



Members of the media awaiting the arrival of opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim outside Istana Negara in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Anwar's gambit

Malaysia saw a drama-filled day yesterday as opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim, in his gambit for power, had an audience with the King, Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin. Here is the timeline of events.



Datuk Seri Anwar leaving the royal palace (above and left) after meeting the King.



Mr Anwar with the King at the royal palace in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.



8am

- Cameramen, videographers and reporters start to gather. Dozens of journalists receive McDonald's treats from the King through his private secretary outside the palace gates.

10.25am

- Datuk Seri Anwar arrives in a black car.

11.30am

- He leaves the palace after meeting the King, without speaking to the media.

2pm

- Mr Anwar holds a news conference at Le Meridien hotel. He claims he has 120 MPs on his side and that the King has been given "documents" to back up his assertion.
- Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, 83, chairman of Umno's advisory board, meets the King and leaves 45 minutes later.

2.30pm

- The palace issues a statement saying Mr Anwar presented to the King the number of MPs supporting him, but did not furnish their names.

5pm

- Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin holds a Facebook Live session for an hour with local media, saying he wants to focus on fighting Covid-19 and the struggling economy, not the palace meeting.

Around 7pm

- Former premier Mahathir Mohamad says in a one-minute video that he is not endorsing any individual as prime minister.

11pm

- Umno issues statement that it might consider pulling out of ruling alliance Perikatan Nasional, unless it gets new terms of working together in writing.