



Youth are valuable assets, and the government is committed to empowering them for the bright future of the country

Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication
Shaza Fatima

Ishaq Dar reaffirms Pak's commitment to CICA's vision for a common, comprehensive, cooperative & sustainable security in Asia

Secretary General of CICA Ambassador Kairat Sarybay calls on Ishaq Dar

ISLAMABAD: Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, who is currently on a visit to Pakistan, called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Tuesday.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to CICA's vision for a common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security in Asia. He emphasized the need for conflict prevention; addressing the root causes of endemic disputes; and finding sustainable solutions for lasting peace and development in the CICA region. He also emphasized the significance of preventive diplomacy, multilateralism and regional collaboration in addressing emerging global challenges. Secretary General Sarybay appreciated Pakistan's active and constructive role in CICA and briefed the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister on the ongoing activities and the future outlook of CICA. SABAH

Security forces eliminate 3 BLA terrorists responsible for Panjgur DC's killing

RAWALPINDI: As part of ongoing efforts to curb the menace of terrorism, security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation (IBO) and eliminated three Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) terrorists responsible for martyrdom of Panjgur Deputy Commissioner Zakir Baloch. "Today's operation has avenged the heinous act and has brought the perpetrators to justice," the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement on Tuesday.

According to the military's media wing, the operation was carried out between August 18 and 19. The statement comes as the late bureaucrat was shot dead on the National Highway near the Khada-Kucha area of Mastung district on August 12.

Baloch along with District Chairman Malik Jan and his friend Ahmed Jan was on his way to Quetta from Panjgur in a vehicle when the armed assailants opened fire at them near the Kand Umrani area and managed to escape from the scene, Levies sources had said. As a result, the DC and his friends sustained bullet injuries. After being informed, rescue officials rushed to the scene and shifted them to a nearby hospital. The DC succumbed to his injuries during the initial treatment process. Both injured were referred to Quetta Civil Hospital's trauma centre for further treatment. Providing details on the IBO, the ISPR said that three terrorists were injured owing to an intense exchange during the security forces' action.

Noting that the militants were involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area, the ISPR reaffirmed the forces' resolve to thwart attempts at sabotaging the peace, stability and progress of Balochistan. PR



ISLAMABAD: Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Ambassador Kairat Sarybay called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar. INP

There should be no politics on relief measures: PM Shehbaz

PM pays tribute to Rashid Minhas



VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif says the federal government is working on a comprehensive plan for reforms in different sectors of the economy. Addressing the meeting of the Federal Cabinet, which met in Islamabad on Tuesday, PM Shehbaz Sharif said power sector, agriculture, digitalization of FBR, commerce and trade are the key focuses of this plan. The Prime Minister said the recent package announced by Punjab government for electricity consumers, using electricity between 200 to 500 units, is from the provincial budget and

there is no contribution by the federal government in it. Regretting the rumors being spread in this regard, he said there should be no politics on relief measures, and instead all the provincial governments should follow suit and take measures for relief of the people.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said the federal government is doing its part to provide relief to people across the country. He mentioned the 50 billion rupees subsidy package in electricity prices to consumers across the country, using up to 200 units of electricity for three months from July to September. He said this relief package covered about 86 percent electricity consumers across the country. Shehbaz Sharif also mentioned the 70 billion rupees project in collaboration of federal and

Balochistan government to shift 28 thousand tube wells in the province on solar energy. He said the federal government has a share of 55 billion rupees in this project.

Highlighting the measures to stabilize the economy, the Prime Minister said inflation is at the lowest rate of last three years as it has dropped to 11 percent from 38 percent. He said we will continue our efforts to further reduce it. About the recent damages caused by monsoon rains in different part of the country, the Prime Minister appreciated NDMA's coordination and efforts in this regard.

On this occasion, the Cabinet offered feteiha for Shuhada who sacrificed their lives in ongoing war against terrorism and those died in flash floods and rains.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday paid tribute to Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas Shaheed (Nishan-i-Haider) on his 53rd martyrdom anniversary, who sacrificed his life to thwart the nefarious designs of the enemy. The prime minister, in his message on the anniversary, said that Rashid Minhas Shaheed had sacrificed his life by setting an example of gallantry. His dutifulness, valor and commitment to oath for the country's defence is a role model for the young generation, he added. "The whole nation including me salutes this brave soldier of the Pakistan Air Force. The nation can never forget the sacrifices of soldiers and officers of Pakistan's armed forces for safeguarding the country," he commented.

Pakistan conducts successful training launch of Shaheen-II ballistic missile

ISPR says launch aimed at evaluating sub-systems incorporated for improved accuracy, enhanced survivability

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan on Tuesday successfully conducted a training launch of surface-to-surface Shaheen-II ballistic missile making the country's defence even more impregnable.

The launch was aimed at training troops, validating various technical parameters and performance evaluation of different sub-systems incorporated for improved accuracy and enhanced survivability, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement.

The military's media wing also noted that the launch was witnessed by senior officers from the Strategic Plans Division, Army Strategic Forces Command, scientists and engineers of strategic organisations.

Reacting to the Shaheen-II launch, the director general Strategic Plans Division appreciated the technical prowess, dedication and commitment of scientists who contributed towards this landmark achievement. Furthermore, President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamshad Mirza and the three services chiefs also congratulated the scientists and engineers on this accomplishment. Today's training launch comes as the country's security forces often carry out routine test launches of various missiles in its arsenal.

Last month, the Pakistan Navy, demonstrated combat readiness via successful live weapon firing of FN-6 surface-to-air missiles (SAM) in Karachi.

During the impressive firepower demonstration, the PN's GBAD system fired SAMs and successfully engaged the intended airborne targets. PR



Gas tariff to remain unchanged till winter months: Musadik Malik

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Musadik Malik has said that the current gas tariff would remain unchanged until the winter months of December and January. While addressing a news conference in Islamabad on Tuesday, he ruled out the rumours regarding increase in gas prices. Musadik Malik said that the Punjab government has given relief of Rs14 on each unit for the consumers using up to 500 units which will cover ninety-eight percent households. He said the federal government earlier had announced a subsidy of 50 billion rupees for the consumers using up to two hundred units across the country. Commenting on the political situation, Musadik Malik urged the PTI to shun the politics of arson and anarchy and rather engage in the dialogue process to sort out the issues. INP

Human smuggling is a mafia & no country can deal with it single handedly: Mohsin Naqvi



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Senator Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi met with Ambassador of Netherlands Henny de Vries at the Ministry of Interior. During the meeting, bilateral cooperation and matters of mutual interest, including enhancing cooperation in various sectors were discussed. Both countries emphasized the need to enhance mutual cooperation to prevent human smuggling.

Interior Minister stated that Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with the Netherlands and is keen to expand ties in various sectors. He congratulated the new government and his counterpart in the Netherlands on assuming the office. Mohsin Naqvi said that

human smuggling is a mafia, and no country can deal with it single handedly. He stressed that joint efforts are essential to combat human smuggling effectively. He highlighted that in this regard, an Italian team will soon visit Pakistan. Both countries also agreed to increase cooperation for the welfare of Afghan refugees. Interior Minister stated that Pakistan has been hosting Afghan refugees for several decades. During the meeting, it was also agreed to enhance cricket ties between the two countries. Mohsin Naqvi said that a plan to promote cricket relations with Netherlands is being prepared. Ambassador Henny de Vries congratulated Mohsin Naqvi on his nomination as President of the Asian Cricket Council. She said that promoting cooperation in various sectors, including sports, is of great importance. She added that enhancing cooperation in the field of cricket will provide the Netherlands' team with an opportunity to learn from Pakistan's experience. Federal Secretary Interior Khurram Ali Agha and Additional Secretary Interior Riffat Mukhtar Rajah were also present on the occasion. SABAH

NA Speaker meets President of Belarus, reaffirms strengthening of ties

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Tuesday said that both Pakistan and Belarus enjoy cordial ties based upon shared interests. He expressed resolve to further strengthen ties between both nations. The Speaker said, "Pakistan has a vast potential of investment in the energy, trade and agriculture sectors". He expressed these views during his meeting with the President of the Republic of Belarus Mr. Alexander Lukashenko in Minsk, Belarus, said a press release was issued here. The Speaker said that Pakistan-Belarus bilateral relations are characterized by mutual respect and trust. He underscored that Pakistan-Belarus ties would further expand by collaboration in economic, industrial, and agriculture sectors. Furthermore, he emphasized to deepen parliamentary contacts between both nations. The President of Belarus Mr. Alexander Lukashenko stated that Belarus attaches great importance to its close ties with Pakistan. He also expressed the desire to further expand bilateral cooperation with Pakistan. It is to mention that parliamentary delegation led by the Speaker of the NA Sardar Ayaz Sadiq is on an official visit to Belarus on the special invitation of his Belarusian counterpart.

Mir Jam Kamal Khan reaffirms the govt's commitment to revitalizing Pakistan's gems & jewelry industry



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Mir Jam Kamal Khan reaffirmed the government's commitment to revitalizing Pakistan's gems and jewelry industry during a key meeting with the Sectoral Council for Gems and Jewelry.

The meeting, which gathered virtually, senior officials from the public and private sectors, focused on enhancing the sector's export potential and aligning with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's vision to make this billion-dollar industry a cornerstone of Pakistan's economy. Minister Jam Kamal Khan highlighted the Prime Minister's active engagement with the sector, noting that PM Shehbaz Sharif has personally convened three to four meetings over the past few months to address the industry's challenges and opportunities. The Minister underscored the government's dedication to this sector, emphasizing that the policy-making process must be driven by input from private sector stakeholders to ensure its success.

During the meeting, the Chairman of the Council, Salman Hanif, pinpointed regulatory barriers, particularly amendments to SRO 760, as critical hurdles impeding the industry's growth. Hanif argued for the regularization of the sector to unlock its full potential. He stressed that without addressing these regulatory challenges, the industry would struggle to reach its export targets. Mir Jam Kamal Khan assured the council mem-

bers that their recommendations would be thoroughly considered. He expressed the Ministry of Commerce's commitment to developing a comprehensive strategy that would encompass the entire value chain, from mine to market. The strategy, he noted, would be formulated with significant input from the private sector and would be presented to higher forums for policy approval. "Without the private sector's insights, our policies and infrastructure plans may not align with the ground realities," Mir Jam Kamal Khan stated. He also mentioned that the government is committed to fostering confidence among private investors to boost business and exports. The council members raised various issues, including the need for reforms in banking channels and the necessity of revising SRO 760 on a clause-by-clause basis. Responding to these concerns, Mir Jam Kamal Khan requested a comprehensive roadmap and actionable plan from the council within a week, aiming to finalize a robust proposal ahead of the next Prime Ministerial meeting.

Salman Hanif, praised the Minister's vision and support for the sector, expressing optimism that these reforms could significantly boost the industry. The Minister further assured that the council would be involved in upcoming high-level discussions and that dedicated ministry officers would work closely with the council to finalize the proposal. SABAH

Youth valuable assets, govt to empowering them for bright future: Shaza Fatima

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, on Tuesday said that the youth are valuable assets, and the government is committed to empowering them for the bright future of the country.

Addressing the National Youth Convocation, she said, "One of the biggest resources and assets of our nation is its youth, with 68% of Pakistan's population under the age of 35." She added that by empowering the youth, the country can progress toward prosperity and development. "The youth are the present of Pakistan. You must take the lead and come forward, but with great responsibility, and the government stands firmly behind you," she added. She assured the youth of the govern-



ment's full support. She also mentioned ongoing discussions with China and the Commonwealth to provide AI training to the country's youth.

Shaza Fatima highlighted the government's efforts to partner with tech giants like Google and Meta to provide certifications for children and mentioned the launch of the Bridge Start Programme, with a budget of Rs. 1 bil-

lion to support innovative projects. She also announced plans to build IT parks in Islamabad and Karachi. The Islamabad IT Park, being developed with assistance from Korea, is expected to be completed by March 2025 and create 10,000 jobs.

The minister further said that the government has announced the establishment of over 250 E-Rozgar centers across the country, in collaboration with provincial governments and private institutions. These centers are aimed at providing essential facilities to hardworking and skilled youth in smaller cities, helping them access digital opportunities, according to an official from the Ministry of IT. The E-Rozgar centers will be established in every district of the country, with distribution based on the popula-

tion of each province, as well as data from 1.2 million freelancers registered with Ignite.

Punjab leads the initiative with 149 centers, followed by Sindh with 51, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with 28, Islamabad with 11, Balochistan with 6, Azad Kashmir with 3, and Gilgit-Baltistan with 2.

Originally launched by Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Punjab, the E-Rozgar centers have proven highly valuable, benefiting millions of young people. These centers are particularly designed for those who cannot afford expensive office spaces, offering them a chance to leverage IT skills and enter the digital workforce. The initiative is expected to enable even more young people to benefit from the growing IT sector. INP

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Ambassador Jemal Beker Abdula

A Traveler's Paradise: Surveying the Ethiopian Tourism

tionally famous for its ancient mosques and rich Islamic knowledge. The city's unique architecture is globally known for its Harar Walls, which presents a brief overview of Islamic culture and ancient Muslim traditions. This walled city is well-known for its distinctive interior designs, including 82 mosques and 102 shrines, largely contributing to Ethiopia's national cultural heritage. Moreover, Sof Omar natural and cultural heritage is another fascinating religious and cultural sites of Ethiopia. As a sacred place of worship Sof Omar cave system is believed to be the Caves of Mystery where the ancestral cult of Sheikh Sof Omar Ahmad, his families and descendants is observed and practiced annually. Each and every cave structures are assigned and designated to diverse ritual practices. Annual festive events with comprehensive Islamic religious processions and traditional beliefs and practices are conducted in the cave shrines and mosques of this underground karstic limestone caverns. Both cities of Ethiopia, Lalibela and Harar, and Sof Omar Cave are on the UNESCO World Heritage List due to their rich cultural and religious heritages and sacred associations with the Christian and Muslim communities. UNESCO has added many Ethiopian sites to its World Heritage List, such as the ancient cities of Aksum and Tiya (famous for their massive obelisks (stelae) and tombs), and Awash Valley (due to the discovery of Lucy), the Lower Valley of the Omo (having a wealth of fossils), and Konso cultural landscape (due to anthropomorphic wooden statues). UNESCO has formally recognized two national parks in Ethiopia as potential places for its World Heritage List: the Simien Mountains National Park and the Bale Mountains National Park. The Simien Mountains Park is the largest national park in the country, and its territory covers the two highest points of Ethiopia, Simien Mountain and Ras Dashan. The Bale Mountains National Park is famous for its diverse Afromontane habitats and striking landscapes, whereas other national parks contain varying exceptional features. In addition to having a wide range of wildlife and biodiversity, the Semi-arid landscapes of Awash National Park, the white grass of NechSar National Park, the Mursi and Nyangatom tribes of Omo National Park, Nile River Basin ecosystem of Gambella National Park, and the savannah landscapes of Mago National Park are the mainstream points of Ethiopian tourism. These parks reflect the country's diverse ecosystems, critical for protecting Ethiopian natural culture, attractive landscapes, and rich biodiversity. Moreover, the semi-desert ecosystem of Yangudi Rassa National Park, the twin lakes of Abijatta-Shalla Lakes National Park, the South Sudanese Nile ecosystem of Gambella National Park, and the dense forests and magnificent river flows of the Chebera Churchura National Park contain interesting tourist offerings. The various attractive points of these parks enabled Ethiopia to attract many visitors from diverse backgrounds. These

national parks' unique cultural and ecological offerings have enabled the Ethiopian nation to commendably support the broader context of African tourism in the world. It is pertinent to mention here the highest points of Northeastern Africa, the Ethiopian highlands, and sometimes they are called the Roof of Africa. This is due to the country's high elevation and distinctive mountainous terrain. The country has some of the internationally known highest peaks of the continent, and these peaks give the Ethiopian nation a towering position in the continent parallel to making it an inimitable home of deep valleys, rugged mountains, and extensive plateaus. The Roof of Africa sometimes recalls Addis Ababa's historical resilience and independence efforts, contrasting other African nations colonized by several external powers. In this way, Roof of Africa enhances the scope of Ethiopian tourism in the world while containing adequate fascination for travellers interested in trekking, mountain climbing, and witnessing the unmatched natural stunning landscapes. In addition to the country's topography, the Ethiopian cultural diversity is internationally recognized as an essential feature of its tourism potential. This diversity is based on different ethnic groups' languages, traditions, norms, and cultural practices. The Omo Valley is famous in the region for its dissimilar cultural practices consisting of different Indigenous tribes such as Mursi, Hamar, Kara, Nyamatong, Kuegu, Arbore, Ari, Daasanach, and Turkana. These diverse social patterns of Ethiopia formulate a unique music comprised of characteristic pentatonic scale and exceptional traditional dances of more than 80 domestic ethnic groups have their own peculiar musical pattern and melodies. The exciting part of Ethiopian music is associated with its unique instruments. These instruments create different tunes of Christian Zema and Muslim Sufi music, along with folk and popular melodies. In this way, music represents a vibrant component of the country's cultural identity, which the Ethiopian nation has recognized as a primary source of pride. International tourist communities could consider it a gateway to understanding and enjoying Ethiopian culture, whereas travellers from diverse countries can enjoy the exciting music scenes in Addis Ababa. International travellers can enjoy a mixture of traditional music and contemporary pop under the interesting tunes of Ethio-Jazz in various live public music venues. Besides social and cultural music events, religious festivals like Timkat and Meskel annually receive many visitors from different countries to experience Ethiopian spiritual music which are UNESCO intangible World Heritages. Moreover, the Harari People Shuwaliid Festival attracting a huge Muslim community that also registered as Intangible World Heritages. Thus, there is no harm in saying that the music has become essential to Ethiopian tourism while offering a matchless blend of classical and modern beats. The discussion on Ethiopian tourism can only be completed by mentioning

the role of local cuisine, which is an integral part of national cultural identity, in attracting international visitors. The growing tourist attraction for Ethiopian taste is due to its exclusive flavours, distinctive dining manners, traditional cooking styles, and rich culinary traditions. The gluten-free Injera, spiced clarified Niter Kibbeh, chilli-based Berbere, Mitmita, muqamad, chuko, gocho represent different local ingredients' tastes and potentially attract visitors from different countries. The communal dining styles support a sense of togetherness, and breaking Injera together contains cultural significance more than eating. Such cultural norms foster the values of hospitality, friendship, and community thinking, which enable international travellers to enjoy the memorable cuisine culture of Ethiopia. Coffee is a gravitational point of Ethiopian cuisine because the country is the birthplace of coffee, and it has been socially associated with various formal ceremonies and cultural events. The roasting, grinding, and brewing of coffee beans also encompass fascinating Ethiopian heritage, whereas the tourist communities could visit the coffee forms of Harar, Jimma, Limu, Yirgacheffe and Sidamo, providing practical experiences of coffee cultivation and its further processing. Moreover, the country's coffee tours involve fascinating and immersive experiences, letting travellers gain exciting facts about the Ethiopian coffee industry and its global reputation. Therefore, the country has several tourist offerings and compelling destinations for visitors. The above-mentioned information provides a glimpse of Ethiopian potential in the international tourist industry parallel to securing a prominent position in regional tourist reviews. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, the country's present government is highly determined to boost Ethiopian tourist potential by upgrading the country's tourist infrastructure like Wanchi ecotourism, Chebra Churchura elephant logo, and Gorgora and promoting the indigenous tourism industry. The central vision of Abiy Ahmed's government concentrates on cultural preservation, sustainable practices, digital transformation, and diversification in the national tourism sector. The Addis Ababa-based formal political authorities aim to transform Ethiopia into a leading tourist destination with regional and global recognition the case in point is Addis Ababa Corridor development and beautification projects. The country has substantial dynamism in upholding the national vision of tourism, which contributes to regional economic growth, employment enhancement, and glorifying national pride at the regional and international levels. Therefore, the leading circles of global tourist communities could find Ethiopia to be a promising and leading tourist destination in the future. The validation of this argument could be attained from the multi-leveled efforts of the current government and its commitment to making Ethiopia a middle-income economy with the support of several structural reforms and development plans.

District disparities and gender shifts

DR YASSER JAVED

The Council of Common Interest (CCI) approved the summary findings of the 7th Population and Housing Census during its 50th meeting on August 5, 2023. A gazette notification was made public on August 7 the same year via the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) website. Nearly a year later, the PBS has released the detailed findings of the 7th Population and Housing Census. There is a shift of 133,978 from rural to urban population when compared with the summary population figures. In provinces, this decline of rural population was observed in Punjab and Sindh by 2,315 and 131,663 respectively with an equal increase in the urban population, so the provincial as well as national population remained unchanged. Besides the above, a similar pattern of population addition and subtraction is observed in eight districts of Punjab, Sindh, and Balochistan. Toba Tek Singh shows an increase of 12,081 people, exactly the number reduced from Jhang's population. Malir's population is 28,289 higher than the summary findings, while Karachi East sees a reduction of the same amount. Surab and Kachhi districts gain 946 and 62 people, respectively. The increase in Surab reduces Kalat's population, while the addition in Kachhi decreases Nasirabad's count. The only plausible explanation for these changes is that there may have been adjustments or corrections in the demographics of certain census blocks in Punjab and Sindh. Another possibility is the alteration of district boundaries, either on the ground or in the records indicated above, since all population additions and subtractions occurred in neighbouring districts.

However, these changes in demographic population and district population are inconsequential in the sense that they do not have any impact on the provincial or national population. The overall and provincial populations by sex and sex ratio are very well elaborated in the detailed report of the PBS so we intend not to repeat that in this article.

The overall sex ratio (number of males per 100 females) increased from 105 to 106, which implies that overall there is one more male per 100 females. The sex ratio has increased in all provinces except Balochistan, where it decreased from 110.82 to 109.02. In Balochistan, the proportion of the female population rose from 47.43 per cent to 47.84 per cent.

The population census data did not provide the disaggregation of South Waziristan as two separate districts and it also does not mention the newly formed districts of Taunsa, Kot Addu, Wazirabad, Talagang, Murree, Hub and Usta Muhammad as separate districts.

Generally, complying with overall sex ratio, the majority of the districts (127 out of 136) have a higher male population than female. Chaman district is an outlier where there are 12 per cent more men than women. Similarly Dera Bugti and Sherani districts have ten per cent more male population. Defying all odds, three districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa – Hangu, Lower Dir, and Upper Dir – have a higher female population. Gender parity is found in the population of Abbottabad, Buner, Gujrat, Mandi Bahauddin, Attock and Chakwal, which means populations of both genders are found equal at zero decimal point.

When comparing the proportions of the district female population of the 2023 census with the 2017 census, we observe a ±3.0 per cent deviation over six years. This comparison, done to zero decimal points to avoid deviations smaller than 0.5 per cent, yields conclusive insights at the district level across the two most recent population censuses.

For the purpose of comparison, the number of districts was reduced to 129 from 136. We consider Kohistan as a single district rather than three districts due to the availability of the 2017 census data. Similarly, Chitral is considered one district rather than Upper Chitral and Lower Chitral. Karachi West & Keamari, Kalat & Surab, Loralai & Duki and Killa Abdullah & Chaman are treated as single districts. Female population proportion increased in 37 districts and decreased in 49 districts. In 43 districts including Islamabad, the female population proportion remained unchanged – the difference might be less than 0.5 per cent.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 17 districts show a decrease in female population proportion; five have increased, while ten maintain the same female population proportions. In Punjab, 18 districts have a decline in female population proportions, five districts show an increase, and 13 districts remain unchanged. In Sindh, eight districts show a decrease, 12 show an increase, and nine maintain similar female population proportions. In Balochistan, six districts have a decrease in female proportions, 15 districts show an increase, and ten districts have unchanged female population proportions.

The Kohistan district was split into three districts in the 2023 census, with the aggregate female population of all three districts comprising 48.96 per cent, up from 45.88 per cent in the 2017 census. Kohistan shows the highest increase in female proportions since 2017. Following this, the female proportions of Kech and Quetta districts increased by 2.0 per cent. The female population proportion of Kech rose from 45.66 per cent to 47.66 per cent, while in Quetta, it increased from 47.53 per cent to 49.17 per cent. Female population proportions of 34 districts show a one per cent increase since 2017. These districts are Abbottabad, Awaran, Chagai, Chiniot, Dadu, Gwadar, Hama, Jamshoro, Jhal Magsi, Kashmir, Kasur, Khairpur, Killa Saifullah, Lasbela, Loralai & Duki, Matiari, Musakhel, Muzaffargarh, Naushero Feroz, Nowshera, Okara, Peshawar, Pishin, Rajanpur, Sanghar, Shaheed Benazirabad, Shikarpur, Sibi, Sohbatpur, South Waziristan, Tando Allahyar, Tharparkar, Thatta and Ziarat.

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Showbiz

Lindsay Lohan marks last week on 'Freaky Friday 2' set with sweet tribute

Lindsay Lohan gave a special shoutout to her on-screen mother Jamie Lee Curtis

Lindsay Lohan is feeling all the emotions as she wraps up filming on Freakier Friday. The Mean Girls star 38, took to Instagram on Monday, August 19, to share her excitement and gratitude as the highly anticipated Freak Friday sequel nears the end of filming. "Happy Monday! It's our last Monday on the set of #freakierfriday and my heart is so full," Lohan wrote alongside some behind-the-scenes selfies. She expressed her appreciation for the dedicated cast and crew for investing "so much time and love into making this movie." The first-time mom also touched on the sentimental themes of the movie,

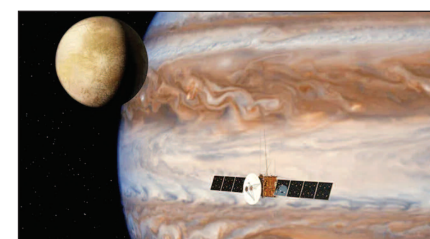


noting that it's "a story of family, mothers and their children, and a film filled with love, laughter, and a ton of heart." She then gave a special shoutout to co-star Jamie Lee Curtis, writing, "It has been a pleasure to work with my dear friend @jamielcurtis who brings so much joy to our set everyday and she has made this all the more special!" Lohan's message comes just days after her on-screen mother Curtis, 65, celebrated their final week of filming by praising her "ultimate movie daughter" in an emotional Instagram post. The iconic duo are set to reprise their roles as Anna and Tess Coleman in Freakier Friday, set to release in 2025.

Tech

Europe's Jupiter probe to stage daring lunar-Earth fly-by

Late on Monday, European scientists were set to make history with an unprecedented orbital maneuver, Reuters reported. They planned to leverage the Moon's and Earth's gravity in rapid succession to guide the JUICE probe toward Jupiter, marking the first-ever double slingshot maneuver. Just over a year after its launch, the European Space Agency's Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (JUICE) is approaching Earth on August 19-20. The probe will utilise Earth's gravitational pull to alter its course, enabling it to take a more efficient path to Venus and then onward to Jupiter. In this groundbreaking maneuver, the JUICE probe will first harness the Moon's gravity to precisely adjust its trajectory toward Earth. That is risky because the slightest error at that stage would be amplified by the second part of the routine which involves using Earth's gravity to slow down. Scientists warn that could derail the eight-year odyssey to reach Jupiter and its moons.



"Inherently this is a bit tricky, because you would need to correct any error, and you would need propellant for that," Nicolas Altobelli, JUICE Mission Manager, said in an interview. ESA said the Airbus-built probe was due to pass 750 km (465 miles) from the Moon's surface at its closest point. Scientists have used the "gravity assist" method for decades to navigate the solar system while saving propellant. It involves brushing past a planet or moon and using the power of its gravity to speed up, slow down or alter course.

Health

WHO says mpox 'not another COVID-19'

GENEVA: The mpox outbreak is not another Covid-19, the World Health Organization said Tuesday, because much is already known about the virus and the means to control it. While more research is needed on the Clade 1b strain which triggered the UN agency into declaring a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC), the spread of mpox can be reined in, the WHO's European director Hans Kluge said. In July 2022, the WHO declared a PHEIC over the international outbreak of the less severe Clade 2b strain of mpox, which mostly affected gay and bisexual men. The alarm was lifted in May 2023. "Mpox is not the new Covid," Kluge insisted. "We know how to control mpox. And, in the European region, the steps needed to eliminate its

transmission altogether," he told a media briefing in Geneva, via video-link. "Two years ago, we controlled mpox in Europe thanks to the direct engagement with the most affected communities. "We put in place robust surveillance; we thoroughly investigated new cases contacts; and we provided sound public health advice. "Behaviour change, non-discriminatory public health action, and mpox vaccination contributed to controlling the outbreak." Kluge said the risk to the general population was low. "Are we going to go in lockdown in the WHO European region, it's another Covid-19? The answer is clearly: 'no'," he said. Kluge said the predominant route of transmission remained close skin-to-skin contact.

But he said it was possible that someone in the acute phase of mpox infection, especially with blisters in the mouth, may transmit the virus to close contacts by droplets, in circumstances such as in the home or in hospitals. "The modes of transmission are still a bit unclear. More research is required." WHO spokesman Tarik Jasarevic said the WHO was not recommending the use of masks. "We are not recommending mass vaccination. We are recommending to use vaccines in outbreak settings for the groups who are most at risk," he added. The WHO declared an international health emergency on August 14, concerned by the rise in cases of Clade 1b in the Democratic Republic of Congo and its spread to nearby countries.



دینی اہلسنن کی طرف

اسلام آباد

انٹرنیٹ کی رفتار دست اور فائر اولیٰ تصنیب کے خلاف درخواست، فریقین کو ٹریس جاری

اسلام آباد (پبلک رپورٹر) چیف جسٹس اسلام آباد نے انٹرنیٹ دست ہونے سے متعلق کیس کی سماعت کے دوران ریڈر کے لیے کہا کہ ان سے پہلے کہ کوئی آزاد جاری کرے، یہ بتائیں کہ وہ اس کے خلاف کیا کر رہے ہیں۔ چیف جسٹس نے کہا کہ ان سے پہلے کہ کوئی آزاد جاری کرے، یہ بتائیں کہ وہ اس کے خلاف کیا کر رہے ہیں۔ چیف جسٹس نے کہا کہ ان سے پہلے کہ کوئی آزاد جاری کرے، یہ بتائیں کہ وہ اس کے خلاف کیا کر رہے ہیں۔

بدھ 21 اگست 2024ء



اسلام آباد، وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے فلسطین کے سکندر ہونے والے سفیر احمد جواد امجدی سے ملاقات کر رہے ہیں

آزاد ریاست کا قیام ہی مسئلہ فلسطین کا حل ہے، وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف

اسلام آباد (پبلک رپورٹر) وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کا کہنا ہے کہ اقوام متحدہ کی متعلقہ اداروں کے مطابق 1967ء سے پہلے کی حدود اور انتظام کے طور پر فلسطین کی ایک آزاد ریاست قائم ہونا چاہیے۔ ان کے بقول فلسطین کے مسئلہ کا حل فلسطینی خود مختار اور فلسطینی خود مختار ریاست کا قیام ہے۔ ان کا کہنا ہے کہ فلسطین کے مسئلہ کا حل فلسطینی خود مختار اور فلسطینی خود مختار ریاست کا قیام ہے۔ ان کا کہنا ہے کہ فلسطین کے مسئلہ کا حل فلسطینی خود مختار اور فلسطینی خود مختار ریاست کا قیام ہے۔

ناراضی کے نام پر دہشت گردی کی صورت قبول نہیں، اسحاق ڈار

اسلام آباد (پبلک رپورٹر) وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے فلسطین کے سکندر ہونے والے سفیر احمد جواد امجدی سے ملاقات کر رہے ہیں

اسلام آباد (پبلک رپورٹر) وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے فلسطین کے سکندر ہونے والے سفیر احمد جواد امجدی سے ملاقات کر رہے ہیں۔ ان کا کہنا ہے کہ فلسطین کے مسئلہ کا حل فلسطینی خود مختار اور فلسطینی خود مختار ریاست کا قیام ہے۔ ان کا کہنا ہے کہ فلسطین کے مسئلہ کا حل فلسطینی خود مختار اور فلسطینی خود مختار ریاست کا قیام ہے۔

دفاع کا حق حاصل، ہم سے حمل کی توقع نہ رکھیں، ایران

تہران (ایس پی این) ایران کے وزیر دفاع نے کہا کہ ایران کا دفاع کا حق حاصل ہے۔ ان کا کہنا ہے کہ ایران کے وزیر دفاع نے کہا کہ ایران کا دفاع کا حق حاصل ہے۔ ان کا کہنا ہے کہ ایران کے وزیر دفاع نے کہا کہ ایران کا دفاع کا حق حاصل ہے۔



لاہور، وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب مریم نواز تقریب سے خطاب کر رہی ہیں

دو گھنٹے کی لوڈ شیڈنگ سے 50 ارب روپے کی بچت ہوتی ہے، وزیر توانائی

اسلام آباد (پبلک رپورٹر) وفاقی وزیر توانائی اویس لغاری نے کہا ہے کہ ملک میں دو گھنٹے کی لوڈ شیڈنگ سے پچاس ارب روپے کی بچت ہوتی ہے۔ ان کا کہنا ہے کہ لوڈ شیڈنگ سے پچاس ارب روپے کی بچت ہوتی ہے۔ ان کا کہنا ہے کہ لوڈ شیڈنگ سے پچاس ارب روپے کی بچت ہوتی ہے۔



کراچی، گورنر سندھ کامران ٹیسوری میڈیا سے گفتگو کر رہے ہیں

تکلیف معاملہ عمران خان نے ادرہ قیصر اور عارف کو طلب کر لیا

اسلام آباد (پبلک رپورٹر) وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے عمران خان کے خلاف درخواست دائر کرنے کے لیے عمران خان سے ملاقات کر لیا۔ ان کا کہنا ہے کہ عمران خان سے ملاقات کر لیا۔ ان کا کہنا ہے کہ عمران خان سے ملاقات کر لیا۔

بگ بگ دہشت گردی کے دو سابق ارکان کے اڈیشنل مجسٹریٹ

اسلام آباد (پبلک رپورٹر) وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے عمران خان کے خلاف درخواست دائر کرنے کے لیے عمران خان سے ملاقات کر لیا۔ ان کا کہنا ہے کہ عمران خان سے ملاقات کر لیا۔ ان کا کہنا ہے کہ عمران خان سے ملاقات کر لیا۔

وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب کی ہدایت پر کورٹ فیس کے ریش کم کرنے پر اتفاق

لاہور (پبلک رپورٹر) کورٹ فیس کے ریش کم کرنے پر اتفاق کیا گیا۔ ان کا کہنا ہے کہ کورٹ فیس کے ریش کم کرنے پر اتفاق کیا گیا۔ ان کا کہنا ہے کہ کورٹ فیس کے ریش کم کرنے پر اتفاق کیا گیا۔



اسلام آباد، وفاقی وزیر داخلہ نسیم ظہیر ملاقات کر رہی ہیں

ملک کا مستقبل نوجوانوں سے وابستہ، تعلیم میں اصلاحات لارہے، مریم نواز

لاہور (پبلک رپورٹر) وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب مریم نواز نے کہا کہ ملک کا مستقبل نوجوانوں سے وابستہ ہے۔ ان کا کہنا ہے کہ تعلیم میں اصلاحات لارہے۔ ان کا کہنا ہے کہ تعلیم میں اصلاحات لارہے۔ ان کا کہنا ہے کہ تعلیم میں اصلاحات لارہے۔

عمران خان کی سہولت کاری کا الزام، اڈیشنل جیل کے 6 ملازمین گرفتار

لاہور (پبلک رپورٹر) اڈیشنل جیل کے 6 ملازمین گرفتار کیے گئے۔ ان کا کہنا ہے کہ عمران خان کی سہولت کاری کا الزام لگایا گیا۔ ان کا کہنا ہے کہ عمران خان کی سہولت کاری کا الزام لگایا گیا۔

مساجد کو 200 یونٹس تک مفت بجلی دینی پیر مظہر سعید شاہ

اسلام آباد (پبلک رپورٹر) وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب مریم نواز نے کہا کہ مساجد کو 200 یونٹس تک مفت بجلی دینی۔ ان کا کہنا ہے کہ مساجد کو 200 یونٹس تک مفت بجلی دینی۔ ان کا کہنا ہے کہ مساجد کو 200 یونٹس تک مفت بجلی دینی۔

عمران خان اور بشری بی بی کیخلاف نیا تو شہ خاندن ریفرفس دائر

اسلام آباد (پبلک رپورٹر) قومی احتساب بیورو نے عمران خان اور بشری بی بی کے خلاف نیا تو شہ خاندن ریفرفس دائر کیا۔ ان کا کہنا ہے کہ عمران خان اور بشری بی بی کے خلاف نیا تو شہ خاندن ریفرفس دائر کیا۔

پنجاب کی جیلوں میں قیدی بچوں کو ہنرمند بنانے پر کام شروع

لاہور (پبلک رپورٹر) وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب مریم نواز نے کہا کہ پنجاب کی جیلوں میں قیدی بچوں کو ہنرمند بنانے پر کام شروع کیا گیا۔ ان کا کہنا ہے کہ پنجاب کی جیلوں میں قیدی بچوں کو ہنرمند بنانے پر کام شروع کیا گیا۔

فصل لہجہ کا کسی سیاسی اتحاد کے لیے خیر اثری تحریک خود چلا کر کا اعلان

اسلام آباد (پبلک رپورٹر) وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب مریم نواز نے کہا کہ فصل لہجہ کا کسی سیاسی اتحاد کے لیے خیر اثری تحریک خود چلا کر کا اعلان کیا گیا۔ ان کا کہنا ہے کہ فصل لہجہ کا کسی سیاسی اتحاد کے لیے خیر اثری تحریک خود چلا کر کا اعلان کیا گیا۔

پاکستان اور نیڈ لینڈز کا انسانی سہولت کاروں کے کیلئے تعاون پر اتفاق

اسلام آباد (پبلک رپورٹر) وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب مریم نواز نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور نیڈ لینڈز کا انسانی سہولت کاروں کے کیلئے تعاون پر اتفاق کیا گیا۔ ان کا کہنا ہے کہ پاکستان اور نیڈ لینڈز کا انسانی سہولت کاروں کے کیلئے تعاون پر اتفاق کیا گیا۔

جماعتی کاموں سے خطہ خوشحال، این ٹی ایس سے میرٹ کابول بالا ہوگا، وزیر اعظم آزاد کشمیر

اسلام آباد (پبلک رپورٹر) وزیر اعظم آزاد کشمیر نے کہا کہ جماعتی کاموں سے خطہ خوشحال کیا جائے گا۔ ان کا کہنا ہے کہ این ٹی ایس سے میرٹ کابول بالا ہوگا۔ ان کا کہنا ہے کہ این ٹی ایس سے میرٹ کابول بالا ہوگا۔

کراچی ٹریول ایجنسی کی آڑ میں حوالہ ہڈی کرن والا ملزم گرفتار

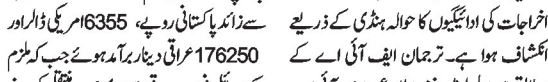
کراچی (پبلک رپورٹر) وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب مریم نواز نے کہا کہ کراچی ٹریول ایجنسی کی آڑ میں حوالہ ہڈی کرن والا ملزم گرفتار کیا گیا۔ ان کا کہنا ہے کہ کراچی ٹریول ایجنسی کی آڑ میں حوالہ ہڈی کرن والا ملزم گرفتار کیا گیا۔

پاکستان اور نیڈ لینڈز کے ساتھ تعلقات کو انتہائی اہمیت دیتا ہے، انسانی سہولت کاروں کے کیلئے

اسلام آباد (پبلک رپورٹر) وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب مریم نواز نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور نیڈ لینڈز کے ساتھ تعلقات کو انتہائی اہمیت دیتا ہے۔ ان کا کہنا ہے کہ پاکستان اور نیڈ لینڈز کے ساتھ تعلقات کو انتہائی اہمیت دیتا ہے۔



ڈیرہ اسماعیل خان، سے یو آئی (ف) کے سربراہ مولانا فضل الرحمن ڈی آئی بی خان میں میڈیا سے گفتگو کر رہے ہیں



ڈیرہ اسماعیل خان، سے یو آئی (ف) کے سربراہ مولانا فضل الرحمن ڈی آئی بی خان میں میڈیا سے گفتگو کر رہے ہیں



ڈیرہ اسماعیل خان، سے یو آئی (ف) کے سربراہ مولانا فضل الرحمن ڈی آئی بی خان میں میڈیا سے گفتگو کر رہے ہیں

Olympic hero Arshad Nadeem calls on CJCS Gen Sahir Shamshad Mirza



RAWALPINDI: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamshad Mirza has lauded javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem's efforts for securing Pakistan's first-ever gold medal in a singles event and setting up a new Olympic record.

Nadeem called on the CJCS Gen Mirza at Joint Staff Headquarters, Rawalpindi on Tuesday, the military's media wing said.

In a statement, the Inter-Services Public Relations said that Gen Mirza also appreciated the "diligence and devotion" of Nadeem in achieving a milestone in Pakistan's sports history and wished him the very best for his future endeavours.

Nadeem made history at the 2024 Paris Games, shattering the javelin throw Olympic record with a stunning throw of 92.97 metres. This momentous achievement has filled the hearts of all Pakistanis with immense pride. It is a major feat not just for Nadeem, but for the South Asian nation which won their last Olympic medal 32 years ago. Before Nadeem's remarkable victory, Pakistan had never won an individual gold medal at the Olympics. PR

The Armed Forces of Pakistan, the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, and the Services Chiefs pay solemn tribute to Pilot Officer Rashid

RAWALPINDI: The Armed Forces of Pakistan, the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, and the Services Chiefs pay solemn tribute to Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas on the occasion of his 53rd martyrdom anniversary. Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas stands as a luminous exemplar in the annals of Pakistan's history, embodying the very essence of valor and sacrifice. On this day in 1971, Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty, demonstrating unshakable bravery and an unrelenting commitment to the defense of Pakistan. As we honor this national hero, we recall his extraordinary act of valor, which epitomizes the spirit of our Armed Forces and serves as a testament to his unyielding dedication.

The sacrifice of Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas will be etched in our collective memory forever, inspiring future generations to emulate his exemplary courage and loyalty. The Armed Forces of Pakistan salute Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas's extraordinary courage, steadfast loyalty, and devotion to duty, drawing inspiration from his legacy to uphold the highest standards of professionalism and dedication to our great nation. PR



ISLAMABAD: In a significant step towards advancing education and skill development in the fields of design, the Pakistan Institute of Fashion & Design (PIFD) and the National Book Foundation (NBF) have signed a Letter of Understanding (LOU) to establish a new PIFD campus in Karachi in the presence of honourable Federal Minister Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui.

Initial work for privatization of DISCOs geared up federal ministers for transparency & minimize time

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Privatization of Electricity Distribution Companies (DISCOs) is being processed and initial work in this regard has been geared up. Moreover, advertisements have also been launched in international media on August 17. This was disclosed in a high-level meeting co chaired by Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan and Federal Minister for Energy Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Laghari.

Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan observed that the privatization of DISCOs will be completed in different phases in which transparency and technical aspects must be kept into consideration. Federal Minister for Energy Sardar Awais Laghari directed that the issues necessary for the privatization of DISCOs should be dealt with as soon as possible and access to the details and data of these institutions should be handed over to the interested parties. Federal Minister for Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan said that wherever possible, the process of privatization should be completed in the shortest possible time. Briefing the meeting, Secretary Privatization and senior officials told that the complete schedule for the privatization of "DISCOs" has been prepared and its final approval will be taken from the Cabinet Committee and the Federal Government. Appointment of Finan-



cial Advisor, market sounding, restructuring level and other important issues of privatization of DISCOs also came under discussion in this meeting.

Meanwhile, Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan while speaking at the meeting of the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Communications said that without a doubt the pressure of vehicles and traffic on our roads is a big problem which is being worked on coordinated basis. Federal Minister said that with a little effort and attention on the National Highway and Communication

Departments we can make it profitable. He said that there is immense potential in the Department of Communication which by utilizing it can generate revenue for the Government treasury. Abdul Aleem Khan further said that the Communication Department will have to adopt the Axle Load Control System by developing it on modern lines. The toll tax system is in use all over the world which is a major source of revenue through road infrastructure but we are not using this system and are still far behind in achieving substantial results, Abdul Aleem Khan concluded.

Bilawal felicitates scientists, engineers on successful test of Shaheen-II missile

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday felicitated the scientists and engineers on the successful test of the Shaheen-II ballistic missile. According to a press release issued here by the party secretariat, Bilawal Bhutto said "Our missile technology reflects the expertise and dedication of our scientists and engineers." Chief PPP said that the successful test of Shaheen-II is a message of fear for Pakistan's enemies. "It is a matter of pride that this missile technology is a gift to the homeland from my mother," Bilawal Bhutto added.

SC issues written order in audio leaks case

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Tuesday issued written order regarding hearing on federation's appeal against high court's order in Bushra Bibi and Najam Sajib audio leaks case. A two-judge bench comprising Justice Amin ud Din Khan and Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan issued the five page order. The court said that the federal government had set up an inquiry commission on May 19, 2023. It was headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa while Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan and Justice Aamer Farooq were members. The top court stopped the commission from working after which no meeting of it could be held. The court found that the appeal stated that the high court has used the power of suo-moto. It said that Bushra Bibi has stated in writ petition filed to the high court that the audio is fabricated. The court said that the high court was bound to firstly view these allegations. It said that the high court is stopped from further proceeding till further orders. It said that the court has issued notices to respondents and they could file the extra documents if wanted.

AIOU releases admission schedule for matric, FA

ISLAMABAD: The Allama Iqbal Open University Islamabad has released an admission programme regarding Matric and FA for Autumn semester 2024 here on Tuesday. Regional Director Open University Dr Zubair Iqbal told media that the last date for admission in Autumn semester was September 5. The admissions are going on in the semester 2024 for matriculation, FA, ICOM, Dars-i-Nazimi programmes and various other online courses. Dr Zubair Ahmad said that the last date for admission without late fee was September 5 and prospectus were available on the university website as candidates could submit their admissions online. He said that Pakistanis living abroad (international students) could also take admission in matriculation, FA and I Com as this programme was being offered by the university under the online management system while examinations for international students were also conducted online.

ECP Sets Aug 26 as Deadline for Postal Ballot Applications in NA-171 Bye-Election

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission has fixed the last date for receipt of applications for postal ballot papers for Bye-Election in NA-171 R.Y. Khan-III, as 26th August, 2024.

This facility, under the law, has been extended to the persons in Government service, members of Armed Forces, their wives and such of their children as are registered voters and ordinarily reside with them provided they are stationed at a place other than the place in which their constituency is situated, persons with any physical disability who are unable to travel and hold a National Identity Card with a logo for physical disability issued by the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA). Persons who are detained in prison or held in custody are also entitled to vote by postal ballot.

2. The persons appointed by the Returning Officers, including police personnel, for the performance of any duty in connection with an elec-

tion at polling stations other than the one at which they are entitled to cast their vote are advised to apply for postal ballot to the Returning Officers within three days of their appointment.

3. Applications for Postal Ballot should be made on the prescribed Form with the Returning Officer concerned of the constituency. Application Forms for Postal Ballot can be obtained from Mr. Waqas Zafar, Assistant Commissioner Rahim Yar Khan Contact No. 068-9230271.

The application Form may also be downloaded from ECP's website www.ecp.gov.pk. 4. The voters to whom postal ballots are issued will not be entitled to vote in person at the polling stations.

5. The application should be forwarded/endorsed by the office/ department of the voter concerned to guard against unauthorized person applying for postal ballot. APP



ISLAMABAD: A high-ranking delegation from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), headed by Sheikh Ahmed Dalmook Al Maktoum, met with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan's maritime, railways, and aviation sectors.

CDA to offer internship to QAU students: Randhawa

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) will start internship programme to Quaid-e-Azam University (QAU) students to enhance their capacity in various fields.

The CDA chairman, Mohammad Ali Randhawa, in a meeting, proposed a MoU to offer internships to the varsity students in the federal apex agency, particularly in the Environment, IT, and HR departments.

The IT students from QAU will assist the authority in conducting a cyber security and audit. The meeting was held between QAU's Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Niaz Ahmed Akhtar, and Chairman CDA, marked the beginning of a promising collaboration between the two institutions. The discussion focused on various initiatives, including a plantation drive in the Quaid-e-Azam Enclave in Margalla Hills, where students from the university will participate.

Chairman Randhawa appreciated the students' enthusiasm and suggested assigning special numbers to motivate them in maintaining the planted trees.

The meeting also explored potential collaborations on upcoming CDA projects, including Silicon Valley and the Four-Tier Data Center.

Vice-Chancellor Akhtar was briefed on these initiatives, which aim to create employment opportunities for thousands of youth.

Quaid-e-Azam University's graduate students are expected to contribute significantly to these projects. Furthermore, Chairman Randhawa assured the completion of the Second Avenue near Quaid-e-Azam University soon, which will be linked with Margalla Road. He also pledged to provide all necessary resources for the convenience of the university's students.

Dengue variant slightly increased to 42

RAWALPINDI: Dengue situation remains under control despite slight increase in dengue cases reported in Rawalpindi. The surveillance and awareness campaign underway parallel to patients management in hospitals, has resulted in the dengue spread under control.

According to the report issued by District Health Authority here on Tuesday, the number of patients has increased from 15 in first week of August to 42 in the third week. The report shows that 5 dengue patients are under treatment in the allied hospitals whereas 36 patients have been discharged after full recovery. The report further reveals an increase in average of one patient daily, equalizing that of discharged patients as compared to that of in July this year. According to a spokesman, Dengue Prevention Control, conditions of all 5 under treatment patients remains in control.

The proactive approach to deal with any possible upthrust in dengue patients is also being persuaded. The field teams are engaged in door to door visits for surveillance regarding dengue larva detection.

It is worth mentioning in the report that 30 patients out of 42 are from within Rawalpindi, 3 were admitted in hospitals belonged to Islamabad. Moreover, one patient was detected as a dengue carrier from abroad.

Rana Mashhood declares youth as ray of hope, symbol of country's development

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister Youth Program (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan has declared the youth as ray of hope and symbol of Pakistan's development.

While addressing an event titled "Story of Pakistan and Role of Youth" held at the National Youth Convention on Tuesday, he said that Pakistan has a talented youth and has a central role in the country's heading towards fast-paced development.

Rana Mashhood said that the emergence of Pakistan on Aug 14, 1947, was the result of our forefathers' sacrifices and our today's generation was martyring for that cause laid by the founders for which they achieved a separate homeland.

"We need to set aside our differences and work committedly for unity, integrity, and economic stability", he said and added that youth were misinformed in the recent past from the right path. "We know what is happening in Syria, Iraq, Egypt, Libya and Yemen; where youth is on the street, unemployed, and without education." The Chairman PMYP said that the same attempt was also made here to destroy Pakistan but Pakistan under the slogan of Azm-e-Istehkam

or the Resolve for Stability has a comprehensive plan showing Pakistan's commitment to securing long-term stability including economic, diplomatic, and security components to achieve a stable and prosperous Pakistan.

He said that Nawaz Sharif had made the country's defence stronger by making atomic explosions on May 28, 1998, started by former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and no one could dare to cast an evil eye on it.

Rana Mashhood said that the government under the dynamic leadership of the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was taking various initiatives to highlight the potential and provide more employment opportunities to the youth under the PMYP including, PM Skill Development Programs (NAVTTCC), PM Youth Laptop Scheme, Pakistan Education Endowment Fund, Youth Business and Agriculture Loan Scheme, PM Youth Internship Program, National Innovation Award, setting up of the PM National Youth Council, PM National Volunteer Corps, PM Digital Youth Hub, PM Talent Hunt, Youth Sports League, PM Sports Academies, Green Energy Solarization and PM Green Youth Movement to empower the future generations. APP

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif Reaches Rajanpur to Supervise Flood Relief Operations

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif reached Hajipur, a remote area of Rajanpur, the last district of Punjab, to share grief of the flood-hit local community. She conducted an aerial inspection of the flood-affected areas, and had a detailed review of flood-affected area of Fazilpur.

Madam Chief Minister observed the flood water along the road to Hajipur, a suburb of Rajanpur, and visited the flood relief camp established at Hajipur Government Higher Secondary School in Fazilpur Tehsil. She also inspected the medical camp set up for the flood victims in Hajipur, and reviewed its issues like the supply of medicines and medical personnel for the flood victims.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif inspected the accommodation and food arrangements for the victims in the flood relief camp. She met the flood affected families at the relief camp and inquired them about the arrangements and available facilities. Madam Chief Minister went and sat among the flood affected people, and



mingled with them. She directed the authorities concerned to treat a sick woman in the relief camp. She consoled women in the camp and presented gifts to the children.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif assured victims of full support and personal monitoring till full recovery. She called for an effective plan for flood prevention, and reviewed a proposal to build a dam to conserve water from Kaha River for Rajanpur District. She said, "I thank Allah

Almighty for not causing any loss of life due to flood." She added, "The flood victims should be given full support, negligence will not be tolerated."

Madam Chief Minister said, "I am personally monitoring the relief and rehabilitation of flood victims." She added, "Arrangements should be ensured to protect against epidemics and diseases." She highlighted, "There should be no flood in Rajanpur next year."

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said, "An effective plan should be prepared every year to prevent people from becoming homeless." She directed the authorities concerned, "Understand problems, we will not stop without solving them."

Madam Chief Minister said, "I am directing the Commissioner to submit an estimate report of the damage to crops and houses." Irrigation Minister Kazim Pirzada and Commissioner Bahawalpur briefed Madam Chief Minister on rescue and relief measures taken for the relief and rehabilitation of flood victims. She was apprised, "Areas of Jampur tehsil are flooded from Koh Sulaiman, Chhachhar, Kala Baga Khosra and Kaha Sultan rivers." She was also briefed, "6072 hectares of land is affected in 54 villages of Rajanpur District." Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, Provincial Ministers Khawaja Salman Rafiq, Sher Ali Gurchani and Members of Assembly accompanied Madam Chief Minister. Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, Secretaries, DC, DPO and other relevant officers were also present. PR