

After SC, federal cabinet also dissatisfied with Faizabad sit-in commission report

Special committee to review the Report and present recommendations



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD
The federal cabinet on Tuesday expressed its dissatisfaction over a report of an Inquiry Commission into Faizabad sit-in by observing that the commission had not adhered to its Terms of Reference (ToR).
The meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, directed to constitute a special committee of the cabinet that would submit its recommendations in this regard. The Attorney General for Pakistan submitted an inquiry report over the matter and gave a detailed briefing to the cabinet.
However, the prime minister blamed the report for having significant flaws and not sticking to the Terms of Reference (ToR).
Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif

stressed the need to reconsider the report and proposed the formation of a special cabinet committee in this regard. This special committee will review the Faizabad Dharna Commission Report and provide its recommendations to the prime minister.
Earlier, the Supreme Court had also raised concerns over the report prepared by the Commission.
The cabinet also adopted a resolution expressing condolences on the killing of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi. Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and his companions in a helicopter crash.
The meeting also granted its approval to the recommendation of Ministry of Interior for duty and tax exemption on the equipment donated to Balochistan police by Guangdong Public Security.

Tax evasion not considered as crime in Pakistan: Khawaja Asif



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD
Federal Defence Minister Khawaja Asif says tax evasion is not considered as crime in Pakistan.
Addressing a ceremony in Islamabad, the PML-N senior leader said over Rs36 trillion could be collected through taxes.
"Tax evaders have managed to make their ways into the assemblies and the practice of evading tax is decades old. Honesty is needed to collect taxes," Asif said. Talking about 60,000 shops of government of Pakistan, he said the government's shops were rented out against Rs2,000 or Rs4,000 per shop and in the same area the private shops were rented out for Rs50,000 to Rs100,000.

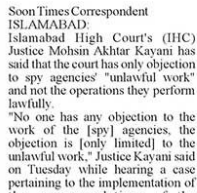
Contempt petition moved against PTI's Raof Hasan, Shoaib Shaheen in Supreme Court



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD
A contempt of court petition has been filed in the Supreme Court against PTI Information Secretary Raof Hasan and party spokesperson Shoaib Shaheen.
Advocate Mian Dawood filed the contempt of court petition in the Supreme Court on Tuesday. Raof Hasan and Shoaib Shaheen have been named as parties in the petition.
The petitioner attached transcripts of Raof Hasan

and Shoaib Shaheen's interviews with the petition.
"PTI is systematically scandalising the judiciary," claims Advocate Mian Dawood.
Both the PTI leaders used inappropriate language against Islamabad High Court Chief Justice Ameer Farooq, said the petitioner.
Raof Hassan's statement calling the IHC chief justice a 'foul' was an act of scandalising the judiciary, claims the petitioner.
The statements of PTI leaders violate Article 204 of the Constitution, he claims.
The petitioner also claims that the Supreme Court did not proceed with contempt of court action against Imran Khan. Failure to act against Imran Khan has encouraged the PTI.

Baloch missing persons: 'Objection only on spy agencies' 'unlawful work', says IHC judge



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD
Islamabad High Court's (IHC) Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani has said that the court has only objection to spy agencies "unlawful work" and not the operations they perform lawfully.
"No one has any objection to the work of the [spy] agencies, the objection is [only limited] to the unlawful work," Justice Kayani said on Tuesday while hearing a case pertaining to the implementation of the recommendations of the commission on Baloch missing persons.
Justice Kayani stressed that the court does not want to prevent judges, lawyers, journalists, parliamentarians and spy agencies from operating as per the law, but only objects to them working unlawfully.
The judge's remarks come a day after he, while hearing a case relating to the recovery of missing Kashmiri poet and journalist Ahmed Farhad Shah, was irked by



authorities' failure to recover the poet and had questioned whether spy agencies would run the country or the law.
The poet was allegedly abducted from his house last week and his wife had moved the IHC seeking his recovery.
"Now the matter has gone beyond the jurisdiction of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and the Military Intelligence (MI). They are talking about their failure," Justice Kayani had said in response to the Ministry

of Defence's remarks saying that Shah wasn't in ISI's custody.
The remarks then warranted a strong response from the federal government with Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar stressing that the court didn't have the mandate to drag senior military officers and government officials to the court in the case of a missing person.
"This is not the mandate of the court, the court is a platform for providing justice in line with the law and Constitution," Tarar had said during a press conference in Islamabad, as the trial grows between institutions.
The hearing During the hearing today - attended by Attorney General Mansoor Usman and lawyer Imaan Zainab Mazari-Hazir who were representing the federal government and Baloch students, respectively - the former presented the Missing Persons' Committee report.
Justice Kayani inquired how many people were arrested, went missing and were harassed in the past 10 years.

PML-N to amend party constitution



Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE
The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has decided to amend its party constitution.
A five-member committee has been formed to amend the constitution.
Rana Sanaullah will be the convener of the committee while Khawaja Saad Rafiq, Azam Nazir Tarar, Khuram Dasgiri, Mohsin Shahnavaz Ranjha and Barrister Zafarullah Khan will also be a party of the committee.
Anisha Rehman is appointed secretary of the committee.

Parvez Elahi nominated in 20 new cases related to May 9 events



Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE
Former Punjab chief minister Chaudhary Parvez Elahi has been nominated in 20 new cases related to the May 9 violent riots, it is learned.
A report was submitted to the Lahore High Court by the inspector general of Punjab

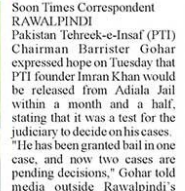
Police in this respect on Tuesday.
According to the report, a copy of which is available with Dunya News, Parvez Elahi has been named in three cases registered in Lahore, four cases registered in Faisalabad, 11 in Rawalpindi and one each in Attock and Gujranwala districts.
Justice Aamjad Rafique of the Lahore High Court had ordered the Punjab police chief for providing details of the cases registered against the president of PPTI's Punjab chapter.

Barrister Gohar confident PTI founder Imran Khan will soon be released

PTI chairman says issue involving She Afzal Marwat an internal matter of party



Soon Times Correspondent RAWALPINDI
Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar expressed hope on Tuesday that PTI founder Imran Khan would be released from Adiala Jail within a month and a half, stating that it was a test for the judiciary to decide on his cases.
"He has been granted bail in one case, and now two cases are pending decisions," Gohar told media outside Rawalpindi's

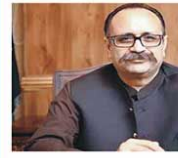


Adiala Jail.
Referring to his meetings with the PTI founder, Gohar said that during that meeting, his vehicle was stopped by security personnel, and obstacles continued to be created in the way of his meetings with the PTI founder.
Responding to a question about party leader Sher Afzal Marwat, Gohar clarified that the issue involving Marwat was an internal matter of the party. He

mentioned that Marwat had been issued show-cause notices, to which he has responded.
Regarding the country's political and economic situation, Gohar stated that the nation was facing uncertainty. He emphasised that his party's mandate was stolen in elections, while inflation was on the rise, and terrorism was also spreading. "May Allah have mercy on this country and its people," he prayed.

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Former AJK premier Tanveer Ilyas remanded in FIA custody for misusing diplomatic passport



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD
The sessions court in Islamabad has granted a three-day physical remand of former Azad Jammu and Kashmir prime minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas for possessing his diplomatic passport after stepping down from the position of premier.
The former AJK prime minister was produced before the court of civil judge Abbas Shah by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). He was represented by advocates Sabir Malik and Naveed Raza Mughal.

visit Saudi Arabia after stepping down from the position of prime minister.
It was disclosed to the court that his diplomatic passport had been cancelled, yet he had failed to return it. The prosecutor stressed the necessity of recovering the passport from Ilyas, requesting an eight-day remand for further investigation.
In defence, one of Tanveer Ilyas's lawyers contended that his client, being a former prime minister, was entitled to utilise his diplomatic passport.

IHC dismisses Tyrian White case as inadmissible



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD
The Islamabad High Court on Tuesday dismissed a petition filed against former prime minister Imran Khan for concealing his alleged daughter Tyrian White as inadmissible.
A three-member bench consisting of Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri, Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir and Justice Saman Riffat took up the petition seeking the disqualification of Imran Khan for not revealing his alleged daughter Tyrian in the nomination papers.
During the hearing, Justice Tariq Mehmood observed that two judges had already declared the Tyrian case inadmissible.
The court upheld the decision given by two judges, declaring the petition against Imran Khan inadmissible.
PTI leader Shibli Faraz was present in the courtroom during the hearing.
A citizen, Mohammad Sajid, had filed the petition through lawyer Hamid Ali Shah, requesting the court to disqualify the PTI.

AGPR Drives Service Delivery

The Green Channel Facility, which accelerates payments for high-volume but low-risk bills, significantly reducing transaction delays and improving efficiency, this was stated by Mr. Ahmar Elahi, Accountant General while visiting all sections of the AGPR office here in Islamabad. The Accountant General commended several key initiatives aimed at facilitating government operations, said that that Green Channel Facility has enabled government offices to complete their financial transactions within 24 hours, ensuring prompt and effective financial management. He

praised the ongoing efforts and highlighted the importance of focusing on efficient service delivery for government employees and officers. Mr. Elahi, noted the success of the micropayment gateway said that this innovative system has removed the cumbersome processes associated with cheque issuance, collection, and encashment, streamlining financial transactions and saving valuable time and resources. In collaboration with the State Bank of Pakistan, payments are now processed on Saturdays as well, further enhancing efficiency. The Accountant General also praised the establishment of a dedicated pension facilitation

center, which assists pensioners and demonstrates the AGPR's commitment to improving public service delivery, this center provides focused support curing pensioners receive timely and effective assistance. The facilitation of pensioners includes the introduction of seamless biometric verification for proof of life, enhancing both conveniences for pensioners, and financial accuracy for the government. He said that another notable achievement of the AGPR was the introduction of online billing, several ministries and departments have been integrated into this digital platform, reflecting a broader

strategy to modernize government financial transactions. Mr. Elahi emphasized the need for adopting digitalization in alignment with the Controller General of Accounts (CGA)'s vision, assured that transition of online billing in all remaining departments would be encouraged and supported throughout the adoption process. The Accountant General directives underscore a comprehensive effort to enhance public service delivery through innovation and digitization, marking significant progress in improving government operations.

Hungary's Anti-Corruption Protests



Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer

A couple of weeks ago, the mass demonstrations in Budapest where protesters expressed their resentment against alleged financial corruption that they believed was rampant in the country and possibly facilitated or ignored by the government. These protests were immense, peaking at a reported 100,000 participants. Since then, there have been four or five more demonstrations, including some in mid-sized towns where Prime Minister Viktor Orban's ruling party enjoys significant support. This reminded me of the large uprisings in other countries, such as the 1968 demonstrations in France that ultimately forced Charles de Gaulle from office when security forces could not suppress the movement. In Budapest, the protesters appeared to be predominantly anti-Orban, and the police seemed focused on maintaining peace rather than forcibly removing the demonstrators. Initially, I perceived this as a sign that Orban's grip on power was weakening, given the apparent lack of strong resistance from his side. However, I must admit that I was mistaken in my assessment. I failed to recognize the fundamental differences between the context of Budapest in 2024 and Paris in 1968.

At a demonstration near Kossuth Lajos Square in downtown Budapest, Magyar told the crowd that he had shared a recording with investigators and urged them to demand justice and an investigation into the Schadt-Volner case, a major corruption scandal in Hungary. Thousands of people waved Hungarian flags and reacted loudly as

Magyar read a statement accusing senior officials from the ruling Fidesz party of corruption due to their long hold on power. The crowd chanted, "Jail them! Jail them!" in response. Since 2010, Prime Minister Viktor Orban and the Fidesz party have dominated Hungarian politics, using their supermajority to change election rules, control the judiciary, limit independent media, and weaken the role of political opponents.

Magyar publicly broke with Fidesz after a scandal involving a pardon led to the resignation of Hungarian President Katalin Novak and caused Magyar's estranged ex-wife, former Justice Minister Judit Varga, to withdraw from politics. Varga, who had planned to lead Fidesz in the upcoming European Parliamentary elections, claimed that Magyar's recording was forced and part of a long-standing scheme to blackmail her, and she accused him of abusing her during their marriage. Magyar has consistently denied these accusations. On March 26, Magyar spent several hours at the Prosecutor-General's Office and stated that the recording implicates officials in several crimes. He also mentioned that he possesses many more recordings related to the Schadt-Volner case and intends to share them with investigators. The Schadt-Volner case involves possible illegal activities by Gyorgy Schadt, the head of the chamber of judicial officers, and a former state secretary at the Justice Ministry, Pal Volner, and reportedly includes wiretaps and classified information.

Magyar believes that prosecutors have no other choice but to summon several government members as witnesses and insists that they must summon the prime

minister as well. He argues that Prime Minister Orban is aware of much more wrongdoing than Magyar and his ex-wife knew. Magyar has accused Antal Rogan, a loyalist of Orban who manages the prime minister's cabinet office and government messaging, of having significant influence within a corrupt political group. Fidesz officials have dismissed Magyar's accusations as baseless and an attempt to harass his ex-wife. Magyar has called for a major rally in Budapest on April 6, hoping it will be the largest demonstration in the last 14 years to push for change. His previous call for an anti-government protest on March 15, a national holiday, drew an estimated 35,000 people, where he announced his intention to start a new political party. This rally followed significant anti-government protests in February, sparked by a controversial presidential pardon granted to a man convicted of helping cover up sexual abuse at a children's home.

The Hungarian political landscape, shaped by Fidesz's decade-long supremacy and its strategic alterations to the political system, remains resistant to immediate upheaval. However, the sustained public demonstrations and the mounting pressure from figures like Magyar indicate a brewing discontent that could eventually lead to significant shifts in Hungary's political dynamics. While the immediate future may not mirror the swift changes seen in 1968 France, the persistent and organized efforts of the Hungarian opposition could pave the way for a gradual transformation in the country's governance.

Martyrdom is the honor of the brave

Syeda Sadia Amber Jilani

On the night of May 19, 2024, suddenly the heart-wrenching news of the helicopter crash involving Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi with his important companions started spreading on all media. This news compelled everyone to pray for their safe return, and a wave of grief and sorrow spread far and wide. Every heart and every country was praying for the president's safe return. Pakistan, in particular, has a very special relationship with Iran. Condolence messages were pouring in from all sides, from India and Afghanistan to Saudi Arabia and Turkey. Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, immediately called an emergency meeting and urged the people to remain calm and pray. However, no significant progress was made until 2 am. "However, on the morning of May 20, 2024, the news of the martyrdom of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and his companions shocked everyone and filled every heart with grief. Since his recent visit to Pakistan in 2024, President Raisi had become a deeply beloved figure in Pakistan as well. Following this tragic incident, a five-day mourning period was announced in Iran and a one-day mourning period in Pakistan. According to Iranian media, the accident occurred on Sunday while returning from the inauguration ceremony of a dam in East Azerbaijan, Iran, where the helicopter encountered difficulties due to bad weather, fog, and rain. Despite the tireless efforts of approximately 73 rescue teams, the president and his companions, including Foreign Minister Hossein Amere-Abdollahian, the governor of East Azerbaijan, and the representative of the Supreme Leader in East Azerbaijan, Ayatollah Mohammad Ali Al-Hashem, were martyred. The bad weather conditions hindered the rescue operation. "Remember that on April 13, 2024, Iran, tired of



Israel's constant aggression, showed courage and fired missiles at Israel in self-defense, which was a shock to Israel's defense system. Israel openly threatened Iran on international media in response. Amidst these tense circumstances, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi made an important and pleasant visit to Pakistan on April 22, 2024. He met with Pakistan's important personalities, including the President, Prime Minister, and Army Chief General Asim Munir. They vowed to strengthen bilateral economic and security ties. The crucial energy project, the Sui-Gas-Pipeline, was also discussed. This project has never been particularly pleasing to the United States. The 63-year-old President Raisi, a man of strong personality, was born in Mashhad, the 2nd biggest city of Iran, in 1960. He received his early education from a seminary in Qom and earned a Ph.D. in law from Shahid Motehary University in Tehran. He was also the son-in-law of Mashhad Friday prayer leader and Grand Imam of Mula Imam Reza (A.S) shrine. Ahmad Alamolhoda. Ebrahim Raisi participated in the 1979 Iranian Revolution on the front lines. After the revolution, he held important positions in the judiciary, including Prosecutor and General Prosecutor of Tehran in the 1990s. In 2006, he was elected as a member of parliament from the province of Khorasan for the first time. Raisi was also the guardian of the Astan Quds Razavi, one of Iran's most important and wealthiest religious organizations. From 2016 to 2019, he was the custodian of the shrine of Mula

Imam Reza (A.S) in Mashhad. In 2017, he ran for president for the first time and surprisingly received over 15.7 million votes, but lost to his rival Hassan Rouhani. He secured 38% of the votes and came second. Later, in 2019, Iran's Supreme Leader Seyed Ayatollah Ali Khamenei appointed him as the head of the judiciary, a powerful position. The following week, he was also elected as the deputy chairman of the Assembly of Experts, an 88-member body responsible for electing the next Supreme Leader. As Chief Justice, Raisi implemented several important legal reforms. Despite low voter turnout, Raisi was elected as Iran's eighth president on June 19, 2021, with a manifesto of positive changes. He remained president until his martyrdom on May 19, 2024. Raisi was considered one of the closest associates of the Supreme Leader Khamenei and was also seen as his potential successor. A courageous personality of the Muslim Ummah has passed away. The question is, why do such incidents only happen to patriotic and loyal leaders and politicians? Either they are targeted through imprisonment and bondage, or they become victims of such accidents... Is this also just a natural accident, or is it a conspiracy or the result of a threat? However, it's time for the Muslim Ummah to wake up from their slumber. Martyrdom is the honor of the brave. May Allah Almighty elevate the ranks of the honorable Iranian President and his companions. Ameen. We stand in solidarity with the Iranian people in their grief.

Disappointing performance of PHA; Parks are deserted



Soon Times Correspondent Sargodha: Director Anti-Corruption Sargodha Hafiz Muhammad Inran held a meeting

with all investigation/inquiry officers of Sargodha Division. In the meeting, he reviewed the performance of all the officers in the month of April. He gave them guidelines to complete the ongoing cases and inquiries against corrupt elements across the division on merit. The Regional Director said to deliver justice to the petitioners without wasting time. He issued instructions to form teams headed by Circle Officer to arrest proclaimed offenders and court absconders and arrest them at the earliest. All investigating officers were directed to complete the pending challan as soon as possible and submit it to the court.

Vocational Institute Bhera should be given the status of a college: Farooqui

Soon Times Correspondent Bhera: Vocational Institute Bhera, established under the Board of Technical Education to make the youth of the region skilled, has not been given the status of a college. Hundreds of poor students of the region are deprived of higher technical education. These views were expressed by President Club Shaheen Farooqui, Khawaja Zahid Naseem Advocate, Chaudhry

Muhammad Ajmal Gondal and others while speaking in a joint meeting held by Bhera Press Club registered, Naheeda Mehboob Elahi Foundation and Welfare Council Tehsil Bhera. They said, with the efforts of late former bureaucrat Ghulam Murtaza Paracha, the spacious building of this vocational institute was approved and completed 20 years ago with the personal interest of the then Secretary, Communications and Construction, Dr. Sikandar Sultan Raja. Even after a long

period of time, it could not be given the status of a college. So, students who want to pursue higher technical education are forced to go to Bhalwal Sargodha. In the meeting, Chief Election Commissioner Dr. Sikandar Sultan Raja was appealed to take steps to give Vocational Institute Bhera the status of a technical college so that thousands of unemployed youth of the area can get decent employment by getting technical education.

Municipality Sargodha issues water bills to citizens without conducting research

Soon Times Correspondent Sargodha: Municipality Sargodha is issuing water bills to all citizens without conducting research. These notices are worth thousands of rupees. These bills worth Rs 39,000 each have been sent to various citizens without investigation. Most of the people do not have drinking water connection yet the bills are being sent. The shopkeepers say that the municipal staff is sending them bills by reading the names on the board outside the shops, while most of the shops do not have connections. It exposes the incompetence of the municipal staff. Objecting to it, they have said that the Commissioner Sargodha should take notice of it and conduct an investigation into sending the bill without investigation.



Dignitaries pay condolences to Pathan family on demise of 14 members in accident

Soon Times Correspondent Nowshera Soon Sakasair: After 14 members of the Pathan family were died in an accident in the last few days, Taimur Khan, the leader of the Pathans in the Soon valley and other members organized prayers for forgiveness and Quran recitation for the martyrs. MNA Malik Shakir Bashir Awan, Assistant Commissioner Irfan Martin, SHO Inspector Malik Muhammad Ijaz Ahmed,

President ANP Khushab Umar Khan Gurdizi took special part in it. They expressed sympathy and condolences to the Pathan family. Umar Khan Gurdizi and Taimur Khan Pathan thanked Assistant Commissioner Nowshera Irfan Martin, SHO Police Station Nowshera Inspector Malik Ijaz Ahmed, Rescue 1122 and the residents of Soon Valley and said that the way you supported us in the hour of trouble, we will never forget.

Khatam-e-Nabuwat is the law of survival & security of humanity: Latif Khosa



Nashin Darbar Aliya Hazrat Pir Mian Mir Sahibzada Pir Syed Ali Raza Gilani said, no change or amendment of any kind will be tolerated in the law of Khatam-e-Nabuwat. The founder and central chairman of Imam Hasan Council Pakistan Sahibzada Pir Nasir Abbas Nowshahi Qadri Advocate said, this series of All Parties Golden Jubilee Khatam-e-Nabuwat Conferences will continue across the country. The central vice president of Jamiat Ulema Pakistan Niazi and Pir of Ogali Sharif Sahibzada Pir Ameer Sultan said, "Insolent of Prophet (PBUH) can never live in Pakistan." Vice President of Pakistan Peoples Party's Ulema and Mashaikh Wing Punjab and Sajjada Nashin Darbar Aliya Hujra Shah Muqim Sahibzada Pir Syed Abbas Ali Gilani said, Muslims know well how to protect the honor of their Prophet (PBUH) and Khatam-e-Nabuwat. The party of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Shaheed will maintain its traditions to uphold the law of Khatam-e-Nabuwat. Hafiz Muhammad Ilyas Mustafa, Muhammad Tariq Gujjar Advocate, Muhammad Ameer Hamza and others also addressed the ceremony.

Soon Times Correspondent Lahore: In connection with the 50th anniversary of the Khatam-e-Nabuwat organized by Imam Hasan Council Pakistan, the Grand All-Parties Golden Jubilee Khatam-e-Nabuwat Conference was held in the conference hall of Lahore High Court under the chairmanship of Imam Hasan Council Pakistan's central chairman and Gadi Nashin of Darbare Aliya Hazrat Pir Muhammad Yar Bhatti Nowshahi Qadri known as Baba Mali

Shah Sarkar Sahibzada Pir Nasir Abbas Nowshahi Qadri Advocate. Addressing the ceremony, former Governor of Punjab and MNA Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Sardar Latif Khan Khosa said, "Khatam-e-Nabuwat is the law of survival of humanity." The job of a Qazi is to judge honestly and responsibly according to Islamic laws. Central Jamaat Ahl-e-Sunnat's leader and global preacher of Islam Pir Syed Irfan Shah Mashhadi said, ensure the implementation of the governing law on the end of Prophethood. Gadi



PM Shehbaz reaffirms Pakistan's commitment to Saarc charter

Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to the principles and objectives of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Charter and stated that Pakistan would continue to play its part to strengthen the SAARC process. He expressed these views during a meeting with Secretary General South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Muhammad Golam Sarwar who paid a courtesy call on him, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The SAARC secretary general is on his maiden visit to Pakistan. In the regional context, the prime minister underscored that the SAARC had immense potential for regional development, trade, cooperation and collaboration.

He expressed his earnest desire to see SAARC act as a means of progress and prosperity in the region. The prime minister congratulated Amb. Golam Sarwar on his appointment as the 15th Secretary General of SAARC and hoped that he would play his due role to revitalize the organization. Noting that the secretary general belonged to Bangladesh, the prime minister conveyed his warm wishes for the prime minister of Bangladesh and said that Pakistan desired to strengthen its bilateral ties with Bangladesh. The secretary general thanked the prime minister for receiving him and briefed him on his aspirations for making SAARC an effective platform for regional cooperation. He also thanked the prime minister for the warm hospitality extended to his delegation.

Vawda tables privilege motion against Justice Minallah

Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD: Senator Faisal Vawda has submitted a privilege motion in the Senate against a senior Supreme Court judge, Justice Athar Minallah, over his 'proxy' remarks, asserting his right to speak on judicial misconduct and standing by every word of his press conference. "It is a crime to point out misconduct, then hang me because I will continue to do so," Vawda declared during a Senate session on Tuesday.

Addressing the Senate, Vawda said he had united parliament and the entire nation under the banner of constitutional and legal supremacy. He reiterated his stance on his press conference, stating, "I stand by every word I said." Vawda criticised the judiciary, stating, "Those who should face contempt charges have not, and I never expected justice from the judiciary before now. I do not know what will happen in the contempt case." He emphasised his right to discuss misconduct and condemned the lack of accountability in

Pakistan. Highlighting specific incidents, Vawda said, "Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court demanded 30 VIP passes for a cricket match in an order dated 7 February 2023, later claiming it was a mistake." He accused Judge Ali Baqar Najafi of misusing official letters for personal benefits, questioning why no action was taken despite clear evidence. Vawda also accused Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani of Islamabad High Court of influencing district session judges and highlighted delays in high-profile cases.

PTI spokesperson Raof Hasan injured in Islamabad attack



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) spokesperson Raof Hasan was injured after he was attacked by unknown people in Islamabad on Tuesday evening. Onlookers said there were four assailants who attacked him outside a private news channel in G7 Markaz. They said the attackers used an object to hit on his face. The attackers fled after people started gathering and stopping them from beating Hasan. During the attack, the PTI leader suffered injuries on his face. He has been shifted to hospital where he is being treated

for the injuries. PTI leader Shibli Faraz has condemned the attack. While addressing in the Senate, he urged the government to take stern action against the attackers. Later, the PTI lawmakers walked out of the upper house of the parliament in protest against attack on the top leader of the party. Islamabad police in a statement said a blade was used to attack on the PTI spokesperson, adding that evidences were being collected from the site. They said the attack was carried out by transgressor persons, adding that a stern action will be taken against the suspects.

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France, Belgium, Slovenia support bid for arrest warrants of Israel and Hamas leaders



NEW YORK
France, Belgium and Slovenia released statements supporting the world's top war crimes court and its chief prosecutor's request for arrest warrants for leaders of Israel and Hamas, after Israel and the United States both harshly condemned the effort.

The International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor, Karim Khan, accused Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, and three Hamas leaders — Yahya Sinwar, Mohammed Deif and Ismail Haniyeh — of war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Gaza Strip and Israel. While Netanyahu and Gallant do not face imminent arrest, the announcement Monday was a symbolic blow that deepened Israel's isolation over the war in Gaza.

1 dead, others injured after London-Singapore flight hit severe turbulence, Singapore Airlines says



BANGKOK
One person has died aboard a London-Singapore flight that encountered severe turbulence, Singapore Airlines said Tuesday, in which the plane apparently plummeted for a number of minutes before it was diverted to Bangkok, where emergency crews rushed to help injured passengers amid stormy weather.



What's next for Iran's government after death of its president in helicopter crash?

Iran holds regular elections for president and parliament with universal suffrage.

JERUSALEM
The death of Iran's president is unlikely to lead to any immediate changes in Iran's ruling system or to its overarching policies, which are decided by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. But Ebrahim Raisi, who died in a helicopter crash Sunday, was seen as a prime candidate to succeed the 85-year-old supreme leader, and his death makes it more likely that the job could eventually go to Khamenei's son. A hereditary succession would pose a potential crisis of legitimacy for the Islamic Republic, which was established as an alternative to monarchy but which many Iranians already see as a corrupt and dictatorial regime.

Here's a look at what comes next.

HOW DOES IRAN'S GOVERNMENT WORK?
Iran holds regular elections for president and parliament with universal suffrage. But the supreme leader has final say on all major policies, serves as

commander-in-chief of the armed forces and controls the powerful Revolutionary Guard.

The supreme leader also appoints half of the 12-member Guardian Council, a clerical body that vets candidates for president, parliament and the Assembly of Experts, an elected body of jurists in charge of choosing the supreme leader. In theory, the clerics oversee the republic to ensure it complies with Islamic law. In practice, the supreme leader carefully manages the ruling system to balance competing interests, advance his own priorities and ensure that no one challenges the Islamic Republic or his role atop it.

Raisi, a hard-liner who was seen as a protégé of Khamenei, was elected president in 2021 after the Guardian Council blocked any other well-known candidate from running against him, and turnout was the lowest in the history of the Islamic Republic. He succeeded Hassan Rouhani, a relative moderate who had served as president for the past eight years and defeated Raisi in 2017.

Israel tries to contain the fallout after some allies support ICC prosecutor's request for warrants

JERUSALEM
Israel sought Tuesday to contain the fallout from a request by the chief prosecutor of the world's top war crimes court for arrest warrants for Israeli and Hamas leaders, a move supported by three European countries, including key ally France. Belgium, Slovenia and France each said Monday they backed the decision by International Criminal Court prosecutor Karim Khan.



Hong Kong will keep watching internet platforms for non-compliance with ban on protest song



HONG KONG
Hong Kong's leader said Tuesday his administration would keep monitoring for any non-compliance with a court order that bans a popular protest song, days after YouTube blocked access to dozens of videos of the tune in the city.

The ban targets anyone who broadcasts or distributes "Glory to Hong Kong" — popularly sung during huge anti-government protests in 2019 — to advocate for the separation of the city from China. It also prohibits any actions that misrepresent the song as the national anthem with the intent to insult the anthem.

In his weekly news briefing, Chief Executive John Lee said if the government found any instances of non-compliance, it would then notify the relevant internet platforms about the content of the injunction.

"I believe that operators in general operate within the law, so we will continue to monitor the situation," Lee said.

The court ban sought by the government has raised concerns over a further decline in the city's freedom of expression and internet freedom. Critics have also warned it might disrupt the operation of tech giants and undermine the city's appeal as a global financial hub.

Last week, YouTube blocked access to 32 videos of the song that were deemed to be "prohibited publications" under the injunction for viewers in the city. The tech company said it was disappointed by the court's decision and would continue to consider its options for an appeal.

Sports & Showbiz

Record number of spectators flock to watch Pakistan vs England Women's T20is

More than 10,000 people watched the game at Headingley which is a new record for a women's match here



BIRMINGHAM
Pakistan women's team captain Nida Dar is overwhelmed by the crowd support during the ongoing tour of England as a record number of spectators flock to watch Pakistan vs England women's T20is.

In the first leg of the tour, where the Green Shirts took over the home team in a three match T20i series, more than 27,000 spectators including thousands of Pakistanis and British-Pakistanis attended the games to watch the female cricketers in action in Birmingham, Northampton and Leeds.

Stadium attendance records at Edgbaston and Headingley were also broken during the T20i games between Pakistan and England women teams.

Although the Pakistan team didn't do well and lost the series 3-0, the Pakistani skipper Dar was taken by surprise to see the support for her girls at all three venues.

"The support we got from the crowd so far in this tour has been amazing, grounds have been quite full which is not seen very often other than the global tournaments. So far, we have enjoyed the fans' support and appreciation. Overall, the focus on women cricket around the world has been strong and female cricketers definitely needed that to get more exposure," she said. Pakistan men's cricket team has always enjoyed a huge fan base in Birmingham and Leeds, whose neighbouring town.



England players receive rankings reward following Pakistan series sweep

(Web Desk) - England have been rewarded for their dominant series sweep over Pakistan, with a host of their best performers making good ground on the latest ICC Women's T20I Player Rankings.

The European side cruised to an impressive 3-0 series result over Pakistan on home soil, with dashing opener Danni Wyatt finishing the three-game series as the leading run-scorer with 94 runs at an average of 31.33.

It was Wyatt's innings of 87 from just 48 deliveries in the final match of the series that stood out most and the hard-hitting right-hander was rewarded by jumping six places to 16th on the latest rankings for T20I batters.

Teammate Maia Bouchier rises seven places to equal 23rd on the same list following her 42 runs for the series, while Pakistan duo Aliya Riaz (jumps three spots to 53rd) and Sidra Ameen (improves three runs to 62nd) make some ground after some good efforts throughout the series.

Pakistan downs Bhutan in ATF 12 & under team competition



ISLAMABAD
Pakistan Tennis team started their campaign with a resounding victory against Bhutan in the Asian Tennis Federation (ATF) 12 & under Team Competition Regional Qualifying event of South Asia at Kathmandu, Nepal.

Pakistanis beat Bhutan by 3-0 in the tournament, in the first singles Rashid Ali Basalm beat Dada Tenzin Dada by 6-0-6-0, said a press release.

In the second singles Muhammad Shayan Afridi beat Tshering Peltshong by 6-6-0. In the Doubles Muhammad Shayan Afridi, Junaid Khan beat Dada Tenzin Dada, Tshering Mipham by 6-1-6-0.

The details of Group A and B are as follows, Group A: India, Bangladesh, Maldives, Group B: Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka.

Pakistan slide to number 7 in T20 rankings

MADRID
Germany's Toni Kroos, 34, will retire after this year's European Championship, the Real Madrid midfielder announced on Tuesday, adding that next month's Champions League final against Borussia Dortmund will be his last game for the Spanish club.

"My career as an active footballer will end this summer after the Euro championship. As I have always said, Real Madrid is and will be my last club," Kroos said in a statement on Instagram.

July 17th, 2014 - the day of my presentation at Real Madrid, the day that changed my life. My life as a footballer - but especially as a person.

"It was the start of a new chapter at the biggest club in the world. After 10 years, at the end of the season this chapter comes to an end. I will never forget this exciting and successful decade!"

Kroos has made 463 appearances for the club since joining in 2014 and will leave as one of the most decorated players in Real's 120+ year history, winning more than 20 trophies, including four European Cups.



In addition to his titles with Real, the midfielder won the 2014 World Cup with Germany and another Champions League title with Bayern Munich in 2013.

Kroos is in the final year of his contract with Real and in February announced his return to the Germany side after three years of international retirement and ahead of the June-July European Championship on home soil.

"I would particularly like to thank everyone that welcomed me with an open heart and trusted me. But especially I would like to thank you, dear Madridesas, for your affection and your love from the first day until the last one," Kroos said.

Kangana Ranaut hints at quitting film industry

(Web Desk)
Indian star Kangana Ranaut is contesting Lok Sabha elections and has hinted at leaving film industry after the polls.

In a recent interview, when asked about her future in the film industry, the actor expressed her intention to quit Bollywood if she emerges victorious in the elections.

Ranaut criticised the film world, labeling it as deceitful and artificial. She described it as a glossy, fabricated environment designed to allure audiences, stating her preference for authenticity and passion over a conventional job.

Notably, her highly-anticipated



Bollywood movie 'Emergency' faced another postponement, as confirmed by her production company Manikamika Films. Originally slated for release in November 2023, the film's release was rescheduled to June 14, 2024.

In an announcement on their Instagram handle, the production team stated: "Our queen Kangana Ranaut prioritized her duty to the nation and her commitment."