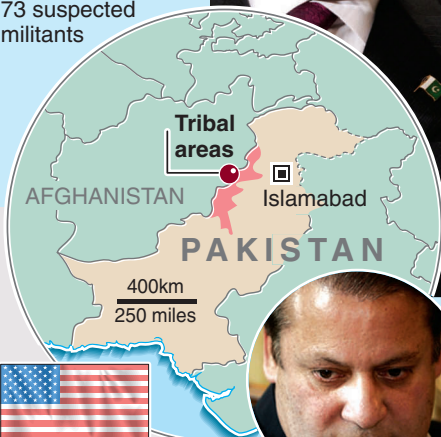


Multiple problems facing Musharraf

As Pakistan's political and security situation becomes increasingly volatile, beleaguered President Pervez Musharraf is facing the greatest challenge to his leadership since he seized power in a coup in 1999

MILITANT THREAT

Over 200 killed in Islamist militant attacks, mainly in northwestern tribal areas, after army assault in July on Islamabad's **Red Mosque** killed 102 people, including 73 suspected militants



U.S.: Increasing pressure on Musharraf to act against al-Qaeda outposts in tribal areas. **Recent bill signed into law ties U.S. aid to progress on militants' crackdown**



POLITICAL OPPOSITION

Musharraf seeking new five-year term as president in forthcoming elections. Also wants to remain head of army

Faces stiff opposition after Supreme Court reinstated chief justice Iftikhar Chaudhry, sacked by Musharraf in March



Chaudhry likely to rule on likely legal challenges to Musharraf's bid to seek new presidential term

EXILED LEADERS

Nawaz Sharif: Prime minister ousted by Musharraf in 1999 has petitioned Supreme Court to lift restrictions on his return to Pakistan

Benazir Bhutto: Former Prime Minister is reported to have discussed power-sharing deal with Musharraf but insists he should quit army before agreeing to any compromise