



PM directs to ensure timely, uninterrupted fertilizer supply for Rabi crop

Caretaker PM Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to ensure timely and uninterrupted supply of fertilizer to the farmers for the Rabi crop. The prime minister instructed for the timely arrangement of the fertilizer's buffer stock. (Details on Page 8)

DAYS REMAINING

6

Only 6 days left for illegal immigrants to leave Pakistan

Foreign citizens residing illegally in Pakistan now have only 6 days to leave the country or face deportation. Foreigners living illegally must leave Pakistan by October 31 or law enforcement agencies will ensure their arrest and deportation. In the recent meeting of the Apex Committee of the National Action Plan, it had been decided to take strict action against the illegal immigrants living in Pakistan and the trade and properties of illegal immigrants

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Solidarity

RAWALPINDI: The Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir met Ambassador of Palestine, Ahmad Jawad Rabei at General Headquarters.



Photo: ISPR

'Israeli war on Gaza is just another violation of international law': Gen: Asim

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Munir, NI(M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) met the Ambassador of Palestine to Pakistan, His Excellency Ahmad Jawad Rabei at General Headquarters today.

COAS expressed condolences on the loss of Palestinian lives in the ongoing war in Gaza. COAS expressed grave concern over unabated violence and willful, indiscriminate killing of innocent civilians by the Israeli Defence Forces in the war. Incessant attacks on civilian population, schools, universities, aid workers, hospitals and the forced exodus of Palestinians from Gaza are manifest crimes against humanity.

COAS reiterated the call for immediate cessation of hostilities, opening of humanitarian corridor to Gaza, protection of civilians and adherence to the International Humanitarian Law.

COAS also reiterated Pakistan's principled support for an independent, viable and contiguous state of Palestine established on the basis of pre-1967 borders with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

"Pakistan believes that the fresh spate of violence in Gaza is the result of unabated repression, continued human rights violations and state-sponsored sacrilege of Al Aqsa mosque. Conflating this war with terrorism would be naïve; taking a narrow and self-serving view of the issue as an isolated attack, obscures brutal oppression spanning decades that has led to this outcome" COAS remarked.

COAS said "At this critical juncture, it is imperative that the international community mobilizes to put an early end to unfolding human tragedy due to disproportionate and unlawful use of force by Israeli Defence Forces and desist from encouraging them to continue perpetrating atrocities in manifest violation of all norms of civility and humane conduct".

PM vows to resist anti-vaxxers to achieve dream of polio-free Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday, vowing to resist the individuals propagating against the polio vaccination, resolved to achieve the dream of a polio-free Pakistan by carrying forward the journey with unshakeable commitment.

"I can assure that we gonna have it. We will realise this dream. We will never step back, may be an inch, may be a foot or may be a mile. This will always be a forth-going journey," the prime minister said addressing a ceremony to mark the World Polio Day.

The event was organized by the Pakistan Polio Programme to pay homage to the resilience and dedication of frontline workers on the World Polio Day, which is commemorated on October 24 every year.

Federal Health Minister Dr Nadeem Jan, Federal Health Secretary Ifikhar Ali Shallwani, representatives of polio partners Rotary, World Health Organisation and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and frontline workers and their families were in attendance.

The prime minister said by opposing the polio vaccine, the anti-vaxxers, intentionally or unintentionally, were partnering with the forces of darkness. He emphasised the role of faith leaders and the society to make such people realise that they were actually partnering with the destroyer of the humans.

"This is unacceptable. We will resist this," he resolved.

He expressed his gratitude to the global



partners who continued to supporting Pakistan in its endeavour of polio eradication.

Recognising the sacrifices of the polio workers and the security personnel guarding them, the prime minister said they had paid the highest price for the cause.

He said the frontline health workers were the heroes of Pakistan, who were working in challenging environments, facing social barriers and even threats to their safety without ever losing their dedication.

The prime minister recognised the services of three police constables who were martyred while on polio duty and to two vaccinators who were injured.

He also presented appreciation shields to the former coordinator of the Sindh Emergency Operation Cell (EOC) Fayyaz Abbasi and the family of Huma Ashraf, who was severely injured in a train accident while on polio duty in September.

The prime minister also announced to personally visit Huma as a gesture to recognise her services in the mission of a polio-free Pakistan.

"Today is the day to remember how far we have come and how crucial polio eradication efforts remain. Pakistan cannot be the reason to hold the world back. We must move forward to 2024 with the realisation that the weight of global eradication lies on our shoulders. We must leave no room for the virus to spread and reach every child with the vaccine before the virus has a chance to permanently change their lives," he remarked.

Caretaker Health Minister Nadeem Jan, in his address, paid homage to the polio workers who were striving to accomplish the mission of a polio-free Pakistan while facing many odds and hardships.

He emphasised that the community health workers should be acknowledged and honoured as motivation would enhance their performance.

He called for changing the narra-

tive from "Pak Fights Polio" to "Pakistan Winning Over Polio".

He expressed the hope that the World Polio Day next year would mark the complete eradication of polio from Pakistan.

Federal Health Secretary Ifikhar Shallwani said the campaign was started in 1994 and continued across Pakistan with dedication to date with support from the aid agencies.

Besides the polio drive, other related subjects including maternal and neonatal healthcare were also worked on, he added.

WHO Representative in Pakistan Palitha Mahipala said the Day was observed to commemorate the global journey. He said the polio eradication was one of the major commitments made by WHO which provided technical support to Pakistan.

He said the day was not far when Pakistan would get rid of the crippling disease within next few years as the number of paralysis had sharply declined.

UNICEF Chief Polio Officer Melissa Corkum said the credit for the successes went to the health workers who despite challenges went door to door in every campaign.

She said the Day was not only to commemorate the successes but also to remember those who sacrificed their lives during the struggle.

Rotary's District Governor Mr Masrur J. Scheik highlighted his organisation's support for polio eradication through funds, volunteering during campaigns, social mobilisation of workers and, installing solar water filtration plants.

Effective border management in interest of both Pakistan, Afghanistan: Solangi

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday said peace was linked with Pakistan and Afghanistan and effective border management and security was in the interest of the peoples of both countries.

In a meeting with Afghan media delegation, problems of Afghan journalists, visa issues and other important issues were discussed.

He said it was the responsibility of the media to identify the enemies of peace so that the state could defeat them.

Murtaza Solangi held out the assurance that the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would be contacted on the visa issues of Afghan journalists.

As a responsible state, Pakistan will ensure that all foreigners enter the country through legal channels, he added.

The delegation of Afghan journalists thanked the Federal Minister of Information for the assurance to redress their issues.

Naqeebullah murder case: ATC to indict suspects on Nov 2

Bureau Report

KARACHI: In a major development, the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) on Tuesday fixed a date for indicting the accused named in the Naqeebullah murder case.

A hearing of the Naqeebullah murder case was held in Karachi's anti-terrorism court (ATC) in which the court fixed the date for the indictment of the former SHO Amanullah Marwat, Sadaqat Hussain, and others.

The prosecutor submitted the challan to the court, while the copies of the challan were provided to the accused nominated in the case.

It is worth mentioning here that the court approved the bail of an accused Shoaib aka Shooter. The accused cops had gone into hiding after facing allegations of murdering Naqeebullah Mehsud.

The court directed to produce the arrested suspects in the next hearing, and adjourned the hearing till Nov 02.

It is pertinent to mention that an anti-terrorism court (ATC) acquitted former SSP-Malir Rao Anwar and other accused in the high-profile Naqeeb Ullah Mehsud murder case on January 23.

The court announced that the prosecution has failed to prove the allegations against the prime accused Rao Anwar and others.

Mehsud was killed on January 13, 2018, in Karachi during a fake encounter allegedly staged by Rao Anwar, the senior superintendent of police of Karachi's Malir district.

People's Party never given 'level playing field' says Gillani

Asim Tanveer

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister Yousaf Raza Gillani appeared in accountability court in Toshakhana reference hearing on Tuesday.

Former president Asif Ali Zardari, another accused in Toshakhana reference could not appear in the hearing and his lawyer Farooq H. Naek sought exemption from the court.

The court granted Zardari's exemption plea in the case hearing.

Yousaf Raza Gillani talking to media outside the court premises said the People's Party should not object for the 'level playing field' as the party was never given level playing field at any time.

"It will not be a new issue for the PPP", party stalwart said. Commenting on the next government Gillani said that let the people decide it in elections.

On a question, former PM said that "the PTI's cases have been in courts let the courts' decide these cases".

Nawaz Sharif's sentence in Al-Azizia reference 'suspended'

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Caretaker Punjab government on Tuesday 'suspended' sentence awarded to former prime minister and PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif in Al-Azizia reference.

Nawaz Sharif was convicted by accountability courts in Avenfield and Al-Azizia references.

The accountability court had awarded 10-year jail term with eight million Pounds fine to Nawaz Sharif in the Avenfield case and a 07-year sentence in Al-Azizia reference.

The court also disqualified Sharif from holding public office for 10 years.

However, in 2019, his sentence in the Al-Azizia reference was suspended by the Lahore High Court (LHC) on medical grounds. He was then permitted to fly to London on medical grounds.

Sources privy to the development said that the caretaker Punjab cabinet suspended the sentence of Nawaz Sharif under Criminal Procedural Code Section 401.

According to Section 401 of the Criminal Procedural Code, the government reserves the right to suspend the sentence of the convict.

The former three-time premier landed in Pakistan on Saturday (October 21) after ending his self-exile of four years. He was accorded a warm welcome by the PML-N and addressed a huge public gathering at Minar-e-Pakistan to reveal his plan of steering Pakistan out of crises.

PIA cancels another two dozen flights amid fuel shortage

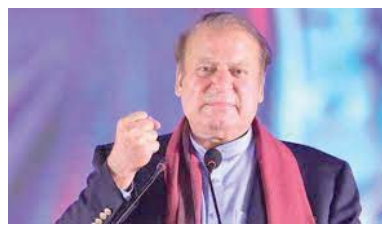
Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The restrictions on fuel supply owing to non-payment of dues continued to affect the flight operations of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) on Tuesday.

The national flag carrier cancelled at least 20 domestic and international flights and delay several others.

A PIA spokesman said that due to a limited fuel supply for PIA aircrafts on a daily basis and for operational reasons, the flights were cancelled while the departure of some flights had been rescheduled. Five flights from Karachi to Lahore, Gwadar, Sukkar and Islamabad, while two flights from Lahore airport have also been suspended.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar directed authorities concerned to expedite the privatization process of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and other loss-making state-owned enterprises.



Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting regarding Urea availability for Rabi crop on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

PM directs to ensure timely, uninterrupted fertilizer supply for Rabi crop

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to ensure timely and uninterrupted supply of fertilizer to the farmers for

the Rabi crop. The prime minister, chairing a review meeting on the provision of Urea for the Rabi crop, instructed for the timely arrangement of the fertilizer's buffer stock.

He asked the respective district administrations to

keep strict vigilance on the fertilizer prices. The meeting was also apprised of the current production of the fertilizer and the expected demand. The participants were briefed about the decisions of the Economic Coordination Committee for the

uninterrupted provision of the fertilizer. The prime minister instructed the relevant ministries to formulate a comprehensive mechanism for the smooth supply of the fertilizer for Rabi crop. The meeting was also briefed about the prices of the ferti-

lizer and its raw material, and the demand and supply for the fertilizer factories. Caretaker ministers Gohar Ejaz, Kausar Abdullah Malik and Muhammad Ali, Advisor to PM Ahad Cheema and relevant senior officers attended the meeting.

China, Pakistan explore investment prospects in textile sector

Spokesman Report

BEIJING: Federal Minister of Commerce, Dr Gohar Ejaz held productive discussions with influential Chinese business leaders and investment groups during the recently concluded 3rd Belt and Road Forum in Beijing. A meeting with Zhang Xi'an, vice president of the China Textile Import and Export Chamber, on October 17 highlighted investment opportunities in the textile industry.

The meeting served as a platform for both sides to explore investment avenues and assess the collaboration potential in the textile sector, which was also attended by



Ghulam Qadir, the Trade and Investment Counselor of the Pakistani

Embassy in China, and key players of China's textile industry, CEN reported on Tuesday. With China being a global leader in textile manufacturing and Pakistan renowned for its rich textile resources and expertise, the prospect of closer ties in this industry holds immense promise. A consensus was reached on several key areas of collaboration, including investment facilitation, trade promotion, and exchange of expertise and technologies. Both sides expressed their commitment to fostering a conducive environment and encouraging more Chinese and Pakistani textile enterprises to explore investment and trade opportunities.

Sugar price jacked up at utility stores

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The government-run utility store corporation (USC) on Tuesday jacked up the price of sugar by Rs8 per kg.

Earlier this month, the USC was facing a shortage of sugar and the sources claimed that efforts were underway to purchase 40 thousand tons of sugar. According to sources knowing the matter, the Utility Stores Corporation (USC) has increased the price of subsidized sugar by Rs8 per kg, with immediate effect.

With the increase the price of sugar for the general public has reached Rs155 per kg while the commodity would be sold at Rs109 per kg to the individuals registered in Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), the sources said.

Earlier, the sugar was being sold at Rs101 at the utility stores corporation. Separately, a major crackdown against hoarders across the country is going on so far 6,994 metric tons of sugar have been recovered.

According to the data, A total of 5,112 metric tons of fertilizer, 2,366 metric tons of flour, and 6,994 metric tons of sugar have been recovered across the country, while 31.75 metric tons of fertilizer and 4.535 metric tons of sugar were retrieved from the largest province of Pakistan, Punjab.

DG National Police Bureau Briefs Interior Sec on NBP Role

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Director General National Police Bureau (NPB) Dr. Ehsan Sadiq on Tuesday briefed the Federal Secretary for Interior Aftab Akbar Durrani on the mandate, role, functions, existing and proposed future initiatives, and challenges of NPB. Secretary Interior emphasized on the important and critical role of NPB and commended its performance despite resource constraints, said the press release.

He also assured the complete support of Ministry of Interior in enabling NPB to carry out its mandated functions effectively and impactfully. Earlier, the Director General NPB, Dr. Ehsan Sadiq informed the visiting Secretary that the Bureau is secretariat of important institutions of National Police Management Board (NPMB), National Police Reforms Committee (NPRC) and National Public Safety Commission (NPSC). In this capacity, NPB is spearheading the police reforms, inter provincial police coordination and international cooperation. The Secretary Interior was also briefed on the proposed initiatives.

SC seeks bar councils' comments about drafting of petition

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought comments from Pakistan and Punjab bar councils regarding teaching of petitions' drafting in law colleges. The court sought the comments from the bar councils after it noted flaws in the drafting of a petition during hearing of a case pertaining to a conflict of land distribution. It, however, noted that the bar councils had no connection with the case.

Expressing his displeasure over mistakes in the petition, Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Esa observed that when the lawyers of Punjab would learn to write a writ petition. Should all the law colleges of Punjab be closed, he asked. He remarked that the purpose of hiring a lawyer was that he would draft a writ petition, and submit it after its vetting. He said most of the conflicts and strikes pertained to the lawyers of Punjab. How the lawyers had the right to observe strikes, he asked. Lawyer Chaudhry Afrasiab adopted the stance that he had not prepared the petition himself. The court ordered to fix the case again after six weeks.

Shahid Khaqan Abbasi opens up on skipping Nawaz Sharif's homecoming rally

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister and disgruntled PML-N leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi Tuesday revealed reasons behind skipping Nawaz Sharif's welcome rally at Minar-e-Pakistan Lahore.

Talking to media outside the accountability court, the former prime minister revealed that he was no longer a senior leader of the party and he did not find it necessary to attend every event.

"I am not a senior leader of the party and it is not necessary to attend every event" Shahid Khaqan said on a question about not attending Nawaz Sharif's homecoming rally.

On NAB, the former premier reiterated his allegations that NAB has paralyzed the country and it has been five years since he has been appearing before the courts.

"It's been five years since my case is under trial and I am attending the proceedings but nothing is being done, only dates are being given," said Shahid Khaqan Abbasi.

Army Exercise Series held between Pakistan and Malaysian Armed Forces



City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The Bilateral Army Exercise Series was held between Pakistan and Malaysian Armed Forces. The exercise commenced on 9 October and culminated on 22 October 2023 in Malaysia.

The exercise was based on 2 stag-

es, namely Cross Training Exercise and Field Training Exercise. The exercise has greatly benefited both the Malaysian and Pakistan Army to strengthen bilateral relations and establish friendly relations amongst officers and members of both countries by exchanging ideas, knowledge and skills.

Information Group Officer Daniyal Gilani has been transferred

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Information Group Officer Daniyal Gilani has been transferred to Punjab. In this regard, the Establishment Division has issued an official notification. Daniyal Gilani prior to this remained posted as Chairman of Central Film Censor Board, Press Secretary to the Prime Minister of Pakistan in Beijing, China and Paris General Manager Public Affairs in PIA. He has also served in the Audit Bureau of Circulation of the Federal Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.



tion of the Federal Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Anti-corruption Establishment arrested labor officer

News Desk

LAHORE: Anti-corruption Establishment arrested labor officer Multan Saleem Ansari red-handed for taking bribe. According to the details, Director General Anti-Corruption Establishment Punjab Sohail Zafar Chatta has issued instructions to all the Regional Directors to arrest the corrupt elements at any cost and bring them to book so that they can be made an example. On the special instructions of the Director General, ACE Multan

along with the Magistrate arranged a trap raid and

arrested Labor Officer Multan Salim Ansari red-handed for taking bribe. Labor officer Salim Ansari had

demanding bribe of one lac rupees from the citizen for firm registration, on which the citizen contacted Anti-Corruption.

Regional Director Anti-Corruption Multan Rashid Nimat directed an immediate trap-raid, upon which Anti-Corruption Multan reached the spot and arrested Labor Officer Multan Saleem Ansari.

He was arrested red-handed for accepting a bribe of one lac rupees from the citizen.

Marked rupees were recovered from the accused and case was registered. Anti-corruption spokesman said in this regard that we are struggling for a corruption-free Punjab. People should point out the corrupt elements fearlessly.

CCP and ACCA collaborate to create awareness of competition law

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) and the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) will jointly create awareness of the Competition Law among ACCA members.

ACCA, a global professional body of finance professionals, has a vast member base in Pakistan, serving in various sectors. As per the discussion held between CCP and ACCA, Continued Professional Development (CPD) activities will be carried out across Pakistan for ACCA members. The CPD will focus on Competition Law, which will benefit the ACCA members, businesses, and consumers.

CCP will also offer internship opportunities to fresh ACCA members and affiliates in various departments of the Commission. This will provide them with valuable hands-on experience in the field of Competition Law and regulatory processes.

The meeting was attended from CCP by Mr. Salman Amin, Member (OFT, Exemption & Advocacy), Mr. Shahzad Hussain, DG Legal & Advocacy, and Mr. Salman Zafar, HOD C&TA & Finance CCP whereas the ACCA side was represented by Mr. Assad Hameed Khan, Head of ACCA Pakistan, and Mr. Asad Malik, Head of Business Development - North.

CTD arrests 'mastermind' in Amjad Sabri murder case

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) of Sindh police on Tuesday claimed to have rounded up the 'mastermind' who planned the killing of renowned Qawwal, Amjad Sabri

Amjad Sabri, aged 45, was traveling by car from his home in the Liaquatnagar area to a television studio when a motorcycle pulled up alongside the vehicle and the attackers opened fire on June 22, 2016.

The killing of one of Pakistan's most loved qawwals and naat khawan saw the nation descending into shared sorrow, with an outpouring of grief the likes of which weren't seen before on Pakistani social media.

According to a CTD spokesperson, an operative of Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, Qasim Rasheed was rounded up when he was activating his compliance after getting released from jail.

CTD said Asim Capri and Ishaq Bobby killed Amjad Sabri on the directives of Qasim Rasheed from jail.

Rasheed has confessed to killing security officers and Amjad Sabri in his initial statement. Handgrenades and arms have also been recovered from the possession of Qasim Rasheed.

