

I am much older, I have learned a lot over the last 20 years. We want to isolate extremists and build a better Pakistan.



Benazir Bhutto crying as she sets foot on her home soil on Oct 18 after 8 years of self-imposed exile

”



A Benazir supporter cries amid bodies after the bomb blast in Rawalpindi yesterday. — AFP picture

Benazir assassinated by suicide bomber

N.S.T 28/12/07 MIS 4

RAWALPINDI: Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto was assassinated yesterday in a gun and bomb attack as she left an election rally here.

State media and her party confirmed her death.

"She has been martyred," said party official Rehman Malik.

Benazir, 54, died in hospital in Rawalpindi. Ary-One Television said she had been shot in the head.

Police said a suicide bomber fired shots at Benazir as she was leaving the rally venue at a park before blowing himself up.

"The man first fired at Benazir's vehicle. She ducked and then he blew himself up."

Police said at least 20 people had been killed in the blast, which occurred during campaigning for a Jan 8 national election. It is unclear if the polls will now go ahead.

Benazir's father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, was Pakistan's first popularly elected prime minister. He

was executed in 1979 after being deposed in a military coup.

A witness at the scene of the attack said he heard two shots moments before the blast. Another witness saw bodies and a mutilated human head strewn on a road outside the park where she held her rally.

A suicide bomber killed nearly 150 people in an attack on Benazir on Oct 19 at a parade through the southern city of Karachi on her return from eight years of self-imposed exile.

In her speech yesterday, Benazir spoke of the risks she faced.

"I put my life in danger and come here because I feel this country is in danger. People are worried. We will bring the country out of this crisis," she told the rally.

People cried and hugged each other outside the hospital where she died. Some shouted anti-Musharraf slogans.

At least four people were shot

dead as rioting broke out in several cities across the country.

In **Islamabad**, paramilitary and police forces were put on the highest "red alert" level.

In **Jacobabad**, mobs torched several shops, including some belonging to relatives of Prime Minister Mohammedmian Soomro, said residents of the city, in the southern Sindh province.

President Pervez Musharraf blamed terrorists for Benazir's death and said he would redouble efforts to fight them.

He also announced three days of mourning for her across the country.

In **Washington**, the United States condemned the attack that killed Benazir.

A US State Department official said: "The attack shows that there are still those in Pakistan trying to undermine reconciliation and democratic development in Pakistan," the official said.

In **Moscow**, Russia condemned the killing of Benazir and called on the authorities to ensure stability in the country, Russian news agencies reported.

The Arab League condemned the assassination as a "heinous terrorist crime", the official Mena news agency reported.

Amr Mussa, secretary-general of the 22-member pan-Arab body, condemned the killing and "offered heartfelt condolences to the



Flashback: The bomb blast report on Oct 20

Pakistani people over the tragic development".

China expressed shock and "strongly condemns" the attack, state media reported.

Foreign ministry spokesman Qin Gang said China "is shocked at the killing of Pakistan's opposition leader Benazir Bhutto and strongly condemns the terrorist attack", Xinhua news agency said.

In **New Delhi**, India said the assassination was a tragedy and a terrible blow to the democratic process.

"In her death the subcontinent has lost an outstanding leader who worked for democracy and reconciliation in her country," Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said in a statement. — Agencies



Benazir waving to supporters just minutes before she was killed.

think smart...

free listing

thinkproperty.com.my

buying selling renting news views blogs guides forums