government excluding progressive parties like Move Forward may also spark protests, as their voters feel disenfranchised.

- Post-election stability: There have not been major protests in the weeks following the election, and no intense rhetoric or events suggest widespread uneasiness or dissatisfaction that would fuel a large protest. The rhetoric of opposition leaders has calmed compared to what it was during the election, indicating they intend to work within the system's new democratic institutions for now. The situation seems to be calming overall.
- Coalition forming; reforms progressing: The pro-democracy parties seem to be forming a coalition government, including opposition parties like the Move Forward Party and the Pheu Thai Party, suggesting protests are less likely if reforms progress.
- Clear opposition victory: The election results gave the opposition a clear advantage, reducing the chance of intervention by the military.
- Government forming on schedule: The official list of members of parliament may be finalized in June, and election objections must be filed by August 12 according to the election commission chairman. Barring unforeseen disruptions, the government formation process seems on track. The chairman does not feel public pressure to accelerate the process.



Will the Pheu Thai Party be part of a governing coalition in Thailand after the next election and before 1 Jan 2024?

Crowd Forecast: 87% chance | See detailed forecast rationales | See source links

Higher probability forecasts discuss...

Coalition forming: The Pheu Thai Party won the second largest number of seats in the May 2023 election and joined an 8-party coalition with the Move Forward Party, the largest vote getter. This coalition seems poised to form a government if they can attract a few smaller parties to reach the required 376 seats. The coalition has signed a memorandum of understanding outlining their agreement to work together.

- PTP committed to coalition: The Pheu Thai
 Party has agreed to support Move Forward
 Party leader Pita Limjaroenrat as the prime ministerial candidate for the coalition. This signals the Pheu Thai Party's commitment to be part of the coalition.
- Military accepting results: There have not been reports of the military staging a coup or committing election fraud to prevent the opposition from forming a government. As time passes without incident, the chances of a coup decrease.
- Time for coalition to solidify: While there are rumors of obstacles, the vote for Prime Minister is not until August, leaving time for the coalition to solidify. The passage of time without reports of foul play also suggests the coalition may succeed.

- Legal challenges to coalition party: There
 are concerns the Election Commission may
 rule against the Move Forward Party's leader,
 Pita Limjaroenrat, due to his shares in a
 media company, jeopardizing the coalition. If
 the Move Forward Party was dissolved, the
 Pheu Thai Party may not have enough seats
 on their own to form a coalition government.
- Senate opposition: Some senators remain opposed to the Move Forward Party leading the coalition government due to their pledge to amend laws like lèse-majesté that protect the monarchy. They are lobbying other senators to not vote for the Move Forward leader as Prime Minister which could jeopardize the opposition coalition.
- House Speaker dispute: The Move Forward and Pheu Thai Parties disagree over who should become the next Speaker of the House. If they cannot resolve this dispute, the Pheu Thai Party has threatened to withdraw from the coalition which could cause the coalition to collapse before taking power.
- Possible military coup: The military still maintains significant influence in Thailand's government, with the ability to stage a coup.
 Some analysts argue there is still a chance of a coup or election fraud before a new government forms.



Will Imran Khan be re-elected as prime minister following Pakistan's upcoming general election?

Crowd Forecast: 19% chance | See detailed forecast rationales | See source links

Higher probability forecasts discuss...

Khan's enduring popularity: Khan remains very popular among voters, especially among youth and in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces. Public opinion surveys show he is the most popular leader in Pakistan.

- Strong party support: Khan's party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), still has a very strong base of support and will be able to mobilize voters. Defections from the party are unlikely to significantly impact his popularity or chances.
- Public discontent: The public is angry with the current government over the economy and crackdown on Khan. There will likely be a high voter turnout to bring him back to power, as he is seen by many as the only leader who can solve Pakistan's problems.
- Corruption allegations unlikely to impact support: Corruption charges are common in Pakistan and unlikely to prevent his election. Khan believes the charges against him are politically motivated, and his supporters see him as the candidate with the most political experience and as a symbol of hope against government corruption.
- Judicial independence: The judiciary has shown some independence and desire to appear politically neutral. They may allow Khan to contest the election to avoid appearing biased.

- Military opposition: The military establishment seems firmly against Khan, and they wield strong influence over politics and elections. They previously ousted him and may prevent his return.
- Damaged credibility: Khan's call for violent protests after his arrest has damaged his credibility and image. Many see these actions as undermining Pakistan's democratic institutions.
- Legal obstacles: Legal troubles, including corruption charges and lawsuits, create obstacles to him running or winning the election. The cases are unlikely to be resolved before the election.
- Disrupted party operations: The government crackdown on PTI has disrupted the party's ability to organize and campaign. Thousands of PTI supporters have been arrested, hampering its election efforts.



APPENDIX: The Forecasters

The forecasters who have participated thus far in these questions have the following profile:

- 101 total forecasters
- 41% are "INFER Pros" participants with an accuracy track record of at least 1 year on INFER
 or other similar forecasting sites or programs that has warranted their retention through our
 paid program.

Demographics

Country	Ratio
USA	43%
Canada, UK, Australia, New Zealand	12%
Europe	19%
Latin America, Caribbean	15%
Asia	10%
Africa	2%



APPENDIX: Report Methodology

Rationales of INFER forecasters have been selected and summarized by Claude, an Al assistant tool created by Anthropic. To build the rationale summaries presented in this report, we provided forecasts (probabilities and narrative rationales) to Claude to summarize into bulleted lists of arguments. We then manually edited the bulleted summaries for accuracy and readability to ensure that each list item accurately represented forecasters' rationales and was assigned to the proper list.

Each question in the report also includes links to the crowd forecasts, rationales, and source links used by forecasters.