



A young boy is comforted outside Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newton, in Connecticut, US, yesterday after a heavily armed gunman shot a number of students and staff there. Photo: Reuters » Story on page 9

PBS stops *Xarabank* debate as Debono turns up

The weekly PBS chat show, *Xarabank*, was not aired last night after Nationalist MP rebel Franco Debono turned up for what was billed as a debate between the deputy leaders of the two political parties.

The show should have featured Nationalist Party deputy leader Simon Busuttil and his Labour counterpart Anglu Farrugia.

Labour said in a statement it acceded to Dr Debono's request "to represent himself and be given the opportunity, which had long been denied to him, to explain why he voted against the Budget four days ago".

It said that, over the past week, Dr Busuttil had twice refused invitations to take part in debates with Dr Farrugia on PBS programmes (a claim PBS denied). Both also participated in a two-hour long debate on Church radio RTK on Thursday, it said.

PBS said that Dr Debono arrived at production house Where's Everybody's studios, in Qormi, accompanied by Labour's information director Kurt Farrugia adding that the programme had to be cancelled because of the tension that ensued.

As Dr Debono waited, insisting he should appear in the programme, he asked why Dr Busuttil was afraid to face him, adding that Dr Farrugia did not turn up.

Dr Busuttil, who was present in the studios, said he went to the studios to debate with Dr Farrugia.

As he walked out, he said he was leaving because he was told the programme was cancelled.

Judges told to resign or face impeachment

Prime Minister sends warning after EU summit in Brussels

Ivan Camilleri
Brussels

The Prime Minister yesterday warned two sitting judges - Ray Pace and Lino Farrugia Sacco - that unless they resigned "within the next hours" they would face impeachment motions.

Speaking at the end of a two-day EU summit meeting in Brussels, Lawrence Gonzi said that if the judges did not step down, the Government would present impeachment motions to be discussed by the Commission for the Administration of Justice and then by Parliament.

"If, in a few hours' time, the two resignations are not on my desk, the Government will officially present impeachment motions for the two to be removed," a determined Dr Gonzi said.

Sources said yesterday that Mr Justice Pace was expected to resign but there were no developments until the time of going to print.

The commission yesterday held an emergency meeting and recommended that Mr Justice Pace's pending cases be assigned to other members of the judiciary. Chief Justice Silvio Camilleri accepted the recommendation.

Underlining a clear distinction between the two cases, Dr Gonzi said that through their behaviour

both judges had placed the reputation of the judiciary in the balance and it was his duty not to tolerate such situation.

Mr Justice Pace was on Thursday remanded in custody after pleading not guilty to accepting a bribe, trading in influence and money laundering. Two men also pleaded not guilty to trying to bribe the judge to influence a drug trafficker's sentence. The case is said to revolve around rival drug gangs.

On the other judge, Dr Gonzi said: "Mr Justice Farrugia Sacco was warned a long time ago

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