



Petroleum Minister says fuel subsidy to continue as long as needed



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PMYP chairman arrives in Muscat for talks on Pakistan-Oman cooperation

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Monday 28 September 2026

Rabi-us-Sani 15, 1448 A.H VOL No: 06 Issue No. 207 Pages 4 Rs. 20

More than 70 terrorists killed across Balochistan in past 4 days: ISPR

PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: More than 71 terrorists were killed in Shaban and other areas of Balochistan in the last 96 hours, the military's media affairs wing said on Sunday. In a statement, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) recalled that based on credible intelligence, security forces had launched a "swift operation against the terrorists in Ziarat and surrounding areas" on Sept 21. "As the Pakistan Army's operation progresses, more than 71 terrorists have been killed so far in Operation Shaban and other areas of Balochistan in [the] last 96 hours, delivering a serious blow to Indian-backed Afghan proxies," the statement said.

ISPR noted that Pakistan's intelligence

agencies had identified "multiple hideouts of Indian-sponsored Fitna al Khawarij and Fitna al Hindustan in the general area of Shaban, District Quetta, posing a threat to the local population". The state uses the term Fitna al Khawarij for the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and refers to designated Balochistan-based groups as Fitna al Hindustan to highlight India's role in terrorism and destabilisation across Pakistan.

During the operation in Shaban, security forces engaged the terrorists and cleared multiple hideouts, ISPR said. Following intense exchanges of fire, 33 "Indian-sponsored terrorists" were killed, with weapons, ammunition and explosives also recovered.



Security personnel during a search and clearance operation in Balochistan as over 70 terrorists killed in the past four days.

Info ministry rejects Afghan Taliban's 'frivolous' claims linking Pakistan to reported Nuristan violence

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: The information ministry on Sunday rejected Afghanistan's claims of Pakistani forces' alleged involvement in any "internal clashes" in the neighbouring country's Nuristan province. "The allegations by the Afghan Taliban regime linking Pakistan with the alleged violence in Nuristan are frivolous, baseless and devoid of any truth," the information ministry's "fact-check" account on X said.

It added: "Pakistan categorically rejects the fabricated claims of involvement by its security forces or intelligence agencies in any internal clashes in Nuristan or elsewhere in Afghanistan, including allegations of recruiting or training former Afghan security personnel or facilitating Daesh or any other terrorist group operating in Afghanistan."

The information ministry's statement came after Afghanistan's defence ministry alleged that Pakistan-backed individuals had crossed the border and were involved in the reported violence. The information ministry pointed out that "not a shred of evidence has been produced to substantiate Pakistan's involvement; no identities, documents, communications, forensic evidence or independent verification".

Iran insists on diplomatic solution after Trump rejects peace plan

PEAK POINT



TEHRAN: Iran on Sunday insisted that only diplomacy can solve its conflict with the United States and Israel after US President Donald Trump said he rejected an Iranian proposal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and end fighting. "Our conditions are clear, and any move toward reopening the Strait of Hormuz is contingent on these conditions being met," Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi posted on social media. "Only a negotiated solution can get them out of this deadlock."

Iran announced a peace proposal last week at the UN General Assembly in New York, saying it had been transmitted to the Americans via Qatari mediators. Trump said on Saturday he rejected the plan and argued that desperation was driving the Iranians' push for an agreement on the key waterway.

"They want to make a deal to open the Hormuz Strait immediately because they're losing so badly," Trump told reporters at the White House. Despite Trump's public statements, mediators facilitating Iran's talks with the United States have not officially relayed a US rejection of the plan, according to Araghchi. "We are waiting for the mediators to convey the definitive views to us, and we will make a decision based on them," Araghchi posted. The US has imposed an economic blockade on Iran to put pressure on Tehran to stop Iranian attacks on vessels in the Strait of Hormuz, which have drastically reduced shipping.

Missiles fired at Riyadh, intercepted by coalition

PEAK POINT



RIYADH: The Saudi-led coalition battling Yemen's Houthis said on Saturday it had intercepted drones and ballistic missiles, as the group launched fresh attacks, including on Riyadh, despite international condemnation.

A spokesman for the Saudi-led coalition said on Saturday its air defences "intercepted and destroyed two drones launched by the Houthis towards the Riyadh area".

Saudi air defences also intercepted and destroyed two Houthi-launched ballistic missiles targeting Khamis Mushait, a city in the country's southwest that is home to an air base, the spokesman said.

Hezam Al-Assad, a member of the Houthi Political Bureau, said on Saturday that "Despite the operation's strength, scope, and impact, our armed forces view it as merely a small-scale rehearsal for a full-scale escalation."

Meanwhile, Jassem Mohamed Albudaiwi, secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council, denounced the Houthi attacks.

Hamas leader says Israel to campaign off Gaza's 'blood' in election

PEAK POINT

GAZA: The leader of Hamas brushed aside the possibility of change from Israel's upcoming election in an interview on Saturday, saying he expected Israelis to campaign off Gaza's "blood". "Whether this or that person comes to power, or this party or another — our people have suffered at the hands of all Israeli parties," Khalil al-Hayya told the Qatari station Al-Araby. "We absolutely refuse to allow the blood, suffering, and cause of the Palestinian people to serve as fuel for Israeli elections. What matters.

Newly inducted Hangor-class submarine conducts maiden live weapon firing in Arabian Sea: ISPR

PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: The navy's first Hangor-class submarine successfully conducted its maiden live weapon firing in the Arabian Sea, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Sunday.

The Hangor-class submarine arrived at Karachi Port in June, underscoring the deepening strategic defence cooperation between Pakistan and China.

Terming it a "major demonstration of operational readiness", ISPR said the newly inducted PNS/M HANGOR accurately engaged a "designated long-range target with an anti-ship cruise missile" during the weapon firing exercise.

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf witnessed the firing, praising

the submarine's combat power and emphasising the weapons firing by the newly inducted submarine,



"strategic importance of enhancing subsurface capabilities for credible maritime deterrence". "The milestone underscores the Pakistan Navy's commitment to maintaining a modern, combat-ready force to safeguard national maritime frontiers and regional peace," ISPR highlighted. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif congratulated the Pakistan Navy and its leadership on the first live

according to a statement issued by his office.

"The submarine successfully struck a long-range target with an anti-ship cruise missile, demonstrating the operational readiness, professional expertise and combat capability of Pakistan Navy's submarine force," the premier was quoted as saying.

PM Shehbaz reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring the armed

forces' readiness to tackle national security challenges, the statement added. He also commended the Naval chief and the personnel involved in the induction and operationalisation of the submarine.

President Asif Ali Zardari paid tribute to the navy on the successful firing, lauding the "operational readiness and enhancement" of naval defence capabilities, his office said in a post on X. "Equipped with modern combat capabilities, the Pakistan Navy is playing a vital role in safeguarding national maritime boundaries and ensuring regional peace and security," President Zardari was quoted as saying. The statement added that President Zardari was a chief guest at the handover ceremony of the Hangor-class submarine on April 30.

Floods and landslides kill 56 in India's Uttar Pradesh, 12 in Nepal over past three days

PEAK POINT



NEPAL: Heavy rain triggered floods and landslides across northern India and Nepal, killing at least 68 people over the past three days, disaster authorities said on Sunday. In India's most populous state of Uttar Pradesh, 56 people have died over the past three days with more than 1,000 houses damaged, the relief commissioner's office said in a statement. Neighbouring Nepal, already reeling under the catastrophic August 26 flood, was struck by a fresh wave of flooding and landslides that has killed 12 people since Thursday.

"Since Thursday, 12 people have died in rain-related disasters like floods and landslides," Shanti Mahat, spokesperson at Nepal's disaster authority.



SPORTS



Pakistan eye strong Asian Games start



MOHSIN ALI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will begin their Asian Games cricket campaign on Monday when they face Hong Kong in the quarter-finals, with captain Sahibzada Farhan confident his side are prepared to negotiate unfamiliar conditions in Japan. Pakistan travelled to Japan after a four-day training camp in Karachi, where the squad practised on surfaces prepared to replicate the expected conditions and worked through a series of scenario matches.

The team then trained in Nisshin on Sunday, although overnight rain left a wet outfield

and disrupted the session.

Farhan said the squad had focused heavily on adapting to conditions and preparing for spin during their camp.

"We prepared wickets according to the conditions we expect in Japan and tried to practice against spin as much as possible," Farhan told reporters before the team's departure. "We also worked on different match scenarios during the camp."

The Pakistan captain said the squad's mix of international, domestic and Pakistan Super League experience would help them adjust to conditions beyond

their control.

"As professional cricketers, we have to be mentally prepared for all conditions because the weather and playing conditions are not in our control," he said.

Farhan, who will lead Pakistan in the tournament, said the team would approach the competition one match at a time.

"Every match is important for us. We will focus on our first match and take every game seriously," he said.

The captain also described the leadership role as a source of pride, while stressing that his coach Ashley Noffke and fielding coach Mansoor Amjad, remain unchanged.

unchanged.

"It is a proud moment for me and my family to captain Pakistan," Farhan said. "Whether I am playing as captain or as a player, my mindset remains the same."

Pakistan have selected a 15-member squad featuring a blend of established and emerging T20 players, including vice-captain Abdul Samad, Saim Ayub, Haider Ali, Abrar Ahmed, Mohammad Wasim Jnr and wicketkeeper Usman Khan.

Mike Hesson is the team's head coach, supported by bowling coach Ashley Noffke and fielding coach Mansoor Amjad.

Noor Zaman wins all-Pakistan playoff



PEAK POINT

JAPAN: Pakistan's Noor Zaman defeated compatriot Muhammad Irfan 3-0 on Sunday to finish third in the men's singles squash competition at the Nagoya Kinjo Futo Arena.

Zaman won 11-7, 11-7, 13-11 in a 26-minute third-place playoff, with both players already assured of bronze medals after reaching the semi-finals.

The match was therefore about final placing rather than a medal, with Zaman producing a composed display to claim third position and Irfan finishing fourth.

Zaman took control early, winning the opening two games by identical 11-7 margins. Irfan fought back in the third, forcing a tightly contested game that extended beyond the usual 11-point mark.

Zaman eventually prevailed 13-11 to complete a straight-games victory.

The contest was officiated by Hong Kong's Yuen Wing Keung, with Kuwait's Abdulrahman Alowaisi serving as marker.

Volleyball win brightens mixed day for Pakistan at Asian Games



PEAK POINT

JAPAN: Pakistan's men's volleyball team made an impressive start to their Asian Games campaign on Sunday, defeating Kazakhstan 3-1, while Noor Zaman beat compatriot Muhammad Ashab Irfan in an all-

Pakistan recovered from losing the third set to win 25-16, 25-22, 17-25, 25-20 in their Pool 'A' opener at the Okazaki Chuo

blocks. Usman Faryad Ali contributed 14 points, Jehan Murad 11 and Musawer Khan nine as Pakistan dominated the attacking exchanges and finished with 92 total points against Kazakhstan's 83.

Pakistan's blocking, however, remained an area of concern, with Kazakhstan registering 10 blocks to Pakistan's seven. The Pakistanis were nevertheless more effective in attack, converting 55 of 114 spikes compared to Kazakhstan's 48 of 113. The victory provides Pakistan with an early advantage in a pool that also includes Japan and Uzbekistan. Iran are the defending men's champions.

Pakistan's leading scorer with 21 points, including 17 successful spikes and four

Malik stars as Lahore lift Pak-China Friendship Games tennis title



Pakistan to face Hong Kong in Asian Games 2026 quarter-final

PEAK POINT

CHINA: Pakistan will take on Hong Kong, China, in the quarter-final of the men's cricket competition at the 2026 Asian Games, with the match scheduled to be played at Korogi Sports Park on Monday.

The matchup was confirmed after Hong Kong finished second in the Group B standings with two points in two matches ahead of bottom-placed Oman, whose last league-stage fixture against leaders Malaysia was abandoned without a ball bowled at the aforementioned venue earlier today.

Pakistan, on the other hand, earned direct qualification into the quarter-finals alongside arch-rivals India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka on the virtue of the rankings.

Meanwhile, Malaysia, who topped the Group B with three points, will face Bangladesh in the fourth

quarter-final scheduled to be played at the same venue on Tuesday afternoon.

Earlier today, the morning fixture between Nepal and host nation Japan also ended in a no result.

Although Nepal got off

Afghanistan in their previous fixture, will take on Sri Lanka in the third quarter-final, scheduled to be played on Tuesday morning.

Whereas, Afghanistan, who finished second with two points, will face India in



to a flamboyant start to the fixture as they had raised 149/4 in 15 overs after being put into bat first, the abandonment helped them finish atop of the Group A standings, while drawing curtains on Japan's hopes as they finished last with just one point.

Nepal, who outclassed

the second quarter-final, slated to be played on Monday afternoon.

The respective winners of the four quarter-finals will advance into the semi-finals, both of which will be played on October 1, with the third-place playoff and the gold-medal match set to be held on October.

Pakistan suffer 4-0 defeat to Thailand in FIFA ASEAN Cup opener





AAS-in-Asia 2026 concludes at LUMS, bringing over 1,000 scholars from 37 countries to Lahore

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: AAS-in-Asia 2026 concluded on Sunday at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), marking the successful conclusion of a three-day international academic gathering that brought more than 1,000 scholars and participants from over 37 countries to Pakistan.

Held under the theme "Centring Asia: Reframing Connections, Recharting Futures," the conference brought together scholars, students, university leaders

and academics from 517 institutions, including some of the world's leading universities, such as Peking University, Tsinghua University, University of Tokyo, National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University, Harvard University, University of Cambridge, University of Oxford and Yale University.

AAS-in-Asia has previously been hosted in countries including South Korea, Indonesia, Nepal, Japan, India and Thailand. Its first edition in Pakistan brought an international academic



community to Lahore.

The conference featured hundreds of panel sessions, pre-conference workshops, roundtables, open houses, exhibitions and cultural events held across different

venues at LUMS.

Discussions explored a wide range of themes, including Asia's transformation and global perspectives, conflict and cooperation, democratic change, technology and

society, artificial intelligence, Asian ecologies, cities and infrastructure, gender and marginality, cultural and artistic expression, and old and new approaches to knowledge and epistemology. The sessions examined how Asia's economic, political and cultural transformations are reshaping global debates, while also addressing issues including border disputes, contested sovereignties, civic spaces, climate disruption, displacement, inequality and social justice. Discussions also explored the role of literature, art, performance, her-

itage and everyday cultural practices in shaping Asian identities and creating spaces for connection and dialogue.

The opening ceremony featured welcome addresses by LUMS Vice Chancellor Dr. Ali Cheema and President of the Association for Asian Studies Prof. Elora Shehabuddin.

Welcoming delegates to LUMS, Dr Cheema highlighted the importance of bringing diverse perspectives together and ensuring Pakistan's participation in wider conversations on Asia and the world.

Rs6.58 Billion Jazz overcharging claim triggers fresh Senate Probe

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: A disputed audit finding of Rs6.58 billion in alleged excess charges by Jazz has triggered a fresh examination by the Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication, after the Auditor General and Pakistan Telecommunication Authority presented different views on how a 2024 tariff approval should be understood. The audit side told the committee that the original approval showed a 3 percent increase, while the tariff later implemented was 15 percent. It questioned how the figure changed from 3 percent to 15

percent in the same record and called for a forensic examination of the relevant documents and electronic records. PTA rejected the interpretation that the entire Rs6.58 billion represented unauthorized overcharging. The authority said an approval issued in February 2024 allowed a 15 percent tariff increase and that the audit had interpreted the document differently. PTA also said the disputed amount was much lower after reconciliation, with the figure put at about Rs920 million in the committee briefing. The dispute has mainly centred on the document used to support the tariff approval. Audit offi-

cials said the evidence available to them showed a 3 percent figure, while the document used for the later tariff increase showed 15 percent. They therefore called for an independent forensic examination of the hard copy and electronic record, including system information and file records, to establish how the difference occurred. PTA officials defended their regulatory role before the committee and said the authority has legal responsibility for regulating telecom tariffs. They argued that if tariff decisions made by PTA could later be overruled by another body, it could create uncertainty over the regulator's role in control-

ling telecom prices. The committee also discussed whether the Competition Commission of Pakistan should examine the wider effect of the earlier blanket tariff approval policy on competition in the telecom market. The audit side said the competition issue was related to the wider policy and market behaviour and was separate from the basic question of tariff determination. PTA officials said the earlier blanket approval system had already been ended and that tariff packages are now examined by the authority before implementation. The regulator also maintained that the tariff changes

in question had gone through the required approval process. The committee also questioned the document bearing the disputed signature and discussed whether a forensic examination should be carried out to settle the disagreement. A PTA official said the authority was ready for such an examination and strongly rejected any suggestion that the approval document had been forged. The audit objection has remained a matter of official review rather than a final finding that Jazz illegally overcharged customers. The Senate has sought the relevant records to examine the competing positions of the audit authorities

and PTA. The committee also considered recommendations for a case specific tariff approval system and for recovery of any amount that may ultimately be established as improperly collected. Any recovery and any return of money to customers would depend on the final findings of the relevant authorities. The matter is now set for further examination, with the committee seeking the documents and explanations needed to determine whether the Rs6.58 billion figure is supported by the record or resulted from a different interpretation of the tariff approval.

Opinion & Editorial

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Time to pursue a thaw

The PTI's decision to delay its long march is a welcome development that could help defuse the prevailing political instability. It hands the government a prime opportunity to initiate talks with the broader opposition alliance, TTAP, and resolve lingering friction points. Even though the PTI aims to launch the protest from Peshawar on October 4, sincerity from both sides can still yield a compromise. A meaningful political thaw is urgently needed to restore daily life in Rawalpindi and Islamabad, where heavy security blockades have severely disrupted the twin cities. The PTI's demands primarily centre on legal and procedural rights. These include implementing the August 18 Supreme Court directive to transfer Imran Khan to a private hospital and restoring his access to family, counsel and doctors. Since these rights are already guaranteed by the jail manual, it would be politically and legally ill-advised for the government to defy them. Similarly, the party's push to expedite Khan's court hearings and its advocacy for judicial independence and constitutional supremacy ought to strike a chord with the ruling parties in the larger national interest of democracy and the rule of law. Prime Minister Shehbaz Shari's invitation to Opposition Leader Mehmood Khan Achakzai for direct talks is a welcome step toward easing Pakistan's political deadlock.

A broken power accord

Muhammad Amir Rana

ALTHOUGH the PTI has postponed its protest march on Islamabad, the capital city's container-blocked roads continue to reflect the country's deeper crisis. The crisis is not merely political, economic, or security-related; it is rooted in an elite class that cannot forge an accord within themselves.

Islamabad is not witnessing a siege-like situation for the first time; it has become part of life for the inhabitants of the twin cities. Even a cricket match or a visiting dignitary can bring life to a standstill. Despite huge investments in infrastructure and expensive surveillance systems, the security providers remain nervous. They have turned the federal capital into a city of checkpoints, where the average citizen must pass through long queues every 10 minutes during his daily commute — with police officers regarding him with suspicious eyes. Citizens end up feeling that they themselves are responsible for all the country's ills, while those who have actually encroached on green belts, footpaths, and even highways escape punishment for crimes they do not even understand. The crisis runs deep, and even the postponement of the protest by the PTI, and earlier by the Jamaat-i-Islami, will not solve the country's political, governance, economic, and security crisis. These lines may seem cynical, but the streets of the federal capital tell Pakistan's whole story. The 'contain-

ment' approach shows serious fractures among the power elites over the division of power, which has not been shared proportionately and has, in fact, caused a chronic political crisis and led to a rent-seeking economy. Rent-seeking means economic actors become adept at obtaining privileged access to the state or controlling scarce resources.

The masses are not responsible for the country's state of affairs; it is fractured power elites who have yet to learn the art of distributing power among themselves. Here, another term needs explaining. The 'fractured elite' comprises Pakistan's dominant political, civil-military, judicial, and institutional elite — sometimes referred to as the establishment — when it no longer agrees on the basic rules of the political game. The elite includes religious and ideological authorities, but in an evolving power order, their role and share have been minimised for now. Major businesses and landed interests have become important actors within the fractured power order. Serious fractures exist among the elites over the division of power.

A question arises: what does an elite power accord look like? Is it about who will have the political power to govern, and under what conditions? Another question emerges: aside from political power, who holds the real power, also referred to as institutional power? Does this authority belong to parlia-

ment, the executive, the military, the judiciary, or the bureaucracy? Institutional power brings control over major economic resources and rents, as well as coercive or security institutions. It also has territorial power to determine how the interests of the centre and the provinces are accommodated. Among the elites, succession remains a key question: how will power change hands? A linked challenge arises. How are influential groups accommodated? Foreign policy remains the exclusive domain of the power elites — what strategic interests are considered non-negotiable?

Now look at the Pakistani elites, which have failed to define the role of political power. Gradually, an institution has assumed authority, while the ruling political parties have surrendered several rights to retain power. The opposition, meanwhile, is demanding its legitimate rights. Many political analysts arguably contend that the opposition, now led by the PTI, along with smaller parties within the opposition alliance, the Tehreek-i-Tahafuz-i-Ay-een-i-Pakistan, is struggling for power rather than restoring or developing a new social contract in the country. Maulana Fazlur Rahman's JUI-F is also part of the opposition. It has been marginalised in the power structure because the changing rules in the power play-book leave less space for religious actors now.

Courtesy Dawn

Where we fail in education

Mujeeb Ali

In my classroom, I encounter students who are more concerned with securing marks than acquiring knowledge. Some have learned to memorise answers, while others believe grades could be secured through influence or money. Parents, too, often measure educational success by examination scores and admission to prestigious university programmes. The result is an education culture in which certificates matter more than competence and grades matter more than genuine learning.

While conducting research into why Pakistan has failed to provide the education its children need, I found that the country's education sector is facing a severe learning crisis. Some schools exist only in government records, with little or no student enrolment in reality. Even where schools function, the curriculum and teaching methods often focus more on cramming and examination performance than on practical education.

The 2025 Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) estimates that about 26.2 million school-age children are out of formal schooling. Among those who are enrolled, many still struggle to read and write with a proper understanding of the language used in education. Others lack digital literacy, which is now an important part of education.

Enrolment is not education, and examination success is not learning. This is where the problem of learning poverty begins. A child may attend school for years and still fail to acquire basic literacy and skills. Similarly, a student may achieve high marks through memorisation without developing the ability to think positively, solve problems or apply knowledge to real-life situations. A grave area of concern is that we have schools, but they face different challenges. Government schools often have resources but lack accountability, suffer from low enrolment and continue to rely on traditional teaching methods.

Courtesy Tribune

'Protest everyone's right but minus Islamabad': Sanaullah says 'practice' of marches to capital should end



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Adviser on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah contended on Saturday that everyone had a constitutional and legal right to protest, but Islamabad should be off-limits for demonstrations and urged people to "end the practice" of staging long marches and protests in the federal capital. PTI had been gearing up for a nationwide protest and march towards Islamabad to press for the release of its founder, Imran Khan, who is currently incarcerated in Rawalpindi's Adiala jail. However, the party announced a day ago that the march has been postponed to Oct 4.

Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) had also launched a march towards Islamabad against the petroleum levy, but it postponed the move at the request of PM Shehbaz Sharif, pending a meeting with him.

"If anyone needs to protest, they can do so in Faisalabad, Hyderabad, Karachi, Peshawar, or Multan. This practice needs to end," Sanaullah said on Geo News programme 'Jirga'.

He pointed out that the ban on protests in Islamabad did not apply only to the PTI. Gatherings in the capital without prior permission are also banned under the Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Act 2024, which had been rushed through the National Assembly ahead of a PTI gathering that month.

"Peaceful protest is everyone's constitutional and legal right, but they need to minus Islamabad from that," Sanaullah stated. "It is everyone's right, but minus attacks on

Islamabad. This must be ensured."

He highlighted that a message had been sent that no protests would be allowed within Islamabad, as foreign diplomats were present in the federal capital and demonstrations would send a "bad message".

The PML-N leader accused PTI of aiming to overthrow the government, alleging that their goal is to "erect ladders next to the walls of Adiala jail and break in to meet Imran Khan", who has been incarcerated there since an Aug 5, 2023 conviction.

"How is this peaceful?" Sanaullah asked. "Party leaders have been threatening to overthrow the government or free someone from jail and then go back," he outlined. "Permission for a long march will not be granted if this is their intent."

The PM's aide stressed that no streets in Islamabad, besides those in the Red Zone and the M-1 Motorway,

Mohsin Naqvi orders intensified crackdown on cybercrime

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has directed the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) to intensify action against online financial fraud, harassment and organised cyber-crime networks.

During a visit to the NCCIA Central Zone headquarters in Lahore, Naqvi chaired a meeting to review ongoing operations and investigations against cybercriminals.

The meeting decided to accelerate action against online financial fraud, harassment and organised cybercrime networks. The minister also inspected the complaints cell, forensic laboratory and investigation wing, reviewing the process from registration of complaints to investigations and action against suspects.



Naqvi directed officials to examine pending cases and complaints individually and eliminate unnecessary delays. He said citizens should not have to wait for months after filing complaints and that timely progress should be visible in every case.

He ordered measures to strengthen digital forensic capabilities, introduce modern forensic tools and provide specialised training to investigation officers.

The minister directed authorities to take action without discrimination against organised groups involved.

Syedaal Khan meets parliamentarians, representatives of diverse sectors

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Acting Chairman Senate Syedaal Khan Nasar met at Parliament House with parliamentarians and prominent representatives of diverse segments of society, including lawyers, doctors, tribal elders, civil society members and representatives of various chambers of commerce. The meeting discussed the prevailing political and economic situation, trade and investment, national security, global peace and other matters of mutual interest. Syedaal Khan Nasar said that the country's political and military leadership was taking effective measures to promote regional and global peace, reduce tensions and strengthen the national economy. He appreciated the Prime Minister's address to the United Nations General Assembly, saying it effectively presented Pakistan's perspective, national priorities and the sentiments of its people before the international community.

He emphasized that Pakistan attaches great importance to its fraternal relations with Saudi

Arabia and the protection of Haramain Sharifain.

and the sacred places. He termed the Makkah Agreement an important development and expressed commitment to its implementation. The Acting Chairman said that promoting trade and investment through a conducive business environment was essential for economic growth, employment generation and stability. He expressed confidence that continued efforts would help improve economic conditions and provide greater relief to the people.

Paying tribute to the Pakistan Armed Forces and security forces, he said their sacrifices in the fight against terrorism were unparalleled.

He said the nation stood firmly with the security forces and remained committed to eliminating terrorism.

Syedaal Khan Nasar stressed that all state institutions, political leadership, the business community and civil society must collectively contribute to Pakistan's peace, stability, economic development and prosperity.



ISLAMABAD: Acting Chairman Senate, Syedaal Khan in a meeting with Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetrani, Provincial Minister of Balochistan at Parliament House.

PMYP chairman arrives in Muscat for talks on Pakistan-Oman cooperation

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan arrived in Muscat on Sunday for an official visit aimed at advancing Pakistan-Oman cooperation, particularly in creating new opportunities for Pakistani youth, with a series of high-level meetings and engagements with the Pakistani community scheduled during his stay. Pakistan's Ambassador to Oman Syed Naveed Safdar Bokhari received Rana Mashhood at Muscat International Airport, while Deputy Head of Mission Bilal Hassan was also present to welcome him, according to a press release received here.

Prominent Pakistani businessmen Mian Muhammad Riaz and Amir Hamza also warmly received the PMYP chairman at the airport. During his visit, Rana Mashhood is expected to hold important meetings to further strengthen bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Oman in various fields.

Petroleum Minister says fuel subsidy to continue as long as needed

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik said on Sunday that the government will continue its petrol subsidy scheme for up to 10 months if necessary to provide relief to the public.

Talking to the media in Lahore, the minister said that the government was aware of the difficulties being faced by the public and would pass on the benefit of any decline in international oil prices to consumers. "The petrol subsidy scheme will be continued for the public if it has to run for 10 months," he said, adding that the government was spending between Rs35 billion and Rs40 billion a month on the scheme. The scheme, introduced by Prime



Minister Shehbaz Sharif to provide a relief of up to Rs100 per litre on petrol, has so far attracted more than six million registrations, Malik said. He said there were more than 25 million motorcycles that were around 20 years old, adding that the government would continue the subsidy until the end of the war if required to protect the public from its impact. Malik thanked petrol pump owners for extending the benefit of the scheme to consumers without charging additional fees.

Amir Muqam, Hamza Shahbaz discuss political situation, development in KP

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister and President of Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Engineer Amir Muqam, met PML-N Vice President and former Chief Minister of Punjab Hamza Shahbaz. During the meeting, they discussed the overall political situation in the country and matters of public interest. They also discussed development and public welfare in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including ongoing and proposed development projects in the province, said a press issue here. On the occasion, Engr Amir Muqam congratulated Prime Minister Muhammad



Shehbaz Sharif on his address to the United Nations General Assembly and described it as historic. He said the Prime Minister represented not only Pakistan but the entire Muslim Ummah.

Hamza Shahbaz paid tribute to the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for their immense sacrifices in the fight against terrorism to ensure peace in the country.

Visit to Malakand: CM Afridi asks supporters to participate in the Oct 4 gathering

PEAK POINT

DI KHAN: PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Muhammad Sohail Afridi made a brief visit to Malakand on Sunday, where he received a warm welcome from party workers upon his arrival at Chakdara Interchange. Addressing the workers, the chief minister thanked the people of Malakand and praised their enthusiasm, saying that the same spirit should be maintained as they would head towards Islamabad on October 4. He said they had gathered to pay tribute to

Shakil Khan, whom he described as a courageous and principled member of Imran Khan's political team. The chief minister condemned what he termed undemocratic treatment of Provincial Minister Shakil Khan and other leaders, saying that such actions would not weaken their resolve or political convictions. Afridi said, "Those who run after positions and offices have a narrow vision. We do not seek positions; rather, we want the supremacy of justice, restoration of democracy and genuine freedom in the country." Referring to the



26th and 27th constitutional amendments, the chief minister alleged that the judiciary had been rendered ineffective. He said they had tried every possible means and approached every forum seeking justice but had not received a response. He called on supporters to participate in the October 4 gathering, saying that if vehicles were unavailable, they would travel by motorcycles, bicycles

or even on foot. Afridi further said that a major political gathering would be held on October 4 and expressed hope that October 5, the birthday of Imran Khan, would be observed as a day of victory. Commenting on the political debate surrounding remarks about Sonmath, the chief minister questioned what he described as the silence of those who become angry over such statements while civilians are allegedly subjected to gunfire. The chief minister also said that the country's economy was facing serious difficulties and that young people were leav-

ing Pakistan in search of better opportunities abroad. He questioned the government's response to these challenges. He said attempts were being made to treat the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as second-class citizens, asserting that they were patriotic Pakistanis standing for their constitutional, democratic and fundamental rights. Afridi said his government and supporters would continue their struggle for what he called "genuine freedom" and would not retreat from their position because of pressure or obstacles.