

Admin, police finalise arrangements for PTI rallies, public gathering

RAWALPINDI: The district administration, police, city traffic police and Rescue-1122 on Thursday finalized all arrangements for the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) rallies and public gathering.

Police personnel including commandos from the Elite Force and sharpshooters would be deployed to provide foolproof security cover to the rallies and public gathering.

The district administration and police have finalised the traffic, security and Rescue-1122 plans for the movement of rallies of PTI heading towards Rawalpindi to stage a protest. As per the programme, the leadership of PTI would be heading the rallies.

According to City Traffic Officer (CTO) Tamoor Khan, all the arrangements for PTI Long March and public gathering had been finalized. He said, special diversion plans had been finalized to regulate traffic on city roads during the long march and public meeting. Enhanced number of traffic wardens would be deployed on alternative routes to ease traffic flow and facilitate the road users, he said adding, CTP would also try to spread awareness about up-to-date traffic situation through FM 88.6 and social media.

The police have formulated a comprehensive security plan for maintaining law and order until the protesters leave the city. According to a police spokesman,

over 10,000 personnel would be deployed to ensure security while 750 traffic wardens and officers would also be deployed to ensure foolproof traffic arrangements. He informed that over 400 Elite commandos would be on security duty during the long march and the public meeting. Additional police force would be deployed on Murree Road and other routes of the long march while the teams of Elite and Dolphin forces would be patrolling in different areas to check law and order situation. Over 100 snipers and police officials would be stationed atop buildings on the route of the long march.

The police have made foolproof security arrangements for safety of the public meet-

ing and 2500 police personnel would be deployed in the inner cordon. Monitoring of the routes of the rallies would be conducted through CCTV cameras while four special vehicles equipped with CCTV cameras facility would also be used to monitor the security of the routes of the rallies.

On the directives of City Police Officer, Rawalpindi, senior police officers would remain in the field to check field duties and brief the police personnel.

Elite Force, Dolphin and personnel of other units had also been deployed to make all the security arrangements foolproof.

CPO Syed Shehzad Nadeem Bukhari said that all available resources would be

utilized to provide best possible security cover to the public meeting.

Rescue-1122 have also finalized all the arrangements for the public gathering.

According to a Rescue-1122 spokesman, Rescue-1122 on the directives of District Emergency Officer, Rawalpindi had declared code red across Rawalpindi district. Special Rescue-1122 teams had been deployed in two shifts while more than 300 rescuers to provide emergency cover to the public gathering.

Rescue-1122 vehicles of other districts of the division would also be available in case of any emergency, he added.

He said, Rescue-1122 to remain on high alert during the public meeting. —AFP

Armenian leader laments lack of help from Russia-led alliance

LONDON: The leader of Armenia vented his frustration on Wednesday at the failure of a Russian-led security alliance to come to his country's aid in the face of what he called aggression by Azerbaijan.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan called into question the effectiveness of the six-nation alliance, the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO), in pointed opening remarks to a summit as Russian President Vladimir Putin looked on.

Russia, the dominant player in the CSTO, has long been the main power broker in the south Caucasus region, bordering Turkey and Iran, where Armenia and Azerbaijan have fought two major wars since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

But as Russia struggles in its nine-month-old war in Ukraine, it risks losing influence in parts of the former Soviet Union that it has long seen as its sphere of influence. Fighting flared in September between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and the two sides said more than 200 soldiers had been killed. —AFP



RAWALPINDI: A vendor displays fish for selling purpose at the Sir Syed Chowk. —Online

Israel rescinds 200 Gaza work permits citing bomb worries

JERUSALEM: Israel has cancelled 200 out of some 15,500 work permits issued to Palestinians from the Gaza Strip after a labourer was accused of planning to carry out a bombing, the Shin Bet security agency said on Thursday.

The suspect, arrested on October 30, is claimed to have told interrogators that he had been recruited by relatives in the group Islamic Jihad to plant a bomb on a bus in southern Israel, the Shin Bet said.

It said the suspect had been indicted in an Israeli court. It was not immediately clear if he had been assigned a lawyer or how he might plead to the charges. The Shin Bet said that among Israel's responses was the voiding of around 200 permits of workers who it claimed had militant family members.

"The attempt by terror groups to exploit the jobs of workers in Israel in order to carry out attacks endangers the livelihood of hundreds of thousands of residents of the Gaza Strip," Defence Minister Benny Gantz tweeted. Islamic Jihad had no immediate comment.

Gantz, part of the Israel's centrist outgoing government, had championed expanding the allotment of entry permits in order ease Gaza's grinding poverty and stave off conflict. A double bombing in Jerusalem on Wednesday, for which there was no immediate claim of responsibility, killed a teenager Israeli-Canadian and

wounded at least 14 other people. Twin blasts in Jerusalem kill at least 1, injure 14: officials

Israeli Police Commissioner Yaakov Shabtai speaks to police officers at the scene of an explosion at a bus stop in Jerusalem on November 23, 2022.

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Israeli forensic experts work at the scene of an explosion at a bus stop in Jerusalem on November 23, 2022. At least one person was killed and 14 wounded in two separate explosions targeting bus stops in Jerusalem Wednesday, security and medical officials said, with Israel's public security minister calling them "attacks."

An explosion at a bus stop at the western exit from Jerusalem killed a man and wounded 11. A separate blast at another stop a short distance away damaged a bus and wounded three people, the hospitals treating the casualties said. The twin blasts struck half an hour apart, police said, noting that explosives experts were at the scene with police and forensic scientists "collecting evidence and scanning the area for suspects." Earlier, Israeli police blamed the initial blast on an explosive device planted at a bus station near the city exit and claimed that the explosions appeared to be a

Opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim named next Malaysian prime minister



KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's perennial opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim was named prime minister on Thursday, ending a days-long political impasse after inconclusive election results.

His ascension will cap a turbulent political life for Anwar — which has not only propelled him into the corridors of power but also landed him inside a jail cell on corruption and sodomy charges.

"After taking into consideration the views of Their Royal Highnesses the Malay Rulers, His Majesty has given consent to appoint Anwar Ibrahim as the 10th Prime Minister of Malaysia," read a statement from the palace of the king, Sultan Abdullah Ahmad Shah.

In the capital Kuala Lumpur, Anwar's supporters were in a celebratory mood.

"I got goosebumps, seriously," said 36-year-old Norhafizah Ashruff Hassan.

"He fought hard to be given the chance to be PM. I hope he performs well and proves his worth," he added.

"I cannot express in words the ecstatic feeling I have," said Muhammad Taufiq Zamri, a 37-year-old product manager.

He said, "A sense of optimism now flows and I believe Anwar will lead the country forward."

Anwar's multi-ethnic Pakatan Harapan (Alliance of Hope) coalition won the most seats in the weekend's election, on an anti-graft message.

But its total of 82 seats was short of the 112 required for a majority.

The king had summoned Anwar and former prime minister Muhyiddin Yassin — whose Perikatan Nasional bloc got 73 seats — in an attempt to break the deadlock, but no deal could be struck.

Malaysia's opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim, chairman of the Pakatan Hara-

pan (Alliance of Hope), shows his inked finger after voting at a polling station on Nov 19 during the general election in Permatang Pauh, Malaysia's Penang state. For Anwar, the premiership is the culmination of a rollercoaster of 25 years.

The firebrand former student activist was close to power in the late 1990s, as finance chief and deputy prime minister to Mahathir Mohamad.

But the two had a bitter falling-out over how to handle the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis.

Mahathir sacked his former protege, who was also expelled from their then-party the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) and charged with corruption and sodomy.

Anwar was sentenced to six years in jail for corruption in 1999 with an additional nine years added for the sodomy charge the following year; the two sen-

tences to run consecutively.

As he claimed political persecution, street protests erupted and evolved into a movement for democratic reforms.

The Mahathir-Anwar tussle has dominated and shaped Malaysian politics over the past four decades, "alternately bringing despair and hope, progress and regress to the country's polity", according to Oh Ei Sun of the Pacific Research Center of Malaysia.

The Malaysian Supreme Court overturned Anwar's sodomy conviction in 2004 and ordered him freed.

Anwar allied with Mahathir during the 2018 elections, when his erstwhile tormentor came out of retirement to challenge incumbent Najib Razak, who was mired in the billion-dollar 1MDB financial scandal.

Their alliance scored a historic victory against UMNO and Najib, who is now serving a 12-year jail term for corruption.

Mahathir became prime minister for the second time with an agreement to hand over the premiership to Anwar later.

He never fulfilled that pact and their alliance collapsed after 22 months.

"This is a long time coming for Anwar Ibrahim," Asrul Hadi Abdullah Sani, deputy managing director at strategic advisory firm Bower Group Asia, told AFP. "One of his agendas is to ensure he is able to fulfil his reform agenda as he looks to stabilise a loosely cobbled federal coalition," he further said.

James Chin, a professor of Asian studies at the University of Tasmania, told AFP that the announcement "will be welcomed internationally since Anwar is known as a Muslim democrat worldwide". "His biggest challenge will be to lead Malaysia out of the economic malaise following the pandemic," the

Kyiv counts its dead and damage after missile strikes

KYIV/CHISINAU: Russian missiles knocked out electricity in the Kyiv region and killed at least three people in the Ukrainian capital on Wednesday during attacks that caused blackouts across the country.

Kyiv was one of the main targets of missile strikes on energy facilities that cut power in many regions and made emergency blackouts necessary in others to help conserve energy and carry out repairs as winter sets in. "Our little one was sleeping. Two years old. She was sleeping, she got covered. She is alive, thanks be to God, said Fyodr, a Kyiv resident walking away from a smouldering apartment building that was hit in Kyiv, dragging a suitcase.

"I'm local, they're going to find a place for us somewhere everyone is in the same boat, it's not just me." Loud explosions echoed through Kyiv as Russian missiles descended on the capital and Ukrainian air defence missiles flew overhead.

"I was sitting in my flat and I heard an explosion. My windows in my hall, kitchen and bedroom were thrown open by the blast wave," said Yuriy Akhymenko, 55, who lives in the apartment building across the road from the one that was hit.

Flames still licked the top floor of the five-storey building more than an hour after it was hit. Fire crews worked to haul vast sheets of charred corrugated iron off the roof, and apartments on all five floors appeared damaged.

One woman who declined to give her name said she lived in the damaged building. She said she watched a missile sail overhead two streets away before hearing the explosion as it hit the apartment building. "I can't get through to my brother," she said through tears. "The third entrance to the apartment block is completely gone. The fourth is gone. In the first, everything inside the flats has been strewn all over." The Kyiv regional administration said the entire Kyiv region — meaning millions of people — was completely without electricity and that the water supply was also badly disrupted. —AFP



UK's top court rejects plans for vote on Scottish independence

LONDON: Britain's highest court on Wednesday rejected a bid by the devolved Scottish government in Edinburgh to hold a new referendum on independence without London's consent.

The unanimous ruling by the Supreme Court torpedoed the Scottish nationalist government's push to hold a second plebiscite next year. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, who leads the Scottish National Party (SNP), said she respected the ruling, but accused Westminster of showing "contempt" for Scotland's democratic will.

"This ruling confirms that the notion of the UK as a voluntary partnership of nations, if it ever was a reality, is no longer a reality," she told a news conference. Her government will now look to use the next UK general election due by early 2025 as a "de facto referendum" on separating after more than 300 years. "We must and we will find another democratic, lawful and constitutional means by which the Scottish people can express their will. In my view, that can only be an election," she added.

Outside the court, David Simpson, 70,

who first voted for the SNP in 1970, said he was still hopeful of achieving independence in the future. "This is not the end of the road," he said. "There is nothing impossible." In parliament, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak called the ruling "clear and definitive", adding: "Now is the time for politicians to work together, and that is what this government will do." The Supreme Court's Scottish president, Robert Reed, said the power to call a referendum was "reserved" to the UK parliament under Scotland's devolution settlement. Therefore "the Scottish parliament does not have the power to legislate for a referendum on Scottish independence", Reed said.

Sturgeon's SNP-led government in Edinburgh wanted to hold a vote next October on the question: "Should Scotland be an independent country?" The UK government, which oversees constitutional affairs for the whole country, has repeatedly refused to give Edinburgh the power to hold a referendum. It considers that the last one — in 2014, when 55 percent of Scots rejected independence — settled the question for a generation. —AFP

Taliban flog three women, 11 men in Afghanistan

KABUL: Three women and 11 men were flogged on Wednesday on the orders of an Afghan court after they were found guilty of theft and "moral crimes", a provincial official said.

The lashings are the first to be confirmed since the Taliban's supreme leader ordered judges this month to fully enforce Islamic law, or sharia, saying corporal punishment was obligatory for certain crimes.

Qazi Rafiullah Samim, head of information and culture for Logar province, said the lashings were not administered publicly.

"Fourteen people were given discretionary punishment, of which 11 were men and three were women," he said. "The maximum number of lashes for anyone was 39." Supreme leader Hibatullah

Akhundzada ordered judges this month to fully enforce aspects of Islamic law that include public executions, stonings and floggings, and the amputation of limbs for thieves. Kabul gets 400 new loudspeakers to encourage prayers "Carefully examine the files of thieves, kidnappers and seditionists." —AFP

CORRECTION OF FATHER'S NAME



I Muhammad Usman S/O Shoukat Hayat have passed the Secondary School Annual Examination 2015 under Roll No 130118 from BISE Sargodha. My father's correct name is Muhammad Shaukat Hayat, whereas it was mistakenly published as Shoukat Hayat, which is in correct. Kindly correct it on my certificate. If any person, organization or agency has any objection, then the same may be intimated in writing to Secretary BISE, Sahiwal Board within 15 days.

Muhammad Usman S.O Muhammad Shoukat Hayat R/O Peoples Colony, House No 1738, Street No, 5, Sahiwal.

CORRECTION OF NAME

I have changed my name from name from Shabbir Husain S/O Abdul Latif to Muhammad Shabir S/O Abdul Latif. And in future written and called by the same name.

Advertisement - Muhammad Shabbir S/O Abdul Latif R/O Ward No 18 House No 119 Mohala Muhammad Abad Tehsil Chichawatni Distric Sahiwal.