



Spain, Pakistan discuss climate cooperation, energy security, sustainable development



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Centre, provinces 'made decisions in the best interest of Pakistan', PM says in NEC meeting

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said the Centre and the provinces had taken various decisions in the "best interest" of Pakistan as the National Economic Council (NEC) met on Wednesday.

The NEC met to finalise federal and provincial development plans ahead of the presentation of the budget for the upcoming fiscal year (FY2026-27). It is the highest economic decision-making forum of the federation, led by the premier and comprising the four chief ministers and four federal ministers. "The Centre [...] held consultations with the provinces on all matters with extreme seriousness, and we made decisions in the best interest of Pakistan," PM Shehbaz said in

remarks aired on television.

The prime minister thanked all chief ministers for their "consultations and assistance on all matters". PM Shehbaz noted that Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz could not attend the meeting as she was recovering after her recent medical procedure.

"Today, despite having to face big challenges, our economy is stable at the macro-economic level. But, injecting growth into this is an extremely important process," the premier observed. "Advancing employment, production, exports and economic activity is our collective responsibility," he said, adding that all governments tried their best to stay on track on the IMF programme despite "some difficult stages". In his address, he also spoke of a phone call with IMF.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of the National Economic Council.

No survivors as Pakistan Army Mi-17 helicopter crashes near Muzaffarabad: ISPR

PEAK POINT



MUZAFFARABAD: No survivors were reported after an Mi-17 helicopter of Pakistan Army Aviation crashed near Muzaffarabad on Wednesday during take-off "due to a technical

fault", the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said. Rescue and recovery teams immediately reached the crash site. "All personnel on board embraced martyrdom. There were no survivors," the ISPR said in a statement. "A board of inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the exact technical cause of the accident," the military's media affairs wing said. Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Chief of the Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir and all ranks of the army "express deep grief over the tragic loss of precious lives and extend heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families", the ISPR said. The army's aviation wing had started using the Russian-made Mi-17 transport helicopters in the late nineties. Mi-17s are considered Pakistan Army Aviation's reliable workhorses. The fleet had been stressed because of the excessive use of these helicopters in counter-terrorism operations.

Pakistan strikes terrorist hideouts along Afghan border, kills 26 militants: Minister

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has carried out strikes on terrorist hideouts along its border with Afghanistan and killed 26 terrorists, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said on Wednesday.

"In the aftermath of recent terrorist incidents in Pakistan [...] precise and calibrated strikes were carried out along Pakistan-Afghanistan border areas on hideouts and safe havens of masterminds and planners belonging to Fitna-al-Khawarij, killing 26 India-sponsored khawarij," the minister said in a post on X.

"Based on credible intelligence, selective targeting of camps and hideouts was carried out with precision and accuracy," Tarar said. He elaborated that "four targets were completely destroyed, including a training centre, a hideout, and an ammunition cache and marakiz (centres) belonging to Fitna-al-Khawarij Commander Aleem Khan Khushali and Commander Akhtar Muhammad Jani Khel".

The Pakistani government uses the term 'Fitna-al-Khawarij' to refer to the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and its affiliates.

Tarar affirmed that Pakistan had "always strived for maintaining peace and stability in the region, but at the same time, the safety and security of our citizens remains our top priority". "Our relentless counterterrorism campaign under vision 'Azmi-i-Istehkam' (as approved by Federal Apex Committee on National Action Plan) by security forces and law enforcement agencies of Pakistan.

Iran targets US bases in Jordan and Gulf after Trump orders strikes near Hormuz

PEAK POINT



IRAN: Iran's Revolutionary Guards said they had carried out attacks against a US base in Jordan and 21 other targets in the Gulf on Wednesday in retaliation

for American strikes around the Strait of Hormuz, Iranian media reported. The clashes mark one of the biggest exchanges in hostilities since the two countries agreed to a ceasefire in April. The Iranian strikes, which included attacks in Kuwait and Bahrain, came after the US military said on X it had targeted Iranian air defence, ground control stations and surveillance radar sites near the strait in response to what US President Donald Trump said was the downing of a US Apache helicopter on Tuesday. "I believe the response should be very strong, very powerful, and that's what this one is," Trump told ABC News on Tuesday. The escalation in violence deepens doubts about the prospects for a deal to end the war, that started on February 28 with joint US-Israeli strikes against Iran. Tehran responded by firing on Gulf neighbours that host US bases and all but choked off the Strait of Hormuz, a vital conduit for oil and gas.

Eight policemen injured as terrorists ambush police team in Lakki Marwat

PEAK POINT

LAKKI MARWAT: At least eight policemen were injured when a group of terrorists ambushed a police team in the Darga Saheedan area within the jurisdiction of Khurum Police Station in Karak district on Wednesday. District Police Officer (DPO) spokesperson Shaukat Khan confirmed the attack and said it occurred when a joint team of local police and Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) commandos was conducting a search-and-strike operation in the mountainous region.

Terrorists attacked the law enforcement personnel from a hilltop using sophisticated

Pakistan urges all sides to give diplomacy 'a little more chance' at UNSC

PEAK POINT

NEW YORK: Pakistan on Wednesday urged all sides to exercise restraint and give diplomacy "a little more chance" amid heightened tensions in the Middle East, warning that recent events have highlighted the risk of further escalation.

Addressing a UN Security Council briefing on non-proliferation, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, said Islamabad was "deeply concerned" at the ongoing situation in the region marked by heightened tensions.

"Events of the last few days have amply underscored the fragility



of the situation, the risk of escalation and the need for diplomatic efforts to come to fruition - sooner than later," he told the council. The ambassador said the recent increase in violence in the Middle East was "a stark reminder of the dangers associated with a tenuous ceasefire and the unbearable consequences it may lead to". "The cycle of violence and instability must end for the good of

regional and international peace, security, and prosperity," he added. Referring to the Iranian nuclear issue, Iftikhar said the latest hostilities had complicated diplomatic efforts and affected the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). "Regrettably, the breakdown of diplomacy and outbreak of hostilities has also impacted the consideration of the Iran nuclear issue, pushing the parties fur-

ther apart on this complex file," he said.

He added that the conflict had also "disrupted the IAEA's crucial verification mandate". Reaffirming Pakistan's position, the ambassador said Islamabad supported resolving all outstanding issues through dialogue and negotiations.

"We reaffirm our support for the resolution of all outstanding issues, including Iran nuclear issue, through peaceful means, diplomatic engagement, and sustained dialogue," he said. Iftikhar said Pakistan believed that "diplomacy and dialogue should be the guiding principles" for achieving negotiated settlements of contentious issues.

At least 10 killed, 13 injured as fire erupts in van on Islamabad-Murree Expressway: highway police

PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: At least 10 people were killed and 13 were injured when a fire broke out in a van after it fell into a nullah while taking a turn on the Islamabad-Murree Expressway near Khajut on Wednesday, the



National Highways & Motorway Police (NHMP) said. The NHMP statement said the Hiace van had fallen in such a manner that it was not possible for the passengers to open its door. "The victims are from the same family and were travelling from Multan to Murree," it said. The bodies and the injured were taken to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences in Islamabad, the statement said, adding that relief and rescue efforts were initiated after contingents of the motorway police and the district administration reached the site. National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq expressed deep sorrow and grief over the loss of life, extending his heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the affected families. "I share the grief of the families of the deceased in the accident," Sadiq said.



OGRA, FIA, IB conduct nationwide inspections after panic buying reports at filling stations

NADEEM TANOLI
ISLAMABAD: The Minister for Energy, Mr. Ali Pervaiz, addressed allegations of artificial petroleum shortages at filling stations on the eve of price increases in March and April 2026 in the National Assembly. Responding to a question raised by MNA Syed Rafiullah the Minister outlined the government's actions to monitor and control supply disruptions, hoarding, and consumer exploitation, confirming that public complaints had been received and promptly addressed. According to

Minister for Energy Mr. Pervaiz, unusually large crowds and panic buying were observed at some fuel stations during the first week of March 2026, ahead of weekly petroleum price revisions. Certain reports claimed that bank system link failures were being used as a pretext to restrict sales. These instances, the Minister explained that the respective Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) were immediately informed of these instances through a coordination group managed by the Oil & Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA). Actions taken

included prompt resolution of alleged link failures and restoration of normal supply. The Ministry confirmed that OGRA issued strict directions to all OMCs to ensure uninterrupted petroleum supply at notified rates and strengthen field monitoring. Public complaints regarding short selling, hoarding, and overcharging through dedicated channels, including a complaint cell and WhatsApp coordination group, ensuring timely follow up. To enforce compliance, OGRA coordinated with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA)

and Intelligence Bureau (IB) to inspect 25 nationwide locations, covering 135 depots, refinery installations, and third party storage facilities. These inspections verified stocks of Motor Spirit (MS), High Speed Diesel (HSD), and crude oil against reported inventories. Enforcement also included on the spot actions at filling stations, such as site sealing, restoration of sales, and penalty imposition, coordinated with District Authorities and OMC representatives. The Minister emphasized that these measures are part of a comprehensive effort to protect consumers from artificial shortages and exploitation. OGRA's directives are reinforced by the active engagement of Deputy Commissioners and Provincial Chief Secretaries, who conduct regular inspections to prevent hoarding, illegal storage, and profiteering. Public awareness and complaint channels remain a key part of the strategy. The Minister stated that all grievances received from consumers were immediately communicated to the concerned OMCs for resolution, highlighting the government's commitment to transparency and accountability in the petroleum sector. The measures come amid heightened scrutiny over fuel pricing and supply chain integrity, as consumer groups and lawmakers have increasingly raised concerns about potential manipulation by service stations to profit from anticipated price hikes. According to official records, OGRA and partner enforcement agencies are maintaining continuous vigilance to prevent any recurrence of such practices.

NA Speaker expresses grief over Army Helicopter crash and Murree Expressway Tragedy

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Tuesday expressed profound sorrow and grief over the tragic Pakistan Army helicopter crash in Muzaffarabad, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, which resulted in the loss of precious lives. In a statement, the Speaker paid rich tribute to the personnel who embraced martyrdom while performing their professional duties. He

said the entire nation was mourning the tragic incident and stood united in paying homage to the sacrifices of the martyrs. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq extended his heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the bereaved families, saying that he shared their grief and sorrow during this difficult time. He prayed to Almighty Allah to elevate the ranks of the martyrs and grant patience and strength to their families. Separately, the Speaker also expressed deep

COMSATS & ITS hold conference on "Emerging Technologies for Sustainable Development"

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: The "COMSATS-ITS conference on Emerging Technologies for Sustainable Development" has been successfully held in Surabaya, Indonesia on Wednesday. The Conference was organized by the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) and its esteemed Centre of Excellence, the Institut



Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS), Indonesia, and Road Regions (ANSO), said a press release. The event was held in conjunction with the 26th Meeting of COMSATS Organizations for the Belt

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June's Bloodstained Calendar: Pakistan's Daughters Are Dying—How Many More Must We Bury Before the Nation Runs Out of Excuses?

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Pakistan's Daughters Are Dying, and the Nation Is Running Out of Excuses

These days, just ten days into June 2026, and Pakistan has already witnessed enough brutality against women to fill an entire year's worth of mourning. A young doctor attacked with acid while serving humanity. A college student in Jhang allegedly subjected to horrific violence before losing her life. A nursing student in Dera Ghazi Khan whose dreams were extinguished before she could even begin her professional journey. Reports of wives being murdered by husbands who once stood before God, family, and country and vowed to protect them. And countless other stories that will never trend on social media, never make the front page, and never receive prime-time attention because their victims were ordinary women whose suffering is treated as ordinary too. Every headline tells us what happened. Few ask why it keeps happening. Every tragedy generates temporary outrage. Few generate permanent change. And every time another woman is attacked, raped, burned, beaten, stalked, murdered, or buried, society rushes to debate everything except the root cause. The discussion quickly turns into statistics, politics, regional rivalries, family honour, social media narratives, and eventually the familiar phrase that appears whenever women speak about violence: "Not all men." Perhaps not. But when women cannot walk safely to school, college, hospitals, workplaces, markets, bus stops, parks, or even within their own homes, then the problem is not longer about individual men. It is about a system that repeatedly fails women while demanding that they

remain patient, cautious, silent, and forgiving. As a woman, I read these headlines and feel fear. As a mother, I read them and feel dread. As a writer, I read them and feel rage. As a human-rights activist, I read them and see something even more terrifying: a society becoming dangerously accustomed to violence against women. That normalization may be the greatest crime of all. The acid that scared Dr. Mahnoor's body was not merely a chemical substance. It was the physical manifestation of a mindset that believes women can be punished for existing, working, succeeding, rejecting, speaking, or simply exercising their basic human rights. Acid attacks are among the most cruel forms of violence imaginable because they are designed not only to hurt but to erase identity, confidence, and dignity. They seek to transform a woman's face into a lifelong reminder of someone else's hatred. Similarly, the horror surrounding the Jhang case cannot be viewed in isolation. Every allegation of sexual violence carries with it a larger question: why do so many perpetrators believe they can get away with such crimes? Why do survivors often fear reporting abuse more than abusers fear committing it? Why do families worry about "reputation" while criminals worry only about avoiding arrest? The answers are uncomfortable. Because sexual violence does not thrive merely because criminals exist. It thrives when institutions are weak, investigations are flawed, trials are delayed, witnesses are intimidated, and survivors are subjected to suspicion rather than support. A society that questions victims more aggressively than perpetrators creates fertile ground for future crimes. Then comes the tragedy of the nursing student in Dera Ghazi Khan—a young woman whose ambitions, education, and future were stolen before they could fully blossom. Behind every murdered woman lies a future that society rarely counts. We count bodies. We do not count the patients that doctor would have treated, the children that teacher would have educated, the lives that nurse would have saved, the books that writer would have written, or the contributions those women would have made to their coun-

try. When a woman is killed, society loses far more than a single life. It loses generations of potential. Yet despite the endless cycle of violence, Pakistan does not suffer from a shortage of laws. The constitution guarantees equality and protection. Laws against rape, acid violence, domestic abuse, harassment, and honour-based crimes exist. Legislative reforms have been introduced over the years after public pressure and national outrage. The real question is whether laws exist. The real question is whether they are enforced with the urgency, seriousness, and consistency required to save lives. For too many families, justice remains painfully slow. For too many survivors, the legal process becomes a second form of punishment. For too many perpetrators, consequences remain uncertain. And uncertainty is the greatest friend of criminality. No woman should need extraordinary courage simply to attend university, pursue a career, travel alone, reject unwanted attention, or return home safely. These are not privileges. They are rights. Yet millions of Pakistani women continue to navigate daily life with a mental checklist of precautions that men rarely have to consider. Do not walk alone. Do not travel late. Do not trust strangers. Do not trust acquaintances. Do not trust relatives. Do not attract attention. Do not speak too loudly. Do not be too ambitious. Do not be too independent. Do not be too visible. From childhood, girls are taught strategies for survival while boys are rarely taught accountability with the same intensity. And then society acts surprised when violence continues. The burden of prevention has been placed on women for generations. The burden of accountability must finally be placed on perpetrators. This is not a woman's issue. It is not a feminist issue. It is not a political issue. It is a human-rights crisis. Every acid attack is a human-rights violation. Every rape is a human-rights violation. Every domestic murder is a human-rights violation. Every forced marriage, honour killing, assault, harassment case, and act of gender-based violence is a human-rights violation. The international conventions Pakistan has pledged to uphold, the constitutional promises it

Regional security profile

Pakistan's synopsis on security concerns vis-à-vis India and Afghanistan, made public at the UNSC on Monday, was on the mark. Ambassador Asim Iftikhar minced no words in making it clear that bias and vendetta are driving both Delhi and Kabul to plot against Islamabad. The permanent envoy at the world body substantiated his arguments by citing India's proxies at work inside Pakistan, especially in the desolate province of Balochistan, and Afghanistan's pampering of terrorist outfits on its soil. It is no secret that India's new-found love for Taliban has made the regional security situation precarious, and Pakistan is on the receiving end. The spike in terrorist incidents since the Taliban's takeover of Kabul in August 2021 is a case in point, thanks to the collaborative role of India and Afghanistan, whose sole objective is to destabilise Pakistan. Pakistan's envoy also put the record straight by saying that Islamabad's kinetic intervention inside the Afghan territory was solely meant to exterminate the terrorist hideouts in self-defence. Pakistan, having run out of patience, was justified in doing so. Kabul not only evaded Pakistan's legitimate demand to act against terrorists, but it also breached its commitments to the international community under the 2020 Doha Accord.

Dar-led committee decides to extend closing time for standalone grocery, kiriyana stores to 10pm



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The committee for monitoring austerity measures and fuel conservation on Wednesday decided to extend the closing time for standalone grocery and kiriyana stores by an hour to 10pm.

Pakistan had initially announced austerity measures on March 9 to deal with the impacts of the ongoing war in the Middle East. Last month, Prime

Minister Shehbaz Sharif had approved the extension of the austerity measures till June 13.

In a meeting chaired by Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, the committee also recommended extending the application of these austerity measures till June 30, according to a statement by the DPM's office.

The measures include a 50 per

cent reduction in fuel allowance for official vehicles, with the exemption of operational vehicles such as ambulances and public buses. Other steps include the grounding 60pc of official vehicles and a complete ban on foreign visits by ministers and government officials, excluding those deemed essential for the country's interests, as specified the last time.

The Dar-led committee on Wednesday also reviewed several cases by different ministries "seeking exemptions from applicability of certain austerity measures and finalised recommendations accordingly".

"It was also decided that consular attestation services at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Mofa) and its liaison offices in Quetta, Karachi, Peshawar, Gujrat, and Lahore would remain operational on Fridays as well for public facilitation," the statement read. This decision comes after previously announced austerity measures reduced the working week.

Govt disburses Rs5.4bn fuel subsidy, provides Rs4.61bn support to farmers so far: Muhammad Aurangzeb

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb on Wednesday informed the Senate that the government had disbursed Rs5.4 billion so far under a targeted fuel subsidy programme besides providing Rs4.61 billion support to small farmers in view of rising international fuel prices.

Responding to a Calling Attention Notice moved by Senator Mohsin Aziz about the recent increase in prices of petroleum products and its impact on costs of industrial productions and national economy, the minister said the government announced the relief package after tensions in the Middle East led to an increase in global oil prices.

He said an overall subsidy of



Rs129 billion was provided to reduce the burden on the public.

Aurangzeb said the government initially offered a general subsidy but later shifted to a targeted programme so that relief could reach motorcycle owners, public transport users, transport operators and small farmers. He said around 800,000 motorcycle owners had benefited from the scheme, while financial assistance ranging from Rs35,000 to Rs100,000 was provided to passenger and goods transport vehicles. The minister said Rs3.5 billion had been distributed.

Spain, Pakistan discuss climate cooperation, energy security, sustainable development

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Spain to Pakistan, Carlos Aragón, called on Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr. Musadik Malik on Wednesday and discussed a range of regional and global issues, including climate change, energy security and opportunities for bilateral cooperation in sustainable development. During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on the implications of climate change, evolving geopolitical dynamics and matters of mutual interest. Discussing the Indus Waters Treaty and recent geopolitical developments, Dr. Musadik Malik observed that the international system appeared to be moving from multilateralism towards increasing unilateralism. He said that if a long-standing international agreement such as the Indus Waters Treaty could be held in abeyance unilaterally, it raised important questions regarding the sanctity of international agreements and rules-based cooperation. The minister

highlighted the devastating impact of recent floods in Pakistan, saying that changing weather patterns and increasing climate variability had created greater uncertainty. He stressed the need for enhanced preparedness and preventive interventions to reduce future climate-related risks.

The meeting also focused on energy security and the global transition towards renewable energy sources.

In light of ongoing geopolitical tensions and their impact on energy markets, both sides underscored the importance of accelerating the adoption of green energy solutions, including solar and wind power.

It was noted that recent developments had highlighted the vulnerability of many regions, including Europe, to disruptions in conventional energy supply chains and reinforced the need for diversified and sustainable energy systems. The Spanish ambassador shared observations from his recent visit to Gilgit-Baltistan.

Ayaz grieved over loss of lives in Murree Expressway vehicle fire

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Wednesday expressed deep sorrow and grief over the loss of precious human lives in a vehicle fire incident involving tourists on the Murree Expressway.

In a statement, the Speaker extended his heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the bereaved families affected by the tragic accident.

Describing the incident as extremely unfortunate, Ayaz Sadiq said that he shares the grief and pain of the families who lost their loved ones in the accident.

He prayed for the eternal peace of the deceased and for strength and patience for their families to bear the irreparable loss.

The Speaker also prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured in the incident and directed the relevant authorities to ensure the provision of the best possible medical treatment and facilities to the victims.

Aurangzeb Khichi announces to establish Educational Museum at Asghar Mall College

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Aurangzeb Khan Khichi Wednesday announced to establish a dedicated educational museum at the historic Government Graduate College Asghar Mall, Rawalpindi, reaffirming the government's commitment to preserve country's educational and cultural heritage. The museum will be established through joint efforts of the Department of Archaeology and Museums and the college administration. The announcement was made during a ceremony held to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Department of Archaeology and Museums, National Heritage and Culture Division and



Government Graduate College Asghar Mall. The Federal Minister attended the event as the chief guest and described the agreement as a significant step towards safeguarding one of the country's important academic heritage sites.

Speaking on the occasion, Aurangzeb Khan Khichi said that the government would work jointly with the college administration to establish a museum and develop it as a center of learning, research, and heritage awareness. "We will work together and establish.

1st phase of Rs10bn Park Road project to be completed in July: Talal Chaudhry

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Interior Muhammad Talal Chaudhry on Wednesday informed the Senate that the Rs10 billion Park Road infrastructure project in Islamabad was progressing according to schedule adding that its first phase would likely be completed in July.

Responding to a Calling Attention Notice moved by Senator Fawzia Arshad regarding the prolonged delay in the completion of the Park Road underpass project, he said work on the project started in March and no delay had occurred. He said the project included an underpass, overhead structure, service roads



and other road infrastructure aimed at improving traffic flow and connectivity for residents of the area.

Talal Chaudhry said the first phase comprising the underpass would be completed in July, while the remaining portion of the project would be finalized in August. He said the project was being executed with the cooperation of the Defence.



ISLAMABAD: His Excellency Mr. Carlos Aragon, Ambassador of Spain to Pakistan, called on the Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr. Musadik Malik.

Govt fulfilled 37 JAAC demands, refugee seats issue requires legal, constitutional complexities: Rana Sanaullah

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs, Rana Sanaullah informed the Senate on Wednesday that the federal government had accepted 37 of the 38 demands raised by Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC).

The government remained engaged with JAAC for several months and, through negotiations they made the decision, adding that the sole outstanding demand concerning refugee seats in the Azad

Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Legislative Assembly involved constitutional and legal complexities.

Responding to a point raised by the Leader of the Opposition in Senate, he said the Action Committee had initially emerged in 2023 with demands relating to electricity tariffs and wheat subsidy. The government had already addressed the committee's major demands by providing electricity at Rs four per unit, subsidised wheat, and a Rs 23 billion relief package for the region, he said.



He said Rs 23 billion after negotiations on 37 of the committee's 38 demands. The Adviser said the only unresolved issue concerned refugee seats in the AJK

Legislative Assembly. He said those seats represented families displaced from Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and could not be abolished through executive orders.

He said the government proposed several options, including consultations among political parties, constitutional review, parliamentary consideration and legal forums, but the proposals were rejected.

Rana Sanaullah said all political parties in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK),

the AJK Legislative Assembly and other constitutional forums had supported the position that refugee representation should remain part of the constitutional framework.

He said that certain elements sought to create instability ahead of the upcoming elections despite repeated offers of dialogue and negotiations by the government.

The Adviser said Pakistan would continue supporting the Kashmir cause and the rights of the Kashmiri people, adding that peace and stability in AJK.