

PM Shehbaz, Kundi stress enhanced efforts for ‘harmony’ between Centre, KP

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi stressed the need for enhanced efforts for “harmony” between the Centre and the province and to resolve people’s issues on Tuesday, according to a statement issued by the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO). The assertion was made in a meeting in Islamabad, the statement said, adding that the “overall political situation” in KP, law and order and matters of mutual interest were also discussed in the huddle that also included Kashmir Affairs Minister Engineer Amir Muqam and Prime Minister’s Adviser on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah.

“PM Shehbaz reiterated that the federal government will continue to work for KP’s progress and welfare of the people of the province,” the statement read.

The PTI, which is in power in KP, has been at loggerheads with the federal government over several issues, including provision of funds and military operations in the province. The ruling party in the province has also been seeking the release of its founder and former prime minister Imran Khan, who has been in jail since 2023.

It has staged multiple protests to this end and has been accusing the Centre, as well as Punjab and Sindh governments of suppression during mobilisation drives. On Monday, a run-in with law enforcement marked KP Chief Minister Sohail Afridi’s



ISLAMABAD: Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

War on Iran resulted in munitions shortfall for US, confirms Pentagon report

PEAK POINT

WASHINGTON: The United States has acknowledged that its war on Iran resulted in “strategic inventory shortfalls and revealed industrial base bottlenecks for munitions resupply” for America. The admission came in the first Pentagon Inspector General’s report on the US-Israeli war on Iran. The report, released on Monday, provides a detailed account of the campaign’s cost, damage and impact on American weapons stocks, confirming some of the concerns that news organisations had reported for months. More than 50,000 US service members took part in the campaign, flying thousands of combat missions and expending \$22.3 billion worth of munitions, according to the report. The report, covering the period between February 28 and June 30, puts the direct cost of the war at about \$33.4bn.

Of that amount, \$22.3bn was spent on munitions, \$3.7bn on equipment losses and \$7.4bn on other expenditures. The estimate does not include the cost of repairing damaged facilities, replacing aircraft or replenishing critical weapons stocks.

Saudi Arabia issues emergency alerts over ‘potential danger’ in Jeddah, Mecca, Taif

PEAK POINT

SAUDI ARABIA: Saudi Arabia issued emergency alerts Tuesday warning of a “potential danger” in Jeddah, Mecca and Taif in the country’s west, urging residents to seek shelter and follow official safety instructions.

The alerts were issued through the National Early Warning Platform for Emergencies, according to the Saudi Civil Defense. Residents were urged to remain calm and immediately move to the nearest safe place, preferably inside a building or an interior room away from windows, and remain there until the danger passes. The Civil Defense also advised people to stay away from open areas, windows, balconies and rooftops, while those outdoors were told to enter the nearest building or take shelter behind a solid barrier. Motorists receiving an alert were instructed to pull over away from bridges and high-rise buildings, while the public was urged to avoid gatherings and dangerous areas and follow instructions through official channels. The alerts come amid escalating clashes between Saudi Arabia and Yemen’s Houthi group, which has carried out a series of missile and drone attacks on Saudi cities and infrastructure in recent days. Saudi forces have responded with strikes on Houthi positions in Yemen.

Government considers smart lockdown measures to curb fuel consumption

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The federal government is considering a series of measures, including a possible “smart lockdown”, to reduce fuel consumption following the recent rise in petroleum product prices.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chaired a meeting to review proposals aimed at cutting transport-related fuel use, with several options under consideration for both government and private sectors.

One proposal suggests reducing the working week to four days, with Friday, Saturday and Sunday observed as holidays for public and private offices. The plan is aimed at lowering daily commuting and reducing petroleum consumption. A rotation-based attendance system for government employees is also being considered to limit the number of workers travelling to offices each day. The government is further examining a proposal to take 50 per cent of official vehicles off the roads to reduce fuel usage and transport-related expenses. Commercial activity could also be affected under the proposed measures.

Two civilians killed in Bannu quadcopter attack, police say

PEAK POINT

MIRANSHAH: Two civilians, including a woman, were killed and two others were injured in a quadcopter attack allegedly carried out by terrorists in the Ping area of Wazir Sub-Division in Bannu on Monday, Bannu District Police Officer (DPO) Captain (red) Muhammad Furqan Bilal confirmed.

According to Bannu police, the operation was conducted under the supervision of DPO Furqan Bilal, with Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Bannu Region Superintendent of Police Fuzal Walid Khan, relevant Sub-Divisional Police Officers and Station House Officers.

Ex-cricket captains pen letter to Australian foreign minister raising concerns about Imran’s detention

PEAK POINT

AUSTRALIA: Seven former Australia cricket captains have written to the country’s foreign minister, Penny Wong, to raise concerns over PTI founder Imran Khan’s incarceration, terming it a matter of “basic humanity”. Cricinfo reported on Tuesday.

Imran, 73, has been imprisoned since 2023 and was sentenced late last year along with his wife to 17 years on corruption charges they both deny.

According to Cricinfo, the signatories of the letter include Allan Border, Greg Chappell, Ian Chappell, Belinda Clark, Kim Hughes, Mark Taylor and Steve Waugh.

In the letter, they said they were writing “not as diplomats or political figures, but as former captains who felt compelled

AJK presidential election to be held on Sept 24

PEAK POINT

MUZAFFARABAD: The new Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) president will be elected on September 24, the region’s election commission announced on Tuesday.

The office of the AJK president has remained vacant since January this year following the death of Barrister Sultan Mahmood. Previously, then-Legislative Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Latif Akbar was serving as the acting president. The role was then assumed by incumbent Legislative Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Tariq Farooq after being elected speaker on August 25.

Chief Election Commissioner retired Justice Ghulam Mustafa Mughal announced the schedule while addressing a press.



in discussions with Pakistan. “We continue to encourage authorities to ensure appropriate medical care is available to him,” the spokesperson was quoted as saying.

Last month, 22 international cricketers — including the Chappell brothers, Border, Waugh, Clark and Hughes — had penned an appeal to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, calling for Imran’s medi-



SPORTS



Naqvi did not object to India's refusal to collect Women's Asia Cup trophy, claims BCCI official



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi has no objection to the Indian women's team refusing to collect the Asia Cup trophy from him, said Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Vice President Rajeev Shukla on Monday.

The remarks came as criticism mounted over Shukla and BCCI Secretary Devajit Saikia's interaction with Naqvi during Sunday's final in Dubai.

India defeated Sri Lanka by 72 runs to win the Women's Asia Cup but declined to receive the trophy

from Naqvi, who is also the interior minister and chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB). Shukla said the decision to not accept the trophy had been taken collectively by the BCCI and that Naqvi had not objected to it.

"We discussed the matter among ourselves and decided that we would not accept it (the trophy) from him. It was our collective decision. He (Naqvi) also did not raise any objection to it," the Press Trust of India news agency quoted Shukla as saying.

"We informed our team accordingly, and he presented it to whoever he had to and then left,"

he added.

His clarification came after criticism of Shukla and Saikia for being seen exchanging pleasantries with Naqvi on the sidelines of the final despite the Indian team's decision to shun him during the trophy presentation.

Shukla described Saikia's interaction with Naqvi as routine and said it should not be interpreted as a departure from the BCCI's position.

"What Saikia ji said is absolutely correct. When you are at a match, everyone is present there and interacts in a professional capacity. Therefore, I do not think

there should be so much criticism over that," he said.

Saikia had earlier said that the BCCI had communicated its position to the ACC before the final, making it clear that the Indian team would not participate in the trophy presentation if Naqvi was involved.

The stance is part of a broader policy adopted by Indian cricket following the military conflict between Pakistan and India in May 2025. Since then, India's cricket teams have avoided customary handshakes with their Pakistani counterparts and have also declined to accept.

Babar Azam set to return to first-class cricket as OGDCL guest player



MOHSIN ALI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Test captain Babar Azam is set to make his return to domestic first-class cricket after joining Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) as a guest player for the ongoing President's Trophy Grade-I tournament. According to reports, OGDCL has added Babar to its squad for the current edition of the competition following a request from the Pakistan batter to remain involved in red-ball cricket. Government considers smart lockdown measures to curb fuel consumption. Babar is understood to have approached the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) seeking inclusion in a domestic side to maintain his preparation and stay connected with the longer format ahead of Pakistan's Test commitments. The board subsequently facilitated his participation with OGDCL. The PCB has already announced the fixtures and squads for the eight teams competing in the President's Trophy Grade-I. The tournament, which marks the opening red-ball competition of Pakistan's 2026-27 domestic season, began on September 12 and will conclude with the five-day final on October 28. Babar's return to first-class cricket is expected to provide him with valuable red-ball match practice as he continues his preparations for international Test cricket.

Pakistan's horseback archers find confidence and direction on global stage



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Five athletes, one national flag, and a historic opportunity: Pakistan's horseback archery team's debut at the 6th World Nomad Games 2026 in Kyrgyzstan was far more significant than a single appearance on an international sporting stage. It was a level. For a developing investment in the future of a sport with considerable achievement. The real benefit of Three male and two female athletes competed alongside some of the world's finest traditional horsemen and archers, standards up close, identified areas for improvement, and gained the confidence that comes only from competing against experienced opponents. These lessons are proving decisive as Pakistan prepares for upcoming international events.

Team head Aurangzeb Mubashar rightly described the exposure as extremely important, saying the athletes are now eager to improve their techniques, sharpen their skills and perform better for Pakistan. His assessment reflects perhaps the most important outcome of the tour: the players have returned hungry to learn and improve.

Mubashar also deserves credit for highlighting the contribution of sports psychologist Mohsin Nawaz, whose work helped the athletes remain mentally strong during the demanding competition.

Nairobi to host 2029 World Athletics Championships



Pakistan Football team claims first International trophy, Committee Told

ARIF MEHMOOD

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's national football team has won an international trophy for the first time, giving a major boost to the country's football scene, the National Assembly Standing Committee on Inter Provincial Coordination was informed. The achievement was shared during the 15th meeting of the committee chaired by Dr Mahreen Razaq Bhutto at Parliament House, where the President of the Pakistan Football Federation briefed members on the team's recent performance and future plans. The committee appreciated the national team's success and described the trophy as an encouraging step for promoting football in Pakistan. The committee was informed that the Pakistan Football Federation had remained inactive for a long period before elections were held about one year ago in line with FIFA

directions. New leadership was elected after the polls, including the federation president. Officials also told the committee that some parts of the Pakistan Football Federation's existing constitution and rules are not yet fully

football grounds, academies and other sports facilities across the country. The President of the Pakistan Football Federation said a Talent Hunt Programme was being used to identify promising players from different

Yamal brace lifts Barcelona past battling Levante



in line with FIFA requirements. Steps are being taken to bring the federation's rules and constitution in line with international football standards. The committee recommended that the federation complete the process so that Pakistan can build a stronger and more stable football system. The federation also briefed the committee on plans to improve

parts of Pakistan. He stressed that better grounds and academies in every province were necessary to help young players develop their skills. The committee directed the federation to work closely with provincial sports departments so that football can benefit from government sports schemes and other development programmes.

FUUAST Islamabad holds welcome and orientation ceremony for newly admitted students

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science and Technology (FUUAST), Islamabad, held a central welcome and orientation ceremony on Tuesday for its newly admitted students.

Vice Chancellor Dr Zabta Khan Shinwari welcomed the new students and encouraged them to make the most of their time at the university. Students from various departments, including Pharmacy, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science attended the ceremony with heads of departments and faculty members.

members.

Addressing the students, Dr Shinwari said Urdu had played an important role in bringing together people from different regions and communities in Pakistan.

FUUAST Islamabad holds welcome and orientation ceremony for newly admitted students

He described Federal Urdu University as a reflection of this diversity, calling it "a bouquet of different colours."

He said only the national flag of Pakistan flies at the university, where the focus remains on education,



research and developing young people's skills as well as their character.

The vice chancellor said students should know that FUUAST has highly quali-

fied and capable faculty members who are committed to providing quality education.

Dr Shinwari further said students were given the high-

est priority at the university. "In terms of protocol, students come first, followed by faculty, administration and finally, the Vice Chancellor."

He said every student is considered an important part of Pakistan's future and deserved individual attention and support.

He also stressed the importance of providing respect and dignity to female students.

The Vice Chancellor acknowledged the challenges faced by the university but appreciated the faculty members for continuing to perform their responsibilities

with dedication and sincerity.

During the interactive session, newly admitted students asked questions from the Vice Chancellor and shared their excitement about becoming part of FUUAST. They also appreciated the university's overall environment.

Director Admissions Dr Ahmed Raza thanked the students for participating in the orientation ceremony, while Dean In-Charge Dr Rahatullah urged the newcomers to study with dedication and make the most of the opportunities available at the university.

Lifestyle residency apartments face long delay, NA Panel demands early completion

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Standing Committee on Housing and Works has expressed serious concern over the prolonged delay in the Lifestyle Residency Apartments project in G 13 and directed the authorities to take immediate steps to restart the project and hand over apartments to allottees at the earliest. The committee raised the issue during a meeting chaired by Maulana Abdul Ghafoor

Haideri, where members reviewed the progress of major public housing projects in Islamabad and stressed that delays should not continue to affect people who have already paid the required amounts. The Federal Government Employees Housing Authority told the committee that work on the Lifestyle Residency Apartments project had been delayed because of financial problems, disputes between the joint venture partners and

contractual and management issues. The construction agreement was later terminated. Officials also informed the committee that construction costs had increased significantly, making it difficult to complete the project at the rates originally agreed with allottees. To address the financial problem, FGEHA is exploring a public private partnership model under which commercial space in the project could be used to help finance the completion of the residential apartments

while trying to avoid placing an additional financial burden on existing allottees. After hearing the concerns of allottees and other stakeholders, the committee chairman directed the authorities to take urgent steps to restart the project and ensure visible progress. The Secretary Ministry of Housing and Works told the committee that work on a new joint venture agreement was progressing and that the agreement was expected to be finalised for advertise-

ment shortly. The committee directed the concerned authorities to move ahead without further delay, protect the interests of allottees and ensure timely completion and handing over of possession. The committee also reviewed the performance and functions of the Pakistan Infrastructure Development Company Limited. Members were briefed on its restructuring, technical capacity and use of digital systems for project management. The committee appreciated initiatives

including SAP and ERP systems, RAAST based payments, E Office, EPADS and GIS based monitoring, and stressed the need for transparency, proper financial management and strong supervision of development projects. The committee said progress on public housing projects should be reported regularly until completion and made it clear that prolonged delays in housing schemes involving public funds and allottees should not continue.

Opinion & Editorial



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Thieving for addiction

Karachi's drug problem is becoming impossible to ignore. Men and women struggling with addiction are increasingly visible in open spaces, while some have turned to stealing equipment and metal from public infrastructure to finance their addiction. What should be a public health and law-enforcement concern has consequently become an everyday threat to citizens and to a city already struggling to maintain its most basic infrastructure. The damage is not limited to the value of what is stolen. A missing manhole cover can kill or injure a pedestrian. Stolen cables can plunge a street into darkness. Damaged railings can turn a pedestrian bridge into a hazard. The theft of steel from bridges and other structures is an especially alarming development because it compromises infrastructure that thousands of people depend on. Karachi cannot afford to treat these incidents as petty theft. But neither can the authorities pretend that arresting addicts will resolve the problem. An addict stealing metal from a roadside is at the visible end of a much larger chain. There is someone supplying the drugs, someone transporting them, someone selling them and, in some cases, someone willing to buy stolen material without asking where it came from. Focusing exclusively on the person at the bottom of this chain allows those who profit from addiction to continue operating.

Burdens of politicians

Arifa Noor

IT was a humid Sunday afternoon in Islamabad. The small pharmacy was empty with just one man behind the cash counter. A woman approached him, prescription and medicines in hand. She was simply but not shabbily dressed. But she still returned a quarter of the medication once the bill was generated. The man behind the counter explained the bill was around Rs4,000, and she returned about Rs1,000 worth of medication. This took place at a pharmacy in the heart of Islamabad, where real estate sells or rents at eye-watering prices. There was no doctor nearby or a hospital. The woman, chances are, lived close by.

It is not a dramatic story or one that really shocks. Tell it to a group of people and they will nod, and, in fact, recount similar stories. Of people's difficulties. The loans they have taken. How someone got a utility bill higher than their salary. How a colleague had switched from his car to a motorbike. How another had begun shopping for lower-quality food. Conversations such as these abound. And this is before the past week when petrol hikes — even those of a daily kind — had begun to hit the headlines. People are now taking bets on when the price of petrol will hit 400 — a far more probable prospect than the cricket team managing a respectable score.

That the government realises the impact of the

petrol hikes is evident from its announcement to relaunch its subsidy scheme. There is little clarity on how effective the last one had been and how long it lasted, but it's now back with some tweaks. Ask the government to reduce the big bad IMF enters the conversation; the same IMF which can't get the government to impose a proper tax on traders or agriculture income or even stop it from giving relief to real estate. Apparently, the petrol levy is the red line.

There is little conversation about what inflationary impact this petrol hike will have.

And of course, there is little conversation about what inflationary impact this petrol hike will have on food, transport and more — what will happen to the electricity bills, and what this new cycle of inflation will do to already weakened purchasing power.

Before the reader rolls her eyes at my audacity to write a piece on the economy, let me clarify that I am about to do no such thing. This is simply going to be a clutch-my-pearls piece on the callousness of the ruling elite. It doesn't get simpler than that.

Long before the Iran war and its impact on the global economy, Pakistan's human story was already a matter of shame. Our infant mortality rate (46 to 58 deaths per 1,000 births) is higher than the rest of the region and comparable to Afghanistan and Yemen. Nearly 20 per

cent of the population has an insufficient caloric intake, and under 40pc of children under five years are malnourished and suffer from stunting — in this, Pakistan is comparable to countries hit by conflict and civil war. The numbers are not recent so as to be linked to the economic mess of the past few years.

This is the real story, with facts and figures, along with our own experiences and the anecdotes we all hear of the suffering of the people. But for those ruling us, there is little empathy or awareness of the crisis. This may seem a bit harsh but what else does one say when governments are incapable of curbing even their own lavish personal lifestyles in the face of human misery?

The prime minister and his deputy, it seems, spend more time abroad than in the country. Newly born babies recently died in a hospital fire in the heart of the capital, petrol is going up faster than pollution, and we already know he is off to New York on the 20th to tell the world about Pakistan's efforts in mediation. When one's home is on fire, shouldn't saving it be more important? A rhetorical question — for soon we will be subjected to a bunch of ministers and advisers walking on the tarmac and entering a plane. The rest are not far behind. Just recently both the president and the chief minister of Punjab travelled to Europe on personal visits to private planes.

Courtesy Dawn

Who speaks for the future?

Muhammad Hamid Zaman

IT is 2026. In a country of over 250 million, with at least half of them women, a conference is organised at an academic institution. The title is "Re-imagining Political Science for Pakistan and Its People". The topic seems both intellectually interesting and relevant given the recent conversations on new provinces and federation. Our demographics and socio-economic challenges demand serious conversations that uplift everyone in the near and distant future. But something is off. In addition to the chief guest, a high-profile minister, there are 12 different panellists. There is not a single woman among those! 13-0.

There can be two possible explanations here. First, the topic is so niche that the organisers invited experts who were serious scholars of the subject, and it turned out that none of these experts happened to be women. But that is not quite the case. If we look at the list of speakers, we find mainly journalists and politicians. The choice is not based on scholarly credentials, field research or major publications. There are plenty of well-respected women journalists and politicians in the country. This leads to a plausible second explanation i.e. the organisers do not think that for a topic that concerns all of the country, having the perspective of women journalists or political scientists or politicians is something they care about. Some other colleagues have also pointed that while the supposed topic was about the whole country, the panellists were overwhelmingly from Punjab. The representation of women on important topics that concern them just as much as men has been a problem for long. There was a period, not too long ago, when there were some murmurs about doing better, but perhaps that was for tokenism and was never a serious reflection, so it never took root. It is also concerning (or perhaps telling) that this happened at an academic institution.

Courtesy Tribune

Pakistan, Lebanon agree to enhance intelligence sharing, security cooperation



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Lebanon on Tuesday agreed to enhance intelligence sharing to counter terrorism, dismantle drug networks and effectively address emerging security challenges.

According to the Ministry of Interior, Lebanese Interior Minister Ahmad Al-Hajjar met his counterpart Mohsin Naqvi, with both sides discussing security cooperation, counter-terrorism efforts, prevention of drug trafficking, illegal immigration, money laundering and cyber-

crime.

The two ministers held a one-on-one meeting followed by delegation-level talks, focusing on ways to enhance cooperation in internal security and other areas of mutual interest, the ministry said.

Both sides also discussed expanding collaboration between police academies and training programmes to benefit from each other's expertise and experience.

"The ministers exchanged views on the regional situation and Pakistan's efforts to promote lasting peace in the region," it added.

During the meeting, the two countries agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) soon to further strengthen cooperation between their interior ministries.

The statement said that they also decided to appoint focal persons to improve coordination and ensure effective communication between the two countries.

"The two sides agreed to fully implement the existing MoU on counter-narcotics, while the ministers reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral relations and cooperation," it added. The meeting also included discussions on providing visa-free entry facilities for diplomatic and official passport holders of both countries. "Hope your visit will open new avenues of cooperation between the two countries," Naqvi said. The Lebanese interior minister thanked Naqvi for Pakistan's hospitality, describing Pakistan as a brotherly country and expressing Lebanon's desire to enhance cooperation, particularly in internal security.

PM's fuel relief scheme launched in Islamabad

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister's Fuel Relief Scheme has been launched in the federal capital, with subsidised petrol being supplied to eligible citizens at designated petrol pumps.

Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja made a late-night surprise visit to various petrol pumps in Islamabad to review the implementation of the scheme.

The Secretary IT and senior officials of the Islamabad administration accompanied the minister during the visits.

The minister interacted with citizens and inquired about the problems they faced during registration and while obtaining fuel relief. She also briefed citizens on key aspects of the registration



process and urged them to follow the prescribed procedure carefully to ensure successful registration. The minister clarified that citizens needed to register only once and there was no need to repeat the registration process.

She advised eligible citizens to send "TOK" to 9771 before visiting a petrol pump to generate their fuel token. The token should then be presented at the petrol pump to obtain petrol at the subsidised rate. The minister directed the administration to ensure uninterrupted provision of relief to all eligible registered citizens.

Constitution must remain supreme in exercise of powers: CJ FCCP

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of the Federal Constitutional Court (FCCP) Justice Aminuddin Khan on Tuesday stressed that the Constitution must be kept supreme in the exercise of powers, saying that adherence to the Constitution was essential for ensuring stability in society.

Addressing a ceremony marking the opening of the new judicial year of the Federal Constitutional Court, the Chief Justice said the Constitution clearly defined the powers and limits of state institutions.

He said the beginning of a new judicial year was an occasion to renew the commitment to dispensation of justice. The Federal Constitutional Court was effectively fulfilling its constitutional responsibilities and had decided several important cases in the short period since its establishment.

Justice Aminuddin said access to justice was the right of every citizen and that non-discriminatory constitutional justice should remain a fundamental priority. He said cases were proceeding for hearing through a transpar-

ent process, while judicial independence was of fundamental importance to any society.

Constitution must remain supreme in exercise of powers: CJ FCCP. The Chief Justice also stressed the need for greater use of modern technology in judicial affairs, saying it enhanced institutional capacity and transparency. He said judicial cooperation was being strengthened through foreign visits and other activities, while visits by bar associations and other delegations to the Federal Constitutional Court were also important.

He reaffirmed that the FCCP would continue to discharge its constitutional responsibilities with commitment, promote cooperation between the bar and the bench, and work to further strengthen public confidence in the justice system. Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chairman, Pakistan Bar Council, Masood Chishti said Justice Aminuddin Khan had performed his responsibilities as head of the Federal Constitutional Court in an exemplary manner. He said establishing the institutional structure of the FCCP had been a major challenge.

No talks with govt, dialogue needed: Gohar

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan on Monday said no negotiations were currently taking place with the government, although political dialogue remained necessary to reduce tensions and move matters in a positive direction.

Speaking to the media at the Adiala Road-Dahlagh checkpoint, Gohar said the atmosphere surrounding possible back-channel contacts appeared "somewhat subdued" this time.

"There are no negotiations with the government at this time," he said, adding that political problems should be resolved through political means. Gohar called for positive steps to reduce tensions and said confrontation would only further complicate the political situation. He strongly criticised the treatment of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi during his visit to Lahore, saying the provincial chief executive had received a warm public reception but was not provided appropriate security. Gohar claimed that police took Afridi away in a vehicle and dropped him at an intersection, describing

MoS/SAPM Fahd Haroon meets KATI representatives

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State/Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Digital Media Fahd Haroon met with representatives of the Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) in Karachi. President KATI Muhammad Ikram Rajput, along with other senior office-bearers, warmly received Fahd Haroon upon his arrival. The meeting provided an opportunity for a wide-ranging exchange of views on Pakistan's evolving digital landscape, technological advancement, digital transformation and their growing significance for the country's business and industrial sectors, alongside other matters of mutual interest, said a message received here on



Tuesday. Fahd Haroon outlined the government's broader vision for Pakistan's digital future and underscored the importance of harnessing technology and innovation to strengthen economic growth, empower businesses and create new opportunities for the country's entrepreneurial and industrial sectors. The KATI representatives shared their perspectives on the evolving digital landscape and its implications for businesses and industry, with a particular emphasis.

BISP Chairperson calls for strengthening democratic institutions on World Democracy Day

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, on Tuesday called for strengthening democratic institutions, empowering Parliament and ensuring the supremacy of the Constitution, saying continuity of democracy is essential for a stable, prosperous and welfare-oriented Pakistan. In her message on the occasion of World Democracy Day, she extended greetings to democracy-loving people around the world. Senator Rubina Khalid said the vision of Qaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was to build a democratic, parliamentary and people-oriented Pakistan.



She said Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto laid a strong foundation for the democratic system in Pakistan by giving the country the Constitution of 1973, while Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto made a historic struggle for democracy, people's rights and women's empowerment.

She said both Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto sacrificed their lives for the supremacy of democracy.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Constitutional Court of Pakistan commenced the Judicial year 2026-27 with a formal ceremony, reaffirming its commitment to constitutional supremacy, judicial independence, protection of fundamental rights, timely and effective administration of justice, transparency, and strengthening public confidence in the justice system.

Pakistan seeks stronger Parliamentary ties with Uganda, Bangladesh

PEAK POINT

CAPE TOWN: National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has called for stronger parliamentary and bilateral relations with Uganda and Bangladesh, stressing the need to expand cooperation and people-to-people contacts with the two countries. Speaking during separate meetings with Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda Jacob Markons Oboth and Deputy Speaker of Bangladesh's House of the Nation Barrister Kayser Kamal on the sidelines of the 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, the NA speaker discussed ways to enhance

bilateral and parliamentary cooperation. During his meeting with the Ugandan speaker, Ayaz Sadiq recalled Pakistan's longstanding friendship with Uganda and appreciated the support extended by former Ugandan Speaker Rebecca Kadaga for Pakistan's successful bid for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association presidency in 2015. He said Pakistan was committed to renewing and strengthening its relations with African countries, particularly Uganda, and invited the Ugandan speaker to lead a parliamentary delegation to Pakistan. The two sides discussed cooperation in higher



education, agriculture, food security, defence, climate change and parliamentary innovation. Ayaz Sadiq said Pakistan was facing serious challenges from climate change and stressed the importance of addressing issues of

mutual concern through enhanced cooperation. He also informed his counterpart that an 18-member Pakistan-Uganda Parliamentary Friendship Group was functioning in the National Assembly and welcomed the

establishment of a similar group in Uganda's Parliament. The NA speaker also briefed the Ugandan delegation on Pakistan's position regarding regional security and tensions with India, reiterating that disputes should be resolved peacefully and that war was not a solution. He highlighted Pakistan's experience in combating terrorism and the security challenges resulting from regional instability. He also invited Uganda to participate in the forthcoming CPA Women Parliamentarians Conference, scheduled to be hosted by the KP Assembly Branch of the CPA in March next year. In his

meeting with Bangladesh's Deputy Speaker Barrister Kayser Kamal, Ayaz Sadiq expressed condolences over the death of the spouse of the Speaker of Bangladesh and offered Fateha for the departed soul. He recalled his visit to Dhaka for the funeral of Begum Khaleida Zia and his meeting with the Bangladeshi prime minister. Ayaz Sadiq said Pakistan had always desired strong and cordial relations with Bangladesh, adding that there was considerable scope for mutual learning and cooperation between the two countries and their parliaments.