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Iranian President Raisi, FM killed in helicopter crash

Helicopter completely destroyed in crash; Funeral procession to take place today; Supreme Leader Khamenei confirms Mohammad Mokhber as interim president, declares five days of public mourning; Iran's military chief of staff Mohammad Bagheri ordered a probe into the cause of a helicopter crash that killed President Ebrahim Raisi

TEHRAN (INP): Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and the country's Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian have died in a helicopter crash, the country's Mehr news agency said on Monday. A senior Iranian official, requesting anonymity following the sensitivity of the development, told a foreign news agency: "President Raisi, the foreign minister and all the passengers in the helicopter were killed in the crash."

Iran's Mehr news agency also confirmed that "all passengers of the helicopter" were "martyred". The chopper that carried President Raisi and Iran's foreign minister crashed on Sunday while flying through a mountainous terrain amid heavy fog in the Varzaqan region of the country's East Azerbaijan province. According to Iranian

state media, bad weather caused the crash and was complicating rescue efforts in the country's northwestern region. Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said Raisi was flying in a US-made Bell 212 helicopter.

Iran Red Crescent Society chief Pir-Hossein Kolivand, in an interview to semi-official Tasnim news agency, said: "No trace of survivors has been seen after the discovery of the site of the crashed helicopter." He further revealed that rescue teams found the copter's crash site after "hours of extensive search in a mountainous region" in Iran's East Azerbaijan province.

President Raisi, FM Amirabdollahian and other high officials were returning to Iran after attending an inauguration ceremony of a dam on Iran's border with the Republic of Azerbaijan when the ill-fated chopper crashed Sunday afternoon.

Following the death of the Iranian President, the Islamic Republic's First Vice-President Mohammad Mokhber is set to assume power after the Supreme Leader's issues an approval, as per Article 131 of Iran's Constitution.

Who was Ebrahim Raisi? From Qom to Tehran Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, who represented conservative forces in the country, has died after a helicopter carrying



Announces a day of mourning PM visits Iranian Embassy to condole deaths of President Raisi & FM in tragic incident

Great loss for Muslim Ummah: President Zardari condoles death of Iran's Ebrahim Raisi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday visited the Embassy of Iran in Islamabad to condole the deaths of President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian in a tragic incident on Sunday.

"I am deeply shocked and saddened by the tragic news of the martyrdom of my brother, President of Iran, Dr. Seyed Ebrahim Raisi, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Hossein Amir Abdollahian, in a helicopter crash," the prime minister said during his visit.

He expressed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and the people of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the time of sorrow and grief. "Our sympathies and prayers are with the family members of the martyrs and the people of Iran."

The prime minister said Dr Seyed Ebrahim Raisi was a brilliant scholar and a visionary leader. "Today, Pakistan has lost a friend like Dr. Raisi, a sincere brother with high qualities."

PM Shehbaz said that his services to his own na-

him and other officials crashed in a mountainous and forested area of the country in poor weather.

World media is remembering him in conflicting manners, with the Western outlets, especially those from the US, presenting him as ruthless leader. However, others have more realistic approach.

According to Al Jazeera, Raisi, 63, who previously served as a chief justice, appeared on track to run for re-election next year and was touted as a potential successor to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the 85-year-old supreme leader of Iran. Born in Mashhad in north-eastern Iran, a religious hub for Shia Muslims, he underwent religious education and was trained at the seminary in Qom, studying under prominent scholars, including Khamenei.

Also like the supreme leader, he wore a black tur-

ban, which signified that he was a Sayyed - a descendant of the Prophet Muhammad, a status with particular significance among Twelver Shia Muslims. Raisi racked up experience as a prosecutor in multiple jurisdictions before coming to Tehran in 1985. It was in the capital city that, according to human rights organisations, he was part of a committee of judges who oversaw executions of political prisoners. The late president was a long-time member of the Assembly of Experts, the body that is tasked with choosing a replacement for the supreme leader in the event of his death. He became attorney general in 2014 for two years, when he was appointed by Khamenei to lead the Astan Quds Razavi.



Governor Balochistan calls Iranian ambassador; expresses grief over death of President Raisi, others

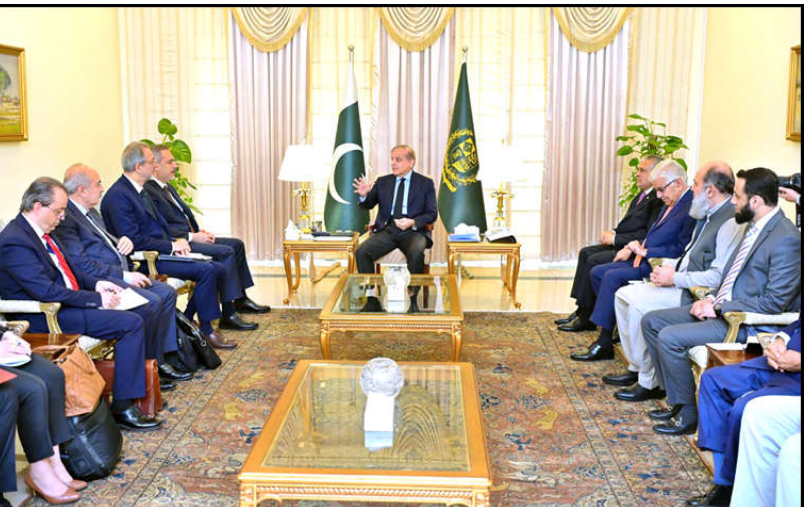
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QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail telephoned Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan, Reza Amiri Moghaddam and expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and his companions in the Helicopter crash. In his telephonic conversation with Iranian ambassador on Monday, the Governor Balochistan said that he is grieved over the martyrdom of President Ebrahim Raisi, Iranian FM and other personalities in helicopter crash.

The Governor said that Pakistan and Iran are two brotherly Islamic countries. He paid rich tributes to the late President Raisi for making sincere efforts for strengthening the relations between the two countries further.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif recording condolence remarks in the visitor's book of the embassy in honor of the Iranian President.



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister of Türkiye Hakan Fidan calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Tarar rules out unilateral legislation for establishment of Digital Media Authority

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said on Monday that the government had no intention of unilateral legislation regarding the establishment of Digital Media Authority in the country. "All journalist organizations and press clubs will be taken into confidence on the matter", Attaullah Tarar said while talking to a delegation of National Press Club (NPC) Islamabad which met him here.

The minister assured the NPC delegation that health insurance scheme for journalists would be started soon. Attaullah Tarar said that necessary steps would be taken for the construction of the permanent building of the NPC and the improvement of the existing building. The minister assured that provision of annual grant for NPC will be ensured.

The government was well aware of the problems of the administration of the National Press Club regarding the improvement of the National Press Club, he re-



ISLAMABAD: National flag flies half mast at PM office as Prime Minister announce a day of mourning in the country over the death of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi who died in a helicopter crash.

PM urges Turkish firms to expand investment, relocate industries to Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday invited Turkish companies to further expand their investment portfolio in Pakistan, also urging them to consider relocating their industrial units to the country.

The prime minister, talking to Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, who called on him here, said that the current level of bilateral trade was not commensurate with the existing potential.

He emphasized to undertake concerted efforts for achieving the bilateral trade target of US\$ 5 billion in the next three years as already agreed by the leadership of the two brotherly countries.

While underscoring the special bonds of brotherhood between Pakistan and Türkiye, the prime minister expressed satisfaction over the positive momentum in bilateral relationship. He reaffirmed



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir exchanging views with Hakan Fidan, Turkish Foreign Minister during meeting held in Rawalpindi.

PTI founder, others acquitted in Azadi March vandalism case

ISLAMABAD (INP): The sessions court on Monday acquitted Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder Imran Khan, lawmaker Zartaj Gul and others in the Azadi March vandalism case.

Judicial Magistrate Mureed Abbas Khan conducted Monday's hearing and announced the reserved verdict.

In 2022, vandalism cases were registered by the Karachi Company police against PTI founder Imran Khan, lawmaker Zartaj Gul, former PTI leader Asad Umar, Faisal Javed, Ali Nawaz Awan and Saifullah Niazi in connection with Azadi March.

During the proceedings, Naeem Panjotha, the counsel for the PTI, argued before the judge that the FIR had been filed by an unauthorised person, adding that if the basis of an FIR was wrong, how the case could proceed. The lawyer contended that the authority to file the case rested only with the person who imposed Section 144. He argued that no video evidence could be presented against Imran Khan in the instant case.

The counsel maintained that FIRs were registered against peaceful protesters and 19 cases of the same nature were registered against Khan in different police stations.

PM prays for good health of Saudi King Salman

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday expressing concern over health of Saudi King Salman Bin Abdulaziz, prayed for his complete recovery and good health.

"I have learnt with grave concern about the health of His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz. His Majesty is not only a sincere friend of Pakistan but as the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, a leader and guide for the entire Muslim Ummah," the prime minister wrote on his X timeline.

"The people of Pakistan join me in praying to the Almighty for His Majesty's complete recovery and swift return to full health," he added.

All institutions should work within their constitutional domains: Azam Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Monday said that all the institutions should work within their constitutional domains. Addressing a press conference, the minister said that the government was ready to provide full assistance to the police for the recovery of the missing poet Ahmed Farhad.

The Defence Ministry had told the court through the additional attorney general that Ahmed Farhad was not in the custody of any institution, he added. The minister said that if rights of anyone were violated he could approach the court which could sought a reply from the respondents.

Then the police were responsible to investigate the matter after registering

CONDOLENCE

Daily Independent Group of Newspaper expresses its profound grief and sorrow over the tragic demise of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash and extended heartfelt condolences to the government of Iran, the families of the president, the foreign minister, and all others who lost their lives in the incident, as well as to the people of the brotherly nation of Iran over the martyrdom of Iranian leadership in the helicopter crash.



President Raisi was a strong proponent of Pak-Iran partnership for regional development and was a great friend of Pakistan. It a great loss not only for Iran but for the entire Muslim Ummah. The Islamic World had lost a remarkable leader who always supported the Muslim cause. Late President Raisi would be dearly missed and fondly remembered in Iran, Pakistan, and the Islamic World for his efforts to enhance relations with regional and Islamic countries.

We pray to Allah Almighty to bless the departed souls with peace and grant patience and strength to their families and the people of Iran in this time of irreparable loss

Chief Editor Independent Group of Newspapers

Acting President for further consolidating bilateral ties with Malaysia

ISLAMABAD (APP): Acting President Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani on Monday called for further consolidating bilateral ties with Malaysia for the mutual benefit of the two brotherly countries.

Pakistan and Malaysia, he said, enjoyed cordial cooperation at all international fora, which needed to be further strengthened.

The Acting President expressed these views while talking to the Chief of the Royal Malaysian Navy, Admiral Tan Sri Abdul Rahman bin Ayob, who along with his delegation called on him at the Awan-e-Sadr. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the Acting President urged the need to further explore avenues of cooperation in maritime sectors for the mutual benefit of the two brotherly countries.

He expressed the hope that training and exchange programmes between the two navies

would further cement naval cooperation between Pakistan and Malaysia.

The Acting President expressed satisfaction over the regular conduct of bilateral naval exercises and training collaboration between Pakistan and Malaysia. He appreciated the Royal Malaysian Navy for regular participation in AMAN exercises and emphasised the need for continuity of the same in future. He stated that Pakistan was looking forward to the continued support of Malaysia for Pakistan's bid to become the Full Dialogue Partner of ASEAN.

Earlier, the Acting President conferred the award of Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Military) upon Admiral Tan Sri Abdul Rahman bin Ayob during a special investiture ceremony.

Admiral Tan Sri Abdul Rahman bin Ayob is a close friend of Pakistan and has played a prominent role in promoting cooperation between the Royal Malaysian Navy and the Pakistan Navy.



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister of Turkey Hakan Fidan calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

LHC gives Punjab govt ultimatum for judges' appointment

LAHORE (INP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) has issued an ultimatum to the Punjab government regarding the appointment of judges.

Chief Justice Shehzad Ahmed Khan presided over a hearing on the Punjab government's petition to transfer cases from LHC's anti-terrorism court I Rawalpindi to another court.

During the proceedings, the advocate general Punjab informed the court that a government committee had consulted with Punjab Chief Minister on the

matter of judges' appointment, assuring that it had been prioritized for the upcoming cabinet session.

However, Chief Justice Khan inquired about the timeline for the next cabinet session, expressing dissatisfaction with the absence of immediate action.

The Chief Justice ruled that either a special cabinet meeting should have been called or the government committee should have appeared before the court after completing its task.



ISLAMABAD: Iranian National Flag flies at half mast at the Iranian Embassy in the Federal Capital, in honour of Iranian president Dr Syed Ebrahim Raisi's death in a helicopter crash.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Abrar selected to lecture at International Physics Conference

By M. Ilyas
PESHAWAR- Prof. Dr. Muhammad Abrar, the former registrar of Islamia College University, Peshawar, has been selected to lecture at the Department of Physics during the second international conference on emerging trends in physics.

The conference, with a theme focused on Energy Storage Devices, was hosted by Islamia College University in Bahawalpur, Pakistan. This prestigious event was organized in collaboration with Queen Mary University of London, UK, and Islamia University, Bahawalpur, Pakistan.

Abrar, who earned his PhD from Queen Mary University of London under the joint supervision of Prof. David Dunstan, was invited as a guest speaker.

His lecture on "Magnetic Junctions in Nanowires for Energy



Both collaborating universities expressed their pleasure in hosting Dr. Abrar, whose expertise significantly contributed to the discourse on advanced energy storage solutions and sustainable technologies at the conference.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani in a meeting with Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan at Parliament House.

Pakistan, Turkiye target \$5b bilateral trade; call for permanent Gaza ceasefire

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Turkiye on Monday, vowing to strengthen bilateral and regional cooperation in multiple spheres, agreed to take the annual bilateral trade from existing \$1 billion to \$5 billion.

In a joint press stake-out following their "extensive" delegation-level talks, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan told the media that they had reviewed bilateral cooperation including trade, investment, connectivity and defense.

In his remarks, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar said the bilateral cooperation in all areas, was improving and measures were being taken to take the trade volume to \$5 billion.

Termining Pakistan and Turkiye "two countries and one nation," Dar said the strategic and comprehensive bilateral relations were

manifested by elaborate institutional mechanisms and high-level exchanges and visits at the level of political leadership.

He said both sides also discussed the Pakistan-Turkiye High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC) scheduled to take place in Islamabad in the near future to carry out a comprehensive review of cooperation including a holistic review of the strategic economic framework.

The deputy prime minister said that Pakistan and Turkiye had a history of defense cooperation and that both countries always supported each other on core issues, also during national calamities and disasters.

Highlighting bilateral cooperation on Islamophobia, he told the media that consequent to their joint efforts, the OIC, in its recent summit, agreed to appoint Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan Dr Mehmet Pacaci as Secretary-general's special envoy on Islamophobia.

Ishaq Dar also thanked Turkiye for its continuous support on the issue of Kashmir and reiterated Pakistan's support for the legitimate struggle of the people of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

Discussing the Gaza situation, both leaders agreed on an immediate need for a permanent ceasefire and the establishment of an independent Palestine state to achieve lasting peace in the Middle East.

Mentioning the tragic helicopter crash in Iran killing President Ebrahim Raisi along with the country's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and others, Ishaq Dar called it a "very sad day" for Muslim Ummah. He said the delegation-level talks started with condolence and Fateha for

the departed souls and prayer for patience for the bereaved families.

In his remarks, Hakan Fidan told the media that Pakistan was a strategic partner of Turkiye as there had been an unshakeable friendship and brotherhood between the two people who always supported each other.

He said the delegation-level talks identified the ways to strengthen ties and exploit the potential besides the steps to take the bilateral trade to \$5 billion from the current \$1 billion.

He said both sides decided in principle to broaden and strengthen ties in trade, defense, investment, banking science and technology and innovation.

Fidan said the situation in Afghanistan also impacted Pakistan and they expressed their common desire for permanent peace and stability in the country.

Chairman PRCS expresses condolence on tragic loss of Iranian leaders

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society, Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, Monday expressed heartfelt condolence to the government and the people of the Islamic Republic of Iran following the tragic helicopter crash in which

President Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, the governor of East Azerbaijan province, and several other esteemed officials and bodyguards were lost their lives.

On behalf of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society, Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari extended his deepest sympathies and words of consolation to the people of Iran, the families of the deceased, the Iranian government, and the Iranian Red Crescent Society.

Psychological test of Islamabad Police officers conducted

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ISLAMABAD: Following the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the Islamabad Police conducted a psychological test of officials deputed at Special Protection Unit (SPU) to improve the performance and mental capability.

This initiative seeks to enhance the aptitude of officials within the Islamabad Police. The test included a special psychological examination committee, chaired by SSP Security Division, while SP CTD, SP Headquarters, and psychological experts were the members of the committee.

Police Officers from the Special Protection Unit (SPU) actively participated in the test.

Minister Salik finds solace in exceptional arrangements for Pakistani Hujjaj

MAKKAH AL-MUKARRAMA (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Chaudhry Salik, on Monday voiced his contentment over the efficient operations in place for Pakistani pilgrims in Saudi Arabia that promised a journey of spiritual enrichment and ease during the Hajj.

"After visiting various facilities, including the Pakistan Hajj Medical Mission (PHMM), Hujjaj residential buildings, catering companies' kitchens providing three meals a day and transport arrangements, I felt relieved to see that all operational preparedness and ongoing services are up to the mark," he said while talking to media during his visit to the PHMM.

The Pakistan Hajj Mission team and the Ministry of Religious Affairs, he said, drawing on past experiences were well

aware of the challenges faced and took timely measures, resulting in meticulous preparations for the Pakistani Hujjaj. He praised the entire team for working with full devotion to serve the guests of Allah Almighty, extending all possible assistance to them around the clock. "I am proud of it. By the grace of Allah Almighty, the overall Hajj operation will be much better than last year's."

Answering a question, Minister Salik said he has visited the Rehlat Manafea Company, a service provider, to review arrangements for Pakistani Hujjaj during the five Hajj days in Mashair from 8-12 Zilhaj.

He commended the company for completing all arrangements for transport, accommodation and catering services in Mina, Arafat, and Muzdalfa during the Hajj days.

The minister stressed the need for further collaboration with the company to extend maximum facilitation to the guests of Allah Almighty at the holy land.

Accordingly, the CEO has been invited to visit Pakistan in August to explore increased cooperation and collaboration in future Hajj-related plans.

"We are striving to improve Hajj arrangements with each passing year," he said, praising the team, including Pakistan Hajj Mission, Head of Medical Mission, Director Medina, Director Makkah, and Director Mouavneen.

Earlier, the minister took round of different sections of the PHMM including male and female wards, pharmacy, medicines storage facility, OPD, surgical ward, dental clinic, expressing satisfaction over the preparedness of the medical mission to tackle any medical-related situation.

IHC to hear appeals regarding capital's elections separately

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday instructed the registrar office to fix the appeals regarding elections results in three constituencies of capital in separate days for hearing.

The court sought certified copies of form-45 along with the affidavits of the candidates and witnesses list on next date of hearing.

Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri heard the appeals against the election results notified by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

During hearing, the court remarked that one party was claiming that they have complete form-45 and they are winner while the other side was also claiming the same.

Justice Jahangiri said that let the certified copies come along with the affidavits then the court would view this matter. He said that one who lying would go jail, adding that the court would send these documents for forensic.

He said that the respondents who didn't appear should be advertised on national newspapers, TV and radio.

He said that the returning officer has a final warning, warrants would be issued if they do not come on next date.

The court would record the statements on oath, he said.

ECP's counsel said that these evidences are recorded in the presence of all the candidates. The original Form 45 is given to the presiding officer, he said.

RAWALPINDI: General Angus J. Campbell, Chief of Defence Forces Australia called on General Sahir Shamsah Mirza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, at Joint Staff Headquarters.

Australian Defence Chief calls on Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee

RAWALPINDI (APP): Relations (ISPR) news release said.

Both sides reiterated the resolve to further strengthen and enhance security and defence cooperation between the two countries. The Australian dignitaries remained appreciative of the high professional standards of Pakistan Armed Forces, their achievements in fight against terrorism and continued efforts for regional peace and stability. Earlier upon arrival at Joint Staff Headquarters, General Angus J. Campbell, was presented "Guard of Honour" by a smartly turned-out tri-services contingent.



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ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar addressed an important press conference.

Joint operation to reclaim ICT's public spaces

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon on Monday chaired a high-level meeting for addressing the encroachments issues in the Federal Capital. According to the Spokesman of ICT's Administration, the meeting was attended by the Deputy Director General of Enforcement from the

IG order to conduct investigation on merit & transparency

ISLAMABAD: According to the details, the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, held a meeting with senior police officers of the Operations Division at the Central Police Office Islamabad, a public relations officer said.

He said that the meeting was chaired by IG Islamabad, while SSP Operations, SSP Investigation, and SP Dolphin were also present on this occasion.

During the meeting,

the IG Islamabad directed the officers to conduct investigations with merit and transparency, resolve cases promptly, and refer them to the relevant courts.

He also gave directions regarding crime control and effective patrolling, and issued special orders to strengthen the grip on criminal elements and eliminate them.

He further said that, special efforts against car and motorcycle theft and other crimes should be intensified.



ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, chairs meeting of senior police officers of the Operations Division at the Central Police Office Islamabad.