



Constitutional supremacy, democracy essential for country's development: Gilani



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Pakistan hosts International Qirat competition, minister welcomes participants

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Three personnel martyred in suicide attack on FC headquarters in Peshawar

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: Three Federal Constabulary (FC) officials were martyred while three terrorists killed and five people, including two officials, injured in an attack on the headquarters in the Saddar area of the city on Monday morning.

According to Peshawar Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Mian Saeed, three suicide bombers carried out the attack. One of them blew himself up at the gate at 8:10 in the morning. Three personnel stationed at the gate were martyred in the explosion.

Taking advantage of the blast, the two remaining attackers entered the building, he added. The CCPO said the two attackers who entered inside were immediately killed by the

FC officials. Saddar Road was closed to all types of traffic soon after the attack, he continued.

Meanwhile, a spokesperson for the Rescue services said, the injured have been shifted to Lady Reading Hospital, and their condition is stable.

Inspector General of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police, Zulfiqar Hameed, said that two suicide blasts were carried out at the FC Headquarters in Saddar — one at the main gate and the other at the motorcycle stand. The IG stated that two attackers were killed in the exchange of fire, while two FC personnel were injured. According to sources, FC and Pakistan Army have launched an operation against the terrorists.



PESHAWAR: Army soldiers secure the entrance site after suicide bombers targeted the headquarters of a paramilitary force in Peshawar.

Top Saudi military commander calls on Field Marshal Asim Munir at GHQ

PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: The Chief of General Staff of the Saudi Armed Forces, General Fayyadh Bin Hameed Al Rowaili, paid an official visit to General Headquarters in Rawalpindi on Monday, where he held talks with Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal General Syed Asim Munir.

The meeting focused on strengthening the long-standing and strategic military cooperation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, with both sides reaffirming their commitment to expanding defence, security and counter-terrorism collaboration.

The two military leaders highlighted the importance of developing their institutional partnership, built on years of mutual trust and shared interests.

During the discussions, General Asim Munir and General Fayyadh emphasised the significance of enhancing joint defence initiatives, as well as deepening cooperation on regional security. Counter-terrorism efforts were highlighted as a key pillar of their bilateral engagement, with both countries historically working together in training, defence production.

PM orders urgent reforms' measures in EDF to boost exports

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday directed the relevant authorities to take immediate reform measures in the Export Development Fund (EDF) to help boost the country's exports.

Chairing a meeting of the Working Group on the Export Sector, the prime minister ordered a third-party audit of the EDF in line with international standards and directed the immediate abolition of the Export Development Surcharge on exports.

He said a suitable chairman should be appointed to ensure the best possible utilization of the fund.

"The EDF must only be used for enhancing

the country's exports, stressed the need to utilize relevant research and the positive role of



development, skill the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) to promote exports, adding that irrelevant or illogical use of the fund would not be tolerated.

He said the federal government was responsible for promoting and showcasing Pakistani products across global markets, adding that providing maximum

The prime minister

facilitation to exporters was among the government's top priorities.

Following detailed deliberations on the export sector, the sub-working group tasked with enhancing exports presented its recommendations. The prime minister appreciated the group's work and instructed relevant departments to take immediate steps while considering the recommendations positively.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal, Minister for Climate Change Dr Musadik Malik, Minister for Petroleum.

Pakistan strongly condemns Indian Defence Minister's remarks about Sindh

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Sunday strongly condemned the Indian Defence Minister's delusional and dangerously revisionist remarks regarding Pakistan's Sindh province. In a statement, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said, "Such statements reveal an expansionist Hindutva mindset that seeks to challenge established realities and stands in clear violation of international law, the inviolability of recognized borders, and the sovereignty of states." He said, "We urge.

Nawaz Sharif congratulates PML-N candidates for sweeping by-elections

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) supreme and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif congratulated the party's candidates on winning the by-elections in Punjab and KP. Taking to X, Nawaz Sharif said that the hard work and selfless service of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz are bringing the country back onto the right path. The former premier added that the people of Pakistan have rejected the "politics of violence, chaos,

Federal Constitutional Court throws out IHC judges' petitions over transfers

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The

Jahangiri, Justice Ejaz Ishaq Khan, and Justice Saman Rafat Imtiaz argued

case was related to the transfer of three judges from other high courts to

Court's earlier decision. A five-member Supreme Court bench had upheld the judges' transfer under Article 200 by majority.

Similarly, intra-court appeals filed by the Lahore High Court Bar, the founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Tahir Faraz Abbasi, Karachi Bar Association, Riyasat Ali Azad, and Shoab Shaheen have also been dismissed due to non-prosecution.

The Federal Constitutional Court also rejected the request to meet or seek instructions from the founder of PTL Chief Justice Ameenuddin Khan clarified that the court cannot issue such an order and advised.

X that any request for a meeting should be made to the authority where the sentence was awarded.



Federal Constitutional Court has rejected the request to send back to the Supreme Court the petition filed by five Islamabad High Court judges in the judges' transfer case. In their petition, Islamabad High Court judges Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani, Justice Babar Sattar, Justice Tariq Mehmood

that transferring their intra-court appeal to the Constitutional Court constitutionally falls under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.

Dismissing the petition, the Federal Constitutional Court said that the appeal of the Islamabad High Court judges is rejected due to non-prosecution. It should be noted that the

the federal capital, and in June the Supreme Court did not declare the transfers unconstitutional. Against this decision, five Islamabad High Court judges had filed intra-court appeals. The Constitutional Court has dismissed the intra-court appeals of Islamabad High Court judges and others, thereby upholding the Supreme

Iran's national security adviser arrives in Pakistan to boost bilateral cooperation

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ambassador to Iran, Mudassar Tipu, has confirmed that Iran's National Security Adviser and Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, Ali Larjani, is visiting Pakistan as part of ongoing high-level engagement between the two neighbouring countries.

In a statement on X, the ambassador said Larjani's visit reflects the deepening dialogue between Pakistan and Iran and is aimed at further strengthening bilateral relations. He stressed that the trip will contribute to expanding cooperation across multiple sectors.

Prior to his departure, Ali Larjani described Pakistan as a friendly and brotherly nation.



SPORTS



Lahore Qalandars, Peshawar Zalmi and Quetta Gladiators renew PSL franchise rights for next decade



PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Super League (PSL) outfits Lahore Qalandars, Peshawar Zalmi and Quetta Gladiators have renewed their franchise rights for another 10 years, the country's cricket board announced on Monday. The agreements, finalised at market valuations determined by global audit firm Ernst & Young after what the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) described as a "comprehensive and transparent assessment", come ahead of the league's

expansion to eight teams from its 11th edition next year. Lahore Qalandars — the PSL's most valuable franchise and winners of three of the last four editions under Pakistan ODI captain Shaheen Shah Afridi — were among the first to extend their rights. "It gives me immense pleasure that Lahore Qalandars will continue to stay with its current owners," PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi said in a statement. "[Qalandars owners] Atif Rana

and Sameen Rana have worked extremely hard to turn this franchise into a household name across Pakistan and a reputable brand around the world." Peshawar Zalmi, one of the league's most recognisable brands and champions in 2017, also renewed their decade-long rights on Monday. Led by owner Javed Afridi, the franchise has cultivated one of the strongest fan bases in the league and was the most-watched team during the last PSL season, said

the PCB. Mohsin lauded Javed's "commitment, professionalism and passion", saying his leadership had "played a fundamental role in elevating the Zalmi brand into one of the most dynamic and admired sporting entities in Pakistan". "Javed Afridi's vision has contributed immensely to the growth of the HBL PSL," he added. "His decision to renew reflects a strong belief in the league's future potential."

FG/Din claim SQ Seagold Polo Cup 2025 title



PEAK POINT LAHORE: FG/Din Polo lifted the title of the SQ Seagold Polo Cup 2025, held under the Lahore Polo Club's banner, after overcoming Master Paints in a gripping final that ended 8-7½. A large number of Lahore's polo lovers turned out to witness the high-stakes clash. The chief guest for the afternoon was Jose de Ore, Ambassador of Spain to Pakistan. He was accompanied by Director SQ Seagold Shiraz Qureshi, senior executive committee members Nasser Ahmed, Raja Amir, Feroze Gulzar, and Club Secretary Major Amjad. The final proved to be an enthralling contest marked by exceptional pace and skill. FG/Din Polo dominated crucial phases of the match, displaying strong coordination and tactical discipline to secure a narrow but deserved win. For the champions, Hamza Mawaz Khan produced a stellar performance with five goals, while Amin Rehman, Mian Abbas Mukhtar, and Mir Huzaifa Ahmed contributed one goal each.

Pakistan vs Australia ODI series likely to be rescheduled



PEAK POINT LAHORE: The upcoming three-match One-Day International (ODI) series between Pakistan and Australia is likely to be rescheduled. Sources said the series, originally scheduled for March 2026, may no longer take place as planned. Both the Pakistan Super League (PSL) Cricket Board (PCB) and the Cricket Board of Australia (CA) are currently in talks to reschedule the series. It is now likely the three-match ODI series will occur after the Pakistan Super League (PSL) in March 2026. Previously, the series was proposed to take place between March 13 and 19, 2026. Additionally, the T20 series between

Pakistan and Australia is already scheduled from January 30 to February 5, 2026. A day earlier, Sahibzada Farhan and Babar Azam's 103-run second-wicket partnership lifted Pakistan to 195 before Usman Tariq picked up a hat-trick as Zimbabwe fell 69 runs short in the fourth match of Tri-nation T20I series here at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Sunday night. Pakistan — who are through to the final — will face Sri Lanka in their last league-stage fixture on 27 November, while Zimbabwe will face them too in their next fixture on 25 November as the two teams fight out for the final berth.

Saim clinches 11th Vice Admiral HMS Ch Amateur Golf Cup title



'Trusting the process' takes Usman Tariq to maiden T20 hat-trick

PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD: Usman Tariq wasn't expecting to join Pakistan's elite T20I hat-trick club on Sunday night, but he knew it was a byproduct of the arduous process he has gone through and that has gotten him to this point. The right-arm off spinner slowly swiveled in his chair as he thoughtfully answered questions at the post-match press conference on Sunday night. "I wasn't expecting a hat-trick tonight,"

Usman replied modestly, explaining that he put his faith, first and foremost, in the hands of God, and trusted the process. The mystery spinner produced a spell for the ages, claiming a hat-trick and stunning figures of 4 for 18 to bowl Pakistan to a crushing 69-run victory over Zimbabwe in their Twenty20 International tri-series clash. "People say domestic cricket is a 'struggle'. It's not a struggle, it's a process where you're learning and going through a tough phase," Usman said.

CAS-Serena Hotels International Squash Championship 2025 underway



PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD: CAS-Serena Hotels International Squash Championship 2025* — Day 1 Completed on Monday at Mushaf Squash Complex, Islamabad. Pakistan players Hamza Khan, Muhammad Amdad, Anas Shah, and Nasir Iqbal won their matches and have qualified for the

2nd Round. Tayyab Aslam received a bye in the first round and will play their 2nd Round matches tomorrow. Complete Match Results: (Nasir Iqbal (PAK) bt. Bryan Tze Kang Lim (MAS)3-1: 11-9, 11-9, 10-12, 11-5 (43m) Muhammad Syafiq Kamal (MAS) bt. Viktor Byrtus (CZE)3-1: 11-8, 3-11, 11-6, 11-5 (37m) Adam Hawal (EGY) bt. Tayyab Aslam (PAK)3-0: 11-9, 11-8, 11-6 (36m) Muhammad Amdad (PAK) bt. Chi Him Wong (HKG)3-0: 11-3, 11-5, 11-9 (32m) Hamza Khan (PAK) bt.

Seif Shenawy (EGY)3-0: 11-8, 11-5, 11-5 (27m) Tomotaka Endo (JPN) bt. Ming Hong Tang (HKG)3-0: 11-9, 11-9, 14-12 (41m) Khaled Labib (EGY) bt. Louai Hafez (EGY) bt. Anas Shah (PAK) bt. Ziad Ibrahim (EGY)3-1: 4-11, 11-7, 11-9, 11-5 (38m) Best of luck for six Pakistan players playing tomorrow.

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Pak EPA Exposes Critical Failures in Capital's Pollution Control System

NADEEM TANOLI
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's environmental regulator has issued a hard assessment of pollution control failures across the federal capital, revealing that despite record fines exceeding Rs. 201 million and thousands of enforcement actions, Islamabad continues to face unchecked emissions, untreated sewage, weak vehicle inspection systems and persistent violations of the single-use plastic ban. The Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency's disclosures show a regulatory structure overwhelmed by systemic weaknesses, limited monitoring capability and rising environmental non-compliance. The agency's

mandate, exercised under the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act, restricts enforcement of environmental quality standards to the Islamabad Capital Territory. These standards were notified between 2000 and 2010, covering industrial effluent, gaseous emissions, noise control, ambient air quality, motor vehicle exhaust and drinking water. Despite the framework being in place for more than two decades, enforcement capacity remains critically inadequate. The crackdown on single-use plastics shows mixed results. Major stores and malls have significantly reduced plastic use, but violations remain widespread among small vendors and

rural shops. Enforcement teams confiscated 3,310 kilograms of banned single-use plastics and issued 283 warnings, alongside Rs. 500,000 in fines. A study revealed that major brands in Islamabad previously consumed 74.15 tons of polythene bags every month; the shift to paper and jute alternatives has now reduced plastic waste by nearly 890 tons per year. Confiscated plastics are being recycled into benches, planters and dustbins for public institutions, and efforts are underway to install Reverse Vending Machines in collaboration with industry. Enforcement of National Environmental Quality Standards presents a more troubling picture. The

regulator reports success in drinking water quality, noise control and industrial effluent monitoring, but serious failures persist in ambient air quality and vehicular emissions. Islamabad lacks proper sewage treatment systems in several CDA sectors and private housing societies, with the main sewage transport system ending at the overloaded I-9/1 facility. The Humak Industrial Estate has no wastewater treatment plant at all, leaving industrial and municipal waste largely untreated. Air pollution oversight remains dangerously limited. The agency currently operates only one stationary and one mobile air quality monitoring station to cover the entire capital. Severe

funding shortages and staffing constraints have crippled industrial and vehicular inspections. Vehicular pollution remains unchecked because the Islamabad Transport Authority lacks the capacity to test emissions or issue fitness certificates. As a result, old and non-compliant vehicles continue to enter the capital freely, adding to the pollution burden. Statistical data highlight a sharp rise in environmental penalties. In recent years, the Environmental Protection Tribunal imposed fines of Rs. 70.6 million, Rs. 201.3 million, Rs. 35 million and Rs. 2.5 million, respectively. Administrative penalties ranged from Rs. 1.5 million to Rs. 4 million. The number

of notices issued fluctuated between 96 and 114, while Environmental Protection Orders ranged from 18 to 41. Plastic bag fines peaked previously, including Rs. 1.31 million in one year and Rs. 475,000 in another. The figures reflect a surge in enforcement activity but also expose a deeper crisis: Islamabad's environmental monitoring and sewage infrastructure cannot keep pace with rising pollution. The watchdog's own data shows that despite higher fines, more court visits and expanded enforcement operations, the capital remains highly vulnerable to industrial emissions, untreated wastewater and unchecked vehicular pollution.

Govt taking steps to target almost 26m out-of-school children back to school: Farah Naz Akbar

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for Federal Education and Professional Training, Farah Naz Akbar, said on Monday that the government is taking concrete measures to target almost 26 million out-of-school children back into the education system. She made these remarks during the opening session of the 14th Biennial International Conference,

jointly organised by Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU) and the Comparative Education Society of Asia (CESA). Farah Naz attended the event as the chief guest, which drew participation from more than 200 international delegates, said a press release. Farah Naz described the nearly 26 million children currently out of school as an alarming situation, emphasizing that addressing it remains a key priority of the



government's vision. Highlighting the importance of girls' education, the parliamentary secretary noted that delegates from various Asian countries were participating in the conference, where sustainable poli-

cies must be developed. She further said the government is working on developing and providing curriculum in mother languages to help children who struggle with Urdu and English mediums, enabling them to enter and remain in the education system. Separate subjects are also being designed for minority communities, she added. She appreciated the conference, expressing hope that such platforms would help

identify reforms, policies, achievements, and shortcomings that could guide the way forward. Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor, AIU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood said the country stood at an important crossroads with 2030 approaching fast. In line with the Sustainable Development Goals, he stressed the need to accelerate efforts to ensure quality education and improved access.

Opinion & Editorial

ISLAMABAD
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Pending justice

THE paradox for Pakistan's prosecutors is that they have the power to obstruct, but not enough to resolve. Former Supreme Court Justice Athar Minallah has regretted the dearth of competence and integrity in criminal probes and prosecutions. In the detailed verdict on a double murder case, issued prior to his resignation, the judge not only questioned the legitimacy of judicial confessions to convict the accused but also held that appellants are "entitled to the benefit of doubt". This again confirms that the dismal state of legal proceedings in Pakistan is the primary reason for congested registers. Currently, over 2.2m cases are pending in courts across the country. This figure represents more than just volume. It is a reflection of disputes held hostage to uncertainty due to inefficiencies at the lower levels of the justice system and missing structural reforms. We cannot continue with this dysfunction. The prosecution's failure sets the guilty free, to the detriment of society. Resolute action to establish a judicial system that serves citizens without discrimination is vital. Global experts say that among the most significant performance markers of a criminal justice system is the conviction rate.

Pakistan's Gaza gamble

Kamran Yousaf
On Nov 17, the UNSC adopted a resolution endorsing President Donald Trump's Gaza peace plan. The resolution approves the establishment of 'Board of Peace' headed by Trump, the deployment of an International Stabilization Force (ISF) and a temporary governance structure for Gaza. The vote was 13 in favour, with China and Russia abstaining. The resolution aims to create a framework for disarmament, protection of civilians and humanitarian access, while gradually paving the way for Palestinian self-rule. Pakistan's support for the resolution marked a significant and calculated diplomatic move. Islamabad voted in favour while emphasising that any stabilisation effort must respect Palestinian sovereignty and prioritise civilian protection. Pakistan's UN envoy described the vote as a step toward protecting innocent lives, ensuring humanitarian access and Palestinian self-governance. The vote also reflects Pakistan's broader foreign policy approach, which balances principled support for Palestine with a willingness to engage in international initiatives aimed at de-escalating conflict. Pakistan underscored that the ISF's mandate should be temporary and transparent. It advocated for a mechanism that ensures accountability and maintains Palestinian involvement in governance decisions. This approach signals Islamabad's intent to contribute responsibly to a complex peace and stabilisation effort while avoiding overreach or the appearance of unilateral influence. Pakistan's stance also highlights the country's increasing willingness to step into high-profile diplomatic initiatives, asserting itself as a regional and international actor rather than a passive observer. A notable element of the vote was Pakistan's rare divergence from China. Beijing abstained, citing concerns over the resolution's lack of clarity on governance structures and the ultimate fate of Palestinian self-rule. Beijing argued that the Board of Peace did not provide sufficient guarantees for Palestinian authority in the post-transition period. Pakistan's affirmative vote, in contrast, reflected a judgment that the resolution, despite its imperfections, was a necessary step toward de-escalation and humanitarian relief. This divergence underscores a nuanced recalibration in Pakistan's foreign policy, signalling that while Pakistan values its partnerships, it is willing to act independently when global circumstances demand it. The ISF mandate itself presents both opportunities and challenges. Its deployment is intended to secure civilian areas, facilitate humanitarian aid and oversee the disarmament of non-state actors. At the same time, the mission is inherently risky: operating in Gaza requires navigating entrenched local political dynamics, ensuring cooperation among diverse armed groups, and avoiding actions that could be interpreted as partiality. Pakistan's decision to vote in favour suggests an awareness of these challenges but also a willingness to take measured risks. Whether or not Pakistan will commit troops to ISF depends on domestic considerations, potential political backlash and the operational complexities of the ISF mandate. The vote also reflects a broader geopolitical reality: global stabilisation efforts in conflict zones like Gaza are rarely straightforward. They require balancing moral imperatives, political alliances and operational realities. Pakistan's approach demonstrates an attempt to navigate this terrain carefully, supporting action while advocating safeguards and emphasising Palestinian participation. Pakistan's support for the resolution highlights both opportunity and risk. By voting in favour while China abstained, Pakistan showcased diplomatic independence and constructive engagement in international conflict resolution. Joining the ISF or otherwise participating in stabilisation efforts will be a delicate undertaking, but the country appears ready to assume this calculated risk. Pakistan's stance reflects a proactive, measured and principled approach that seeks to combine moral responsibility with strategic foresight.
Courtesy Tribune

Going back in time

UMAIR JAVED
WITH a series of significant constitutional amendments as well as de facto changes in governance, a distinctive political system is taking shape in Pakistan. The fact that it is authoritarian goes without saying. The exact form of this authoritarianism is worth thinking through. The bare standard definition of democracy, i.e., a political system where election results generally decide who sits in office, was effectively done away with after the 2024 poll. The existence of significant question marks over the electoral validity of the civilian government marked a clear shift in the 'hybrid regime' dynamic in place since 2018. With time in office dependent on decree rather than election outcomes, parliament itself now operates within the limitations set by an establishment-controlled executive. The legislative agenda, in whatever form it exists, is now centrally ordained rather than deliberated and discussed. The PTI, despite its ballot box performance, stands disenfranchised and marginalised in this process. The concluding phase of the system's transformation comes via the passage of the 26th and 27th amendments. Through these changes, the judiciary in nominal terms is now subject to parliamentary authority. But as laid out above, if parliament is de facto subservient to the executive, that means the judiciary now too is an implementation branch of executive power. The current configuration of governance is not too dissimilar to what the British envisioned in the early 20th century. Countries the world over conjure up a variety of different political systems enshrined in their constitutions — presidential, semi-presidential, parliamentary, consociational etc — but all of them have one thing in common: judicial review of the executive.
Courtesy Dawn

CCoSOEs approves key appointments, board reconstitutions across SOEs



PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: The Cabinet Committee on State Owned Enterprises (CCoSOEs) here on Monday approved board-level appointments across key public sector entities, including ZTBL, Port Qasim Authority, SNGPL, Sindh Engineering (Pvt.) Limited, SMEDA and the State Engineering Corporation.

According to a press release issued by finance ministry, the meeting of the cabinet committee was chaired by Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb and was attended by Federal Minister for Planning,

Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal; Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Khalid Hussain Magji; along with Secretaries and senior officials from the relevant ministries, divisions, and regulatory bodies. The Committee approved summaries submitted by the Finance Division, Maritime Affairs Division, Petroleum Division. It approved appointment of an independent director to the Board of Zarai Taraqati Bank Limited (ZTBL), put forward by the Finance Division; the appointment of independent directors to the Board of Port Qasim Authority, Karachi, as proposed by the Maritime Affairs Division; and the nomination to fill the casual vacancy on the Board of Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL), submitted by the Petroleum Division. The Committee also approved three summaries of the Industries and Production Division, namely the constitution of the Board of Directors for Sindh Engineering (Pvt.) Limited (SEL), the appointment of a

private sector member from Punjab to the Board of the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA), and the constitution of the Board of Directors of the State Engineering Corporation (SEC). Concluding the meeting, the finance minister appreciated the diligence exercised in selecting suitable candidates from the private sector to serve as independent directors, underscoring the importance of continuing this rigorous approach to ensure that individuals with the requisite experience, expertise, knowledge,

and professional acumen are appointed to the governing boards of these and other state-owned enterprises.

The Committee also asked the Finance Division and the Privatization Division to undertake a comprehensive examination, evaluation, and stock-taking of outstanding litigation across SOEs earmarked for privatization, and, in coordination with the relevant Ministries and Law Division, to work on identifying mechanisms.

Constitutional supremacy, democracy essential for country's development: Gilani

PEAK POINT

MULTAN: Acting President Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani said that lasting political stability, constitutional supremacy and uninterrupted democratic continuity were essential for country's development. He expressed these views while meeting the newly elected members of the Punjab Bar Council and executive body of Multan High Court Bar and District Bar Association.



Gilani recalled that during his tenure as Prime Minister, he restored the judiciary through an executive order, a step he described as part of the struggle for democracy and constitutional rule. Gilani also added that it was vision of Shaheed Bibi. He said the Charter of Democracy also included agreement on establishing a constitutional court, adding that the 27th Constitutional

Amendment would help prevent the removal of a president or prime minister through unconstitutional means. He observed that past governments and prime ministers were removed unnecessarily, and constitutional safeguards were now the need of the hour. Discussing security challenges, the Acting President said Pakistan faced threats on its eastern and western borders. He added India's proxy war and terrorist activities originating from Afghanistan had heightened regional instability, while Pakistan consistently played a responsible role.

Pakistan hosts International Qirat competition, minister welcomes participants

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Sardar Muhammad Yousuf, on Monday welcomed participants of the First International Qirat Competition, emphasizing that the event would project Pakistan's positive image on global platforms. Addressing the inaugural session of the competition at the Convention Centre, the minister described the day as historic, marking the first-ever International Qirat Competition hosted in Pakistan. He said the event was a great honour for the country, with participants from up to forty nations taking part, adding that the event will also strengthen the spiritual bond among Muslim countries.

Sardar Yousuf assured that all participants and judges would be provided with the best facilities and would feel Pakistan as their second home. Calling those who memorize and recite the Quran fortunate, he said the Holy Quran is a source of guidance and a complete code of conduct for all Muslims.

Quoting a Hadith of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), he added "The best among you (Muslims) are those who learn the Qur'an and

teach it." The minister highlighted that Pakistan, a nation of 250 million people, primarily speaks and understands Urdu as its national language. However, he stressed that learning Arabic is equally important for Pakistanis, as it is the religious language of Muslims. He said the Ministry of Religious Affairs is taking concrete steps to promote the learning and teaching of Arabic across the country. "We are reaching out to various universities to promote the Arabic language," he added.

He also emphasized that understanding the core message of the Quran is crucial for every Muslim, and such competitions help promote it. Sardar Yousuf said the Ministry of Religious Affairs, under the leadership of the Pakistan Muslim League-N—first under Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and now under Shehbaz Sharif—had taken significant steps in line with the ministry's core mandate.

He noted that the ministry had established the Ulema and Mashaikh Council and the Quran Board during the previous PML-N government, and is now organizing the International Qirat Competition.

Govt committed to showcasing youth sports talent at global standards: Mashhood

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Prime Minister's Youth Programme Chairman Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan has said that the government's foremost objective is to bring forward the sports talent of Pakistani youth in accordance with national and international standards, enabling them to secure better opportunities and highlighting a positive image of the country. He expressed these views while addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Prime Minister's Boxing Talent Hunt National League at the University of Engineering and Technology (UET) on Monday. UET Vice Chancellor Dr. Shahid Munir delivered the welcome address, while a large number of coaches and athletes from various districts attended the event.

Rana Mashhood said that Pakistan's youth possess exceptional talent in boxing and other sports, and the Talent Hunt Programme—launched on the special directives of the prime minister—aims to identify and support capable youth who have the potential to excel despite limited resources.

Shaza Fatima Leads Pakistan's Digital Agenda at Global Tech Summit in Doha

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for IT and Telecom, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, arrived in Doha for a two-day visit to representing Pakistan at the GSM Association Mobile World Congress (MWC 2025).

The event hosts over 200 aircraft and technology leaders from nearly 100 countries. Pakistan's participation highlights its commitment to digital innovation and regional collaboration.

The minister will take part in ministerial programs, deliver multiple keynote addresses, and hold high-level meetings with Qatari officials. Her speeches focus on digital governance, innovation, and investment opportunities in South Asia and



the Middle East.

Shaza Fatima will speak on "Digital Governance: Visionary Policies for a Digital Future." She will also address "Unlocking Digital Growth Across the South Asia-Middle East Corridor: Spotlight on Pakistan." Additionally, she will present Pakistan's perspective at "Digital Nations APAC Dialogue: Policy Innovation & Investment for Regional Impact."

"The world is watching Pakistan's digital journey."

Ashfaq Ahmad Khalil appointed Federal Secretary for Information & Broadcasting

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Senior officer of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Ashfaq Ahmad Khalil, has been appointed as the new Federal Secretary for Information and Broadcasting, according to an official notification issued here on Monday. The appointment was approved by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, following a round of interviews with senior officers of the ministry. Candidates included Tariq Khan, Arshad Munir, Ms. Imrana Wazir, Saeed Ahmed Sheikh, and Khalil himself. After the evaluation process, Khalil was selected for the top post. Khalil, who previously served as



Additional Secretary at the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, brings extensive experience to the role. His career spans multiple senior assignments, including Director General of the Press Information Department in Peshawar, Press Counsellor at Pakistan's embassy in Tokyo, and key positions at the Directorate of Electronic Media and Publications, Pakistan Electronic.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony addressing the inaugural session of First International Qirat competition held.

Maritime affairs minister pushes Pakistan-Bangladesh shipping framework

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry has proposed the establishment of a formal cooperation framework between the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC) and the Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) to deepen maritime collaboration between the two countries. The proposal, presented during a meeting in London with Brigadier General (Retd.) Dr. M. Sakhawat Hussain, Adviser for Shipping of

Bangladesh, envisions a comprehensive partnership encompassing joint container and bulk shipping services, technical training programmes, cooperation on maritime safety and seafarer development, reciprocal port-call facilitation, and strengthened diplomatic and technical engagement at senior levels. Minister Chaudhry conveyed warm greetings from Pakistan and requested Bangladesh's support for Pakistan in the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Category C elections, reaffirming Islamabad's commitment to reciprocate. "Pakistan will positively support Bangladesh's request for support in the IMO Category C elections," he stated, signaling an intention to enhance bilateral coordina-



tion across multilateral forums. The minister emphasized Pakistan's broader goal of building cooperative frameworks with Bangladesh at platforms such as the IMO, the International Labour

Organization (ILO) on seafarer-related matters, and relevant regional maritime groupings. Enhanced coordination, he argued, would bolster the ability of both countries to shape global maritime policy and safeguard shared interests in shipping, port development, and seafarer welfare.

Junaid Chaudhry also reiterated Pakistan's earlier offer to make Karachi Port Trust (KPT) facilities available for Bangladesh cargo, recalling commitments made during previous high-level exchanges.

He highlighted KPT's expanding capacity, ongoing modernization initiatives, and improved turnaround times as evidence of Pakistan's readiness to support regional trade flows.

The minister said closer port-to-port collaboration could ease logistics challenges, reduce regional bottlenecks, and open new avenues for commercial integration across South Asia.

To sustain momentum, Junaid Chaudhry proposed launching a Pakistan-Bangladesh Maritime Dialogue.