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ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar launched the National Polio Eradication Campaign by administering polio drops to child.

PM urges every section of society to play role in complete eradication of polio

Launches anti-polio vaccine drive targeting 44 mln children

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday called upon every section of the society to play role in complete eradication of polio virus from the country. He said everyone would have to participate in this sacred task to ensure safe and healthy future of children of the country. Chairing a meeting of the National Task Force for eradication of polio here, the prime minister directed the concerned authorities to engage religious scholars, teachers, parents and all stakeholders to become part of the polio awareness campaign in the country. He also directed to ensure security of the polio workers during the anti-polio campaign. Expressing satisfaction over the significant drop of polio cases in the country, the prime minister vowed to continue efforts till complete uprooting of this crippling disease from the country.

The nation would celebrate the day when every child of the country would be completely safe from this disease, the prime minister said adding that it was a fact that all the religious scholars, including Imam-e-Kaaba, had declared the polio vaccine absolutely safe and very necessary for the future of children without disabilities. PM Kakar expressing concern over reports of polio virus in the three districts of the country, directed to run a special anti-polio campaign in areas where the polio virus had been reported.

"We are grateful to the international partners for their active participation and key support in Pakistan's National Polio Program," he added. The meeting was informed that



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addresses the PPP candidates who won the local elections of Sindh, during meeting held at Bilawal House in Karachi.

PPP 'only' political party that wants timely elections, says Bilawal

KARACHI (INP): Taking a dig at his allies in the erstwhile Pakistan Democratic Movement-led ruling coalition, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Monday claimed the PPP was the "only" political party in the country that wanted timely elections.

"PPP is the country's only party that wants elections to take place," he said in a press conference in Karachi, lamenting how "so-called" political leaders were coming up with excuses to delay polls.

"You must have seen that sometimes a so-called leader comes on screen and says: 'Delimitation has to happen and until then [elections can be delayed]'. Okay let's accept delimitation [needs to be done] but that process has been completed so now there should be no issue in giving the date [for polls]". "If not delimitation, then sometimes someone begins talking about the weather that 'it is very cold in February and January so how will we contest elections,' while others talk about the law and order situation," Bilawal said. His statement appeared to be a criticism of JUL-F emir Maulana Fazlur Rehman's concerns over holding elections in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at a time when they remain grip-ped by intense winter.

Lt Gen Munir Afsar appointed as NADRA's chairman

By M. Ilyas

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet Monday approved the appointment of Lieutenant General Munir Afsar as the chairman of the National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra).



The federal cabinet approved his appointment after it received a summary containing three names from the Ministry of Interior, a statement from the Prime Minister's Office said.

"The selection committee had shortlisted three best candidates for the post. After a detailed discussion, the cabinet appointed Lieutenant General Munir Afsar to the post," the communique stated.

Later, a notification was also issued, which mentioned that his ap-

pointment would come into effect immediately.

The new chairman Lt Gen Mohamud Munir Afsar Hilal Intiaz (Military) has vast experience in IT related technical development and management in Pakistan Army and United Nations Mission, according to his profile released to the media.

Lt Gen Muhammad Munir is an MPhil in Public Policy and National Security Management.

He compiled a research paper on public policy response in the GIS department during the 2010 floods.

Lt Gen Munir Afsar did his MS in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing. He was also awarded the President's Award for his paper on rapid geospatial data generation through photometry.

MS in National Resource Strategy (C&IT Industry and Supply Chain Management) from NDU Washington DC where he was named a Distinguished Graduate.

He is currently a PhD candidate in Remote Sensing at NUST Islamabad. His research paper is related to detection of plant diseases through remote sensing and artificial intelligence.

"Not right" to say security forces not involved in smuggling

Security personnel involved in smuggling to face court martial: Sarfraz Bugti

Says apex committee meetings being held to tackle terrorism; Caretaker govt taking special measures to curb terrorism, hoarding, smuggling

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti announced on Monday that any security personnel found engaged in cross-border smuggling will face court-martial proceedings. Bugti's statement follows a similar warning issued by Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Gen Asim Munir, emphasising that security officials involved in cross-border smuggling would be subject to court martial.

During a press conference in Islamabad, Bugti acknowledged the involvement of security forces in smuggling activities, stating, "If I say that security forces weren't involved [in

smuggling], it won't be right as the smuggled items are transported via trucks, not camels."

Bugti said that Gen Asim Munir had warned military personnel that involvement in illegal cross-border trade would not only result in court martial but also lead to imprisonment. He explained that the army had its accountability mechanism, which, while not publicly known, does exist.

APP adds: Caretaker Minister for Interior Sarfraz Bugti on Monday said that on the directions of caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Kakar, the Ministry of Interior took

special measures to curb terrorism, hoarding, smuggling, illegal money exchange and other illegal activities.

Addressing a press conference along with caretaker Minister for Information Murtaza Solangi, Sarfraz Bugti said that ten joint check posts consisted of Custom officials, Frontier Core and local Police were established in Baluchistan with special powers of customs clearance, however the number of check posts were not being increased from ten to fourteen.

He said similar fourteen joint check posts are being established in Punjab, ten in Sindh and seven in

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to control illegal activities.

He said on the special reports from the intelligence agencies, an action is being taken against smugglers, hoarders including their facilitators' officials or civilians in all provinces.

The minister said that for stoppage for sugar smuggling, the FBR using latest technology, was tracking the transportation of sugar and in the first phase 54 sugar mills had been taken on board whereas the rest were being taken on the system.

National Counter Narcotics Center is being setup to control drugs smuggling, said the minister adding

that through this system, the information gathering would become faster and easier and drug peddlers could be arrested, besides preparation of the educational programme in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission to sensitize the students against the use of drugs.

The minister further said that Afghan Transit Trade would be monitored from Karachi Port to Afghanistan to control tax evasion, whereas Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) was requested to expedite the prosecution of pending cases of smuggling.

Interim Govt decides to evict 11 lacs foreigners residing illegally in Pakistan

In first phase, illegal residents, in second phase, those with Afghan citizenship and in third phase, those with proof of residence cards will be expelled

ISLAMABAD (APP): The caretaker government has decided to evict 11 lacs foreigners living illegally in Pakistan because of their involvement in funding, facilitating terrorists and other illegal activities.

In the first phase, illegal residents, in the second phase, those with Afghan citizenship and in the third phase, those with proof of residence cards will be expelled. "Illegally resident foreigners pose a serious threat to the security of Pakistan" said a source privy to the development and added that the plan for eviction of illegally residing Afghan citizens has also been approved as this lot is involved in funding, facilitating and smuggling terrorists whereas 7 lacs Afghans have not renewed their

proof of residence in Pakistan.

It has been informed that in the first phase, illegal residents will be deported along with those who do not renew their visas.

In the second phase, those with Afghan citizenship will be deported, in the third phase, those with proof of residence cards will be deported.

The Ministry of Interior has prepared a plan in consultation with the stakeholders and the Afghan government.

In the meantime, the ministry has also issued directives to the concerned to compile a record of Afghans living without permits and prepare a transportation plan to bring them to the Afghan border.

No place for terrorists and their facilitators in Pakistan, reiterate Solangi, Bugti

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi said on Monday that it was responsibility of the government to ensure peace in the country and assist the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in conducting free, transparent and impartial elections.

This, he said, during a meeting with Caretaker Minister for Interior Sarfraz Bugti who called on him here. On his arrival at the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting,

Murtaza Solangi welcomed Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti.

The two ministers discussed matters of mutual interest including law and order situation in the country.

In the meeting, both Murtaza Solangi and Sarfraz Bugti expressed their profound regret over the loss of precious lives in the recent bomb blasts in the country. Both the federal ministers reiterated that there was no place in Pakistan for terrorists and their facilitators

Muhammad Ali, Zhang discuss mutual interest issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Power and Petroleum, Muhammad Ali has held a significant meeting with the Vice President of China National Petroleum Corporation, Mr. Zhang, during the sidelines of the Abu Dhabi International Progressive Energy Congress (ADIPEC). The discussions revolved around various issues of mutual interest between the two na-

tions, according to a news release received here on Monday. Both sides expressed their willingness to enhance future cooperation in the vital energy sector. ADIPEC, renowned as one of the world's largest energy events, is currently underway in Abu Dhabi, attracting participation from 2,200 companies and featuring 30 country pavilions that showcase cutting-edge energy strategies.

IHC dismisses lower courts' verdicts in nine bail petitions of PTI Chairman

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday dismissed decision of trial court for terminating pre-arrest bails of PTI's Chairman in nine case on the basis of non-pursuance.

The court said bail petitions of PTI's head would be considered as pending and trial court would take decision after hearing them again.

A two-judge bench

comprising Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri announced the verdict on appeal of chairman PTI.

It may be mentioned here Additional District and Session Court dismissed the interim bail petitions of PTI's head in six cases, while Anti-Terrorism Court turned terminated three bail petitions due to non-pursuance after his arrest in toshakhana case.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti and Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi addressing a press conference.

President condemns terrorist attack in Turkiye

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday strongly condemned the terrorist attack on a Turkiye's government building in Ankara. The president expressed hope that Turkiye would overcome terrorism under the leadership of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. "I am sure that Turkiye would eliminate the threat of terrorism under the dynamic leadership of President Erdogan," the president posted on social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter.

One of the two terrorists blew himself up in front of the General Directorate of Security in Turkiye's capital Ankara on Sunday.

Nawaz Sharif books ticket for return to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (Online): Ticket has been booked for return of Nawaz Sharif from London to Pakistan.

Nawaz Sharif will land in Abu Dhabi international airport on October 21 from London.

Advance booking for Nawaz Sharif has been got made through private airlines flight 243. Booking has been made in business class of private airlines.

Nawaz Sharif will leave Abu Dhabi for Lahore on October 21.

Private airlines will land In Allama Iqbal international airport at 6.25 p.m.

PM stresses provision of skills to manpower according to contemporary requirements

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday stressed the need to work on a war footing for the provision of skills to the country's manpower according to contemporary requirements.

He said the professional education and vocational training programs should be prepared at par with the needs of the international market.

Chairing the meeting of the federal cabinet here, the prime minister said steps should be taken to increase employment opportunities of skilled people abroad.

On recommendation of federal ministry of education and professional train-

ing, the federal cabinet also approved the service level amended agreement between National Vocational and Technical Training Commission and Saudi agency Takamol.

The prime minister directed that all existing centers of technical education and vocational training should be activated.

On the recommendation of the ministry of education and professional training, the Cabinet also approved the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Area Studies Center, University of Peshawar and Central Asia Research Center of Corvinus University of Hungary.

ADB delegation appreciates Pak efforts for economic revival

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in a meeting with Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Muhammad Jehanzeb on Monday appreciated Pakistan's efforts for the economic revival.

The delegation led by the Senior Director of Human and Social Development Sector Office, Sectors Group (SG-HSD), Ayako Inagaki assured Pakistan of their continuous support in the future for

Social Sector Development Programs which include Healthcare, Education and others, said a press release.

Dr Jehanzeb highlighted various steps being taken by the interim government towards economic revival in the country. He also appreciated the role of the ADB as one of the major development partners of Pakistan, stating that the ADB for its decades-long assistance, has been playing a vital role in the socio-economic uplift of Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Asian Development Bank (ADB) led by Senior Director, Human & Social Development Sector Office, Sectors Group (SG-HSD), Ayako Inagaki, met with Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Muhammad Jehanzeb Khan at his office.

Solangi calls for open but civilised debate on problems being faced by Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Television and Radio Pakistan were available for open but civilised debate.

He said that the 437-page book by Dr Farooq Adil had highlighted various aspects of national history. Murtaza Solangi that it was responsibility of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to conduct elections and the caretaker federal government was duty-bound to assist the ECP in the process.

Talking to media after attending book launching ceremony of Dr Farooq Adil's book "Humne Jo Bhula Diya: Tareekh Ke Gumshuda Awraq", he said Maulana Fazlur Rahman was leader of a large political party.

He said that Maulana's statement about elections in winter must

have been seen by the ECP top hierarchy and they will respond to it.

To a question, he said that Nawaz Sharif's return had nothing to do with caretaker government.

Replying to a question about his recent visit to China, the minister said Pakistan enjoyed evergreen relations with Beijing and future of these ties was very bright.

Congratulating Dr. Farooq Adil, Murtaza Solangi said that the nations that did not learn from history suffered.

He said that responsible journalism was of the hour and determination of responsible journalism was essential.

The country will have to go on the path of development, not destruction, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan in a meeting with Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami former member Saint Sirajul Haq along with a delegation.

Fuel price adjustment case: SC issues notice to all respondents including AG

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has adjourned the hearing till October 16 of petitions filed against declaring illegal the Fuel Price Adjustment in electricity bills.

The court has issued notice to all respondents including Attorney General of Pakistan (AG).

The Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa remarked there is heap of cases in respect of price of electricity. We will decide on October 16 after hearing the arguments. Video link facility will not be provided. All the respondents should come to Islamabad and give arguments.

He gave these remarks while presiding over a 3-member bench of SC Monday.

The CJP rejected the request of Attorney General (AG) for giving him time.

The CJP directed him to make preparation for case and give arguments within half an hour.

Additional Attorney General (AAG) Aamir ur Rehman told the court to give some time.

The CJP remarked if you give in writing that Aamir Rehman is incapable and he cannot give arguments then it is all right. There is heap upon heap of the cases related to electricity prices. There is no notice to AG in this case. We cannot dare to call Aamir Rehman incapable. I think Aamir Rehman is capable advocate and he can give arguments in the case himself. We will hear the case after interval of 11.30 a.m.

The court was told on resumption of hearing there is a petition of adjournment in this case as well. However the companies told the court this is very serious case. The order of the court is required in this case. Because matter of billion rupees is involved in fuel price adjustment in this case. Several works have stopped. Therefore, give any date but there should be a confirmed date.

Life threat to Imran: Bushra Bibi moves IHC for security, protection

ISLAMABAD (Online): Bushra Bibi has resorted to Islamabad High Court (IHC) for security and protection of Imran Khan due to life threat facing chairman PTI in jail.

Bushra Bibi wife of chairman PTI has filed a petition in IHC through Latif Khosa advocate expressing the fear Imran Khan can be given poison to Imran Khan through meal.

The petitioner has taken plea chairman PTI was not allowed to eat home made meal. In the past this facility was given to prisoners. Provision of pure food to Imran Khan has been ensured through responsible medical officer. Adulterated food can be harmful for the life of her husband.

Bushra Bibi has also said in the petition that her husband is not being provided such facilities as per jail manual for which he is entitled to. Implementation of the court order for providing facilities in jail be ensured.

Minister directs PEIRA to ensure 10% scholarships for yearly registration private schools

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhvi on Monday ordered PEIRA to make 10 percent need based scholarships mandatory for yearly registration of private schools.

The decision was made during a high-level meeting convened between the Minister for Federal

eral Minister's previous visit to PEIRA in August where he first raised this subject.

Dr. Sayeda Zia Batool apprised the minister that as per his direction of offering these scholarships was now a compulsory criterion for private schools in Islamabad seeking registration with PEIRA.

This stipulation is explicitly indicated on the registration certificates issued to Private Educational Institutions by PEIRA.

This official observation from PEIRA, addressed to the administrators of private educational institutions, references relevant regulatory guidelines and obligations that these institutions must fulfil.



DC Islamabad directs crackdown against illegal petrol filling stations

ISLAMABAD (INP): Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon directed officers crackdown against illegal petrol filling stations and to ensure the quality and quantity of petrol sold at petrol pumps.

On the instructions of the Deputy Commissioner, the Assistant Commissioner Industrial Area Awais Irshad Bhatti was also conducting inspections of petrol stations to check for the presence of duty and inspection of weights and measures as per the notified roster, ICT Spokesman said on Monday.

The petrol stations found to be violating the rules were being sealed, and strict action would be taken against illegal petrol filling stations.

The Deputy Commissioner has warned petrol pump owners and operators to ensure that they are selling pure and unadulterated petrol in the correct quantity.

He has also appealed to the public to report any irregularities to the authorities.

The Deputy Commissioner's crackdown on petrol pumps was widely appreciated by the masses.

It will also help to curb the illegal petrol filling station business.

The DC's crackdown on petrol pumps was part of a larger campaign by the government to ensure the quality and quantity of goods and services sold to the public.

The government has also taken steps to crackdown on adulterated food and beverages, and on businesses that were using false or misleading weights and measures.

Chairman CII calls on PM Kakar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Council of Islamic Ideology Qibla Ayaz called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar here on Monday.

During the meeting, Qibla Ayaz paid tribute to the prime minister on successfully representing Pakistan in the United National General Assembly (UNGA).

The chairman of the Council informed the prime minister about the current status of religious harmony in the country.

He also invited PM Kakar to attend the general meeting of the Council of Islamic Ideology.

The prime minister said the Islamic Ideology Council had been playing active role in maintaining law and order and religious harmony in the country.

ICP's crackdown against illegally residing foreign nationals continues

ISLAMABAD (APP): Acting on the instructions of ICCPO Dr Akber Nasir Khan the Islamabad Capital Police (ICP) has initiated robust measures against illegally residing foreign nationals within the federal capital.

A public relations officer on Monday said that, during the ongoing year, 65 cases have been registered in Islamabad against the illegally residing foreign nationals, while a total of 451 illegal immigrants have been apprehended, and facing legal procedures before relevant courts.

Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan emphasized that the purpose of these actions is to deter the unlawful establishment of residency by foreign nationals within the federal capital jurisdiction.

He stressed that the presence of these illegal foreign nationals in Pakistan is only permissible in accordance with national laws and regulations.

He also highlighted that Islamabad Capital Police is actively pursuing legal measures against individuals who aid and abet illegal residency or employment of foreign nationals. The citizens are urged to uphold Pakistani laws and report any suspicious individuals or activities related to undocumented foreign nationals by dialing the "Pucar-15" helpline.

Jamal deposits valuable gift in Toshakhana

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah has deposited a valuable gift in Toshakhana which was received by him during his recent visit to Qatar. The gift was a valuable bronzes sculpture of falcon, said a press release here on Monday.

The gift was given by the Minister of Culture State of Qatar Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad bin Jassim Al Thani as a gesture of goodwill.

Jamal Shah emphasized that this gift rightfully belongs to the nation, which is why he chose to place it in Toshakhana. He clarified that he has no intention of keeping any gift items presented to him during meetings with diplomats or on future foreign visits.



ANF crackdown against drug smuggling continues

ISLAMABAD (INP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) continues its operations against drug trafficking and recovers more than 139 kg of drugs in 7 operations different operations while arresting 8 accused.

According to the spokesman of ANF on Tuesday, 45 kg 600 grams of hashish and 12 kg of opium were recovered from the vehicle near Motorway Toll Plaza Khanawal.

Meanwhile a resident of Islamabad was smuggling drugs by hiding them in the trunk of a car but was apprehended by the ANF.

During operation at Allama Iqbal International Airport, 53 capsules filled with cocaine were recovered from the stomach of a passenger. The accused had reached Lahore from Muscat via flight number PK-230.

The spokesperson further said that 4 suspects arrested in a joint operation with Pakistan Rangers Punjab in Kasur and 7 kg of heroin was recovered from their possession.

At Sialkot International Airport, 50 ice and 50 hashish filled capsules were recovered from the passenger's stomach. The accused was a resident of Pakpattan and leaving for Doha via flight number QR-631.

Meanwhile 9 kg hashish was recovered from a local resident near Ghazar Taos Bala Bazaar in a joint operation with FC Balochistan at Luck Pass Check Post. During the operation, 40 kg of opium was recovered from 5 parcels in the bus.

Polio eradication mission in ICT AC Pothohar conducts review meeting

ISLAMABAD (APP): In order to ensure the success of the polio eradication campaign in Islamabad, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Pothohar Nahel Hafiz on Monday visited polio teams in different areas of the subdivision.

He was accompanied by the District Health Services Chief Officer (DHSCO) during a review meeting with Area Incharges and UCMOs to review the progress of the campaign on the first day, ICT spokesman Dr Abdullah Tabasum said.

The Assistant Commissioner issued necessary instructions in accordance with the anti-polio campaign guidelines.

He emphasized the importance of micro planning, target coverage, and addressing denials, N/S, and other issues.

He also urged the polio teams to work diligently and with utmost dedication to ensure that every child under the age of five is administered vaccination against the crippling disease.



ISLAMABAD: Laborers are busy in their work during the construction of Margala Town Under pass, as the construction work is resume, which was halted due to improvements in the design.

IESCO plans to start installing over 1.4m AMI meters from January 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) has planned to start installing over 1.4 million Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) meters of all tariffs in Rawalpindi circle from January 2024.

Official sources told that the project would be completed within two years. Currently data back and operation centers were being set up at Gujjar Khan and IESCO Headquarters and G-10 respectively besides operational laboratory. They said that initially some 512 AMI non-billing meters were installed in March 2022 as a pilot project.

Switching over to AMI system will bring about a permanent elimination of power pilferage with a systematic control of transmission through round-the-clock monitoring of the electricity meters.

This new technology, being introduced, would help reduce power sector losses, enhance quality of billing and recoveries, control power load-shedding and would also address the consumers' complaints of wrong or over-billing, they said.

The AMI system will end human interventions in meter reading, enhance customer support, better measurements, more accurate billing, a degree of control of consumption and help the persisting dilemma of power outage by enhancing ability of IESCO to reduce non-technical losses.

This system has already been installed at Multan and Lahore Electric Supply Companies (MEPCO and LESCO) but at a very limited scale adding that the project was launched at Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) with the financial assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

ADB had provided \$170 million for AMI project being carried out in the IESCO phase wise.



Senator Professor Sajid Mir, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan presiding over a Meeting of the Committee at Parliament House Islamabad.