



A man harvests honey in the Sundarbans recently after the forest department permitted honey collection between March 15 and May 30. Of myriad varieties of honey, those extracted from Kolshi and Goral flowers are most sought-after in the country.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Mominul takes the blame for Durban debacle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It took just 55 minutes and 13 overs for South Africa to wrap the game up on the fifth day of their first Test against Bangladesh as Keshav Maharaj and Simon Harmer spun the hosts to a crushing 220-run victory at Kingsmead in Durban yesterday.

Resuming the final day on 11 for three in chase of a 274-run target, Mominul Haque and his troops were bundled out for just 53 – the Tigers’ second-lowest total in Tests. This is also the lowest ever second-innings score by Bangladesh.

Left-arm spinner Maharaj registered his best bowling figure at home, picking up his eighth five-wicket haul. He bagged seven wickets for 32 runs in 10 overs. Off-spinner Harmer, who too scalped seven wickets in the game, bagged three in the second innings as the two spinners accounted for all the ten wickets of the visitors.

Maharaj and Harmer shared 14 wickets between them in the Test as the Bangladeshi batters surrendered helplessly on the final day despite remaining competitive till the fourth day of the match.

The game was not free of dispute as questions were raised by the Bangladesh team management over a few decisions by the umpires. Bangladesh players were also not happy with the sledging faced during the game.

Bangladesh skipper Mominul, however, admitted that he was unable to lead from the front and held himself accountable for the debacle in the second innings.

“Being the captain, I am the one most accountable. I could not take responsibility in both innings. So, I take full responsibility. As a captain, I could not lead from the front. If I were able to lead from the front in both the innings, the result of the match would have been

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CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS IN PAKISTAN

Imran nominates ex-CJ as caretaker premier

Move comes as SC adjourns without ruling on his decision to dissolve parliament, call for snap polls

AGENCIES

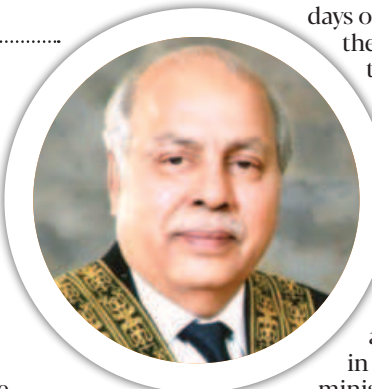
Embattled Pakistani leader Imran Khan yesterday nominated former chief justice Gulzar Ahmed for the office of caretaker prime minister, as the top court adjourned without deciding on the legality of Khan’s actions in blocking an opposition attempt to oust him.

Former information minister and senior leader of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party Fawad Chaudhry said that Khan made the decision after approval from the party’s core committee.

The announcement comes after President Arif Alvi sent letters to Khan and Leader of the Opposition Shehbaz Sharif yesterday seeking suggestions for the appointment of a caretaker prime minister.

“In response to the President’s letter, after consultation and approval by the PTI Core Committee, Prime Minister Imran Khan has nominated Pakistan’s former chief justice Gulzar Ahmed for the post of caretaker Prime Minister,” Chaudhry said.

In his letter, President Alvi told them in case they do not agree on the appointment within three



days of the dissolution of the Parliament, they shall forward two nominees each to a committee to be constituted by the Speaker, comprising eight members of the outgoing assembly, or the Senate, or both, having equal representation from the treasury and the opposition, reports The Dawn online.

The Constitution has empowered the president to appoint a caretaker prime minister in consultation with the prime minister and the leader of the opposition in the outgoing National Assembly, the President’s Secretariat said in a statement.

Imran Khan is supposed to continue as Prime Minister until a caretaker premier is appointed, according to the notification issued by President Alvi.

Meanwhile, Shehbaz Sharif said that he would not take part in the process and termed it “illegal”, saying that the President and Khan had broken the law and questioned how they could approach the opposition, reports NDTV online.

Reacting to Sharif’s decision, outgoing information minister Fawad Chaudhry said: “Pakistan is gearing up for the elections... Shehbaz

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‘DISAPPEARANCE’ VICTIM

Man’s phone last traced in Uttara

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The family of a pisciculturist, who allegedly became a victim of enforced disappearance, has claimed that the last known location of his iPhone, traced using an app, was adjacent to the Rab-1 office in the capital’s Uttara.

Imam Mahadi Hasan Dollar was picked up on November 6 last year from Mymensingh, by men in plainclothes, his wife Mumta Hena Pinky said at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

“Dollar’s motorcycle was parked on the main road. The area is called Bottola Chhankanda. He was walking back to the bike from his fishery. This was when he was picked up,” said Pinky.

Locals in the area, who witnessed the incident, described to the family members what happened: four to five men hauled Dollar into a microbus and left. There were also two motorbikes. All of them were in plainclothes. The time was around 5:10pm.

“One of the witnesses who knew our family, informed the matter to my father-in-law. They said the microbus had been parked at that spot all day,” said Pinky.

“Two days after the incident, we filed a general diary over the matter,” said Pinky. “We did not file a case, because when we went to the Fulbaria Police Station, and the Mymensingh CID office, they told us that it was useless to file a case. I asked for advice and they recommended filing a general diary.”

She added that she had also gone to the Mymensingh Detective Branch office, looking for her husband, a week after his disappearance.



An officer there told her, “I understand what happened to your husband. Go home and pray to Allah. Maybe you will get a phone call, telling you where he is, or that he will come home on his own.”

Pinky said, “I asked him to register a complaint and investigate. He said it was not possible.”

Dollar’s younger brother Rezvi said they tried to locate Dollar’s mobile phone using an app available on all iPhones.

The app that helps recover lost or stolen devices located the phone inside the Rab-1 compound, claimed Rezvi.

He showed a screenshot showing the location taken on December 12, 2021. In another screenshot, the phone was located on Shayesta Khan Avenue, the road right adjacent to the compound.

“It was December 12 when his phone could be located last. I haven’t found it since then,” said Rezvi, claiming the app has been turned off on his brother’s phone.

The family has contacted the National Human Rights Commission, which sent a letter to the home ministry requesting an explanation regarding Dollar’s alleged disappearance. They are still waiting for a response.

“A month ago, officers from Rab-14 came and took his passport, saying they were filing a report on missing people. They asked my father-in-law to submit a statement stating he is missing, and he did it,” said Pinky.

“A day later, they came back with a statement written in English. When we asked why it was in

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CIVILIAN KILLINGS NEAR KYIV

Global outrage spreads

Moscow denies accusations of war crimes

AGENCIES

Global outrage spread yesterday at civilian killings in north Ukraine, including evidence of bound bodies shot at close range and a mass grave found in areas retaken from Russian troops, as fighting raged on in the country’s south and east.

Taras Shaprawskyi, deputy mayor of Bucha, a town around 40 km northwest of Kyiv city, said 50 of some 300 bodies found after Kremlin forces withdrew late last week were the victims of extra-judicial killings carried out by Russian troops.

Ukrainian authorities said they were investigating possible war crimes there, a description also used by French President Emmanuel Macron. The Kremlin categorically denied any accusations related to the murder of civilians in the town.

Reuters reporters in Bucha saw one man sprawled by the roadside, his hands tied behind his back and a bullet wound to his head. A mass grave at a church

remained open, with hands and feet poking through red clay heaped on top. Pictures of the destruction and civilian deaths in Bucha looked set to galvanise the United States and Europe into fresh sanctions against Moscow.

The images were also poised to overshadow peace talks between Russia and Ukraine, due to restart by video link yesterday against a backdrop of artillery bombardments in Ukraine’s south and east, where Russia says it is now focusing its operations after withdrawing from around Kyiv.

Ukrainian television showed smoking fuel tanks and fire trucks near the Black Sea port of Odesa.

In Mariupol, another strategic southern port that has been under siege and shelled for weeks, the skeletal remains of residential tower blocks and other buildings surrounded by white cement dust and debris dominated the skyline, Reuters images showed.

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A man prints blocks on a piece of cloth while a woman watches in the capital’s New Market yesterday. As people were not able to properly celebrate Eid throughout the pandemic, this one holds special value for customers and traders alike. Tailors, designers and sellers are working twice as hard to cater to the growing demands as they expect their biggest sales since 2020.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Secondary schools to remain open till April 20

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The education ministry yesterday decided that all secondary schools and colleges will remain open till April 20.

This means that secondary schools and colleges will be open till the 18th of Ramadan.

Abul Khair, the ministry’s public relations officer, confirmed it.

An earlier decision had said they were to remain open till April 26 to recover the learning loss caused by the pandemic-induced school closure, according to an order issued by the Secondary and Higher Education Division on March 28.

A top education

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