

Special parliamentary committee formed for CJP appointment

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ISLAMABAD:

A 12-member special parliamentary committee has been formed to oversee the appointment of Pakistan's next chief justice, marking a significant shift in the country's judicial selection process. The committee, established following the 26th Constitutional Amendment, includes representation from the National Assembly and Senate, with nominees from major political parties submitted to the National Assembly speaker's office. According to the speaker's office, four members have been nominated from the Senate. The Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) has named Kamran Murtaza, while the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has nominated seasoned lawyer Farooq H. Naek. The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) selected Azam Nazeer Tarar, and Barrister Ali Zafar has been nominated by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). From the National Assembly, PML-N has put forward senior members Khawaja Asif, Ahsan Iqbal, and Shaista Pervaiz. PPP has nominated former prime minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf and Naveed Qamar. PTI's nominees include Barrister Gohar and

Sahibzada Hamid Raza, while the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) has chosen Rana Ansar for the special committee. The Assembly Secretariat has issued a notification for the formation of the parliamentary committee shortly, following the speaker's approval. A meeting of the special parliamentary committee has been scheduled for tomorrow at 4pm. The formation of this committee is part of sweeping changes introduced under the 26th Constitutional Amendment, which reforms the process of appointing the Chief Justice of Pakistan. Previously, the Chief Justice was selected based on seniority, but under the new amendment, a three-member panel of senior judges will be reviewed by the parliamentary committee. The committee, requiring a two-thirds majority for approval, will then select the new Chief Justice. This special committee is tasked with ensuring wider representation in judicial appointments, with the aim of enhancing transparency. The amendment also impacts the process for appointing Supreme Court judges, involving parliamentary members in decisions that were previously handled exclusively within the judiciary.

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