

Joko Widodo re-elected president

● **Widodo and Amin won the country's top jobs with 55.5 percent of the vote against 44.5 percent for Subianto and his wealthy financier partner Sandiaga Uno**

Jakarta, Indonesia

Thousands of soldiers fanned out across Jakarta on Tuesday after the surprise early announcement of official results in Indonesia's election showed Joko Widodo re-elected leader of the world's third-biggest democracy.

The election commission had been due to give the final tally of the divisive poll on Wednesday, but the results were revealed early Tuesday with little advance notice amid fears of unrest.

Presidential challenger Prabowo Subianto had warned of possible mass uprisings in response to his claims of widespread cheating.

Tensions have also spiked high since police said last week that they arrested dozens of Islamic State-linked terror suspects -- including some who planned to cause chaos by detonating bombs at any post-election protests.

On Friday, the US embassy in Jakarta issued a heightened security alert for Indonesia, the world's biggest Muslim majority nation.

There was a heavy security presence in Jakarta on Tuesday, including in front of the elec-



Indonesia's presidential challenger Prabowo Subianto gestures during a press conference in Jakarta

tions commission office, which was barricaded with razor wire and protected by scores of heavily armed troops.

Subianto, a 67-year-old retired general, has targeted the commission by accusing it of allowing a string of election violations.

The former military man -- who has strong ties to the Suharto dictatorship that collapsed in 1998 -- has kept up a steady string of rhetoric since unofficial results for the April 17 poll put bitter rival Widodo ahead by a wide margin.

Widodo, who had held off declaring victory after last month's

polls, confirmed the win Tuesday.

"After we're sworn in... we will be president and vice president," Widodo told reporters in Jakarta with running mate Ma'ruf Amin, a Muslim cleric, at his side.

Subianto, meanwhile, rejected the results but called for supporters to remain calm and said his camp would pursue "legal avenues".

Earlier Tuesday, Subianto's legal director was quoted by Indonesian media as saying a formal appeal would be filed at the Constitutional Court.

Subianto unsuccessfully chal-

lenged Widodo's 2014 victory over him at the same court.

'Sway public opinion'

Analysts and election officials have discounted Subianto's claims that the result was affected by voter fraud and widespread cheating.

"The scale of abuses and errors in the conduct of the election are clearly very minor overall," Jakarta-based political analyst Kevin O'Rourke said before Tuesday's official results.

"(Subianto) and his camp are harping on minor deficiencies and very micro problems, clearly in an attempt to sway public opinion and delegitimise Widodo."

It was unclear if huge crowds would flood the streets to support Subianto, but there was little sign of Tuesday.

"There will be protests from disappointed (Subianto) supporters but I don't think it'll be significant," said Syamsuddin Haris, a political analyst at the Indonesian Sciences Institute.

"Authorities have been anticipating this," he added.

The presidential campaign was punctuated by bitter mudslinging and a slew of fake news online -- much of it directed at the presidential contenders.

The soft-spoken Widodo -- who pointed to his efforts to boost Southeast Asia's biggest economy with a huge infrastructure push -- stood in stark contrast to fiery nationalist Subianto, a strongman who courted Islamic hardliners and promised a boost to military and defence spending.



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WIDODO TOLD REPORTERS IN JAKARTA WITH RUNNING MATE MA'RUF AMIN, A MUSLIM CLERIC, AT HIS SIDE.

Last month, a record 245,000 candidates ran for public office in Indonesia, from the presidency and parliamentary seats to local positions -- the first time all were held on the same day.

Some 85.6 million votes were cast in favour of Widodo out of about 154 million in total, it added.

Widodo scoring thumping victories in holiday hotspot Bali and heavily populated East Java, while Subianto landed big wins in conservative Aceh and West Java.

Militants kill local MP, at least 6 others, in NE India

Guwahati, India

A state legislator in the northeastern Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh and at least six others were killed yesterday in an attack by suspected separatist militants, police said.

Lawmaker Tirong Aboh and some family members were killed when insurgents opened fire on their vehicle in the Tirap district of the state, police said.

One senior police official said the death toll could be much higher.

"We believe 11 people have been killed, including a mem-

ber of the legislative assembly," a top officer told AFP on condition of anonymity.

The officer said reinforcements had been rushed to the area.

Police are yet to confirm the identity of the other victims.

Militants belonging to the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN), one of several separatist groups in the area, are suspected to have carried out the attack after making threats to Aboh.

NPP Chief Conrad Sangma condemned the incident and urged the Indian government to take action against those responsible.

Sherpa climbs Everest twice in a week for record 24th

Kathmandu, Nepal

Only last week Nepali mountaineer Kami Rita Sherpa set a new record by climbing Everest a 23rd time. On Tuesday for good measure he did it again, expedition organisers said.

"This is historic. He made his record climb this morning, guiding a team of Indian police," Mingma Sherpa of Seven Summit Treks told AFP.

A guide for more than two decades, Sherpa first summited the 8,848-metre (29,029-foot) peak, the world's highest, in 1994 while working for a commercial expedition.

In the 25 years since, the 49-year-old has made 35 summits on five 8,000-metre peaks,



Nepali mountaineer Kami Rita Sherpa

including the world's second-highest mountain, K2 in Pakistan.

Last year he ascended Everest

for the 22nd time, breaking the previous record of 21 summits he shared with two other Sherpa climbers, both of whom have

retired. Returning last week to a colourful welcome at base camp after his 23rd climb, Sherpa had already said that he wanted to go up for a second time this season.

"I am very happy and proud, I think I might go up the mountain again this season," he had said over a crackly phone line after his descent.

The accomplished climber has often said he did not intend to make records, but accumulated his summits in course of his work as a guide.

"I did not climb for world records, I was just working. I did not even know you could set records earlier," he said last month before setting off for Everest base camp.

Want to become a spy? Slovenia looking for new talent

Ljubljana, Slovenia

Slovenia's spy agency yesterday published its first ever public advert to recruit new agents "to strengthen and refreshen" the former Communist country's intelligence services.

"We call on those interested in the intelligence and security fields, motivated by challenges and prepared to adjust to the agency's specific line of work," the Slovenian Intelligence and Security Agency (SOVA) said in an ad in the daily Delo and other newspapers.

One major requirement, however: candidates must be Slovenian citizens.

nian citizens.

They can apply for different posts. Tasks include gathering information through secret collaboration, exchanging intelligence with foreign countries, and preparing analytical reports or forecasts.

Years of austerity have dented SOVA's funding, and its reputation hit rock-bottom in 2015 when a phone tapping scandal shook up arbitration between Slovenia and Croatia to resolve a long-lasting border dispute.

"While we've had very little new recruitment in the last years, the fast development of



technology and the evolving of security threats and risks de-

mand that the agency strengthens and refreshes with new and

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We call on those interested in the intelligence and security fields, motivated by challenges and prepared to adjust to the agency's specific line of work

SLOVENIAN INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY AGENCY (SOVA)

Tasks include gathering information through secret collaboration, exchanging intelligence with foreign countries, and preparing analytical reports or forecasts.

younger staff," SOVA said in a statement sent to AFP.

It added that it opted for an open call in order to "increase transparency and reach a wider public".