# BISP Kafaalat to increase its outreach up to 8m families till June, says Shazia Marri

**ISLAMABAD:** Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Shazia Marri Thursday announced that the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) Kafaalat would expand its outreach to eight million families till the month of June and then 10 million afterward. "Unfortunately the increased ratio of poverty, inflation and unemployment in the country has led to economic instability during last few years which require expansion of BISP to provide financial relief to the poor masses", she said in an interview with APP.

The Program, serving seven million families now, will expand with its outreach up to eight million families till the month of June however, we want to increase its coverage up to the 10 million families in future as per the poverty ratio and the economic indicators, she said.

To a question on re-inclusion of the expelled BISP beneficiaries, the federal minister said it is very unfortunate that around 8, 20,000 beneficiaries were expelled from the BISP program in the year 2019 without any verification or investigation through giving an impression that they were ineligible and affluent.

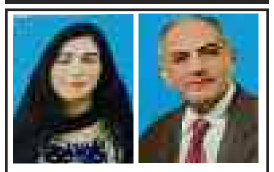
She said that many questions were raised at that time when these beneficiaries were expelled on the basis of unjustified filters but those responsible during the previous government didn't respond. "I have decided after receiving briefing from the officials that those disqualified on the basis of unjustified filters including phone bill of up to Rs. 1000, making of urgent Passport and urgent CNIC, foreign travel etc. will be given a right to appeal", she said.

It needed to understand that how a person can be declared ineligible if he has traveling abroad for performing Umrah through some lucky draw and made CNIC in urgency to apply for BISP. All such filters are not satisfactory and cannot determine the financial condition of the person. This decision of expelling BISP beneficiaries was taken without verification, investigation or giving them right to register complaint which is injustice", she said. **—APP**

## PM's visit to Saudi Arabia to bring economic stability in country: Ashrafi

**ISLAMABAD:** Special Representative to the Prime Minister for Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Thursday said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to Saudi Arabia would bring economic stability in the country. In an exclusive talk with APP, he said there would be one-on-one meeting between PM Shehbaz Sharif and Saudi Crown Prince Muhammed bin Salman in which both the dignitaries would chalk out strategies to further strengthen ties in areas of economy, trade, defense and labour. He expressed the hope that this visit besides exploring a new chapter in Pak-Saudi relations would open new vistas of opportunities for the two brotherly countries. He said it would also help bring foreign investment in the country as there were a number of business opportunities for the investors in the various sectors of economy. Ashrafi, being part of PM's entourage to Saudi Arabia, said it was a good omen that there was representation of all major political parties in the delegation and their interaction with Saudi state apparatus would bear positive results in

**CORRECTION OF FATHER'S NAME**



I MEEZAB AHMED have passed the Secondary School Annual/Supply Examination 2014 under Roll No 126438 and Intermediate Annual/Supply Examination 2016 under Roll No 550328 from B.I.S.E Lahore My Father's Name is SYED MUMTAZ AHMED where on certificate my Father's name has been mentioned as MUMTAZ AHMED Which is incorrect. I want to get changed my father's name from MUMTAZ AHMED to SYED MUMTAZ AHMED. If any person/organization/agency has any objection,then the same may be intimated in writing to the Secretary, Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, 86-Mozang Road, Lahore

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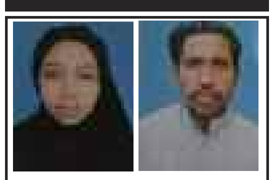
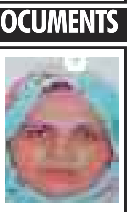


I IQRA NEMAT have passed the Secondary School Annual/Supply Examination 2021 under Roll No 193739 from B.I.S.E Lahore My Father's Name is MUHAMMAD IKRAM where on certificate my Father's name has been mentioned as MUHAMMAD AKRAM Which is incorrect.I want to get changed my father's name from MUHAMMAD AKRAM to MUHAMMAD IKRAM. If any person/organization/agency has any objection,then the same may be intimated in writing to the Secretary, Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, 86-Mozang Road,Lahore within 15 days.

**LOSS OF DOCUMENTS**



My original National Identity Card No.37301-5217147-4, original Residential Card No.X9324134-A, original Spanish Medical Card No.00000803401 and original Spanish Nationality Card No.DNI31043752P of my daughter Tehreem Imran Safdar Yasmeen has been lost during travelling. Finder may please be send on following address: Tahira Yasmeen W/o Muhammad Imran Safdar R/o Gurha Saleem Tehsil & District Jhelum, Contact No.0302-0100239

## Garbage fire chokes Indian capital reeling from heatwave

**NEW DELHI:** India is getting too hot too early, raising the risk of fires, Prime Minister Narendra Modi warned on Wednesday, as a heatwave gripped much of the country and a landfill site burned on the capital's outskirts.

"Temperatures are rising rapidly in the country, and rising much earlier than usual," Modi told heads of India's state governments in an online conference. The extreme heat has swept across large areas of India and Pakistan this week and follows the hottest March since the India Meteorological Department (IMD) began keeping records 122 years ago. More than a billion people are at risk of heat-related health impacts, scientists said.

In the capital New Delhi, temperatures have soared past 40 degrees Celsius for several days and are forecast to linger around 44C until Sunday, with peak summer heat still to come before cooling monsoon rains arrive in June. "We are seeing increasing incidents of fires in various places — in jungles, important buildings and in hospitals — in the past few days," Modi said. He asked states to conduct fire-safety audits for hospitals. Dozens of people die every year in fires at Indian hospitals and factories, mainly due to illegal construction and lax safety standards.

Fires in Delhi's dump yards also contribute to the toxic air in the world's most polluted capital. As Modi spoke, firefighters were struggling to extinguish a blaze at the Bhalswa landfill site, a hillock rising above the northwestern edge of the city. Fumes from the burning waste forced a nearby school to close on Tuesday. The cause of the fire was under investigation. Among the worst hit have been the typically humid eastern Indian states, which saw temperatures above 43C on Wednesday. "Rarely it happens that nearly the whole country ... is reeling under (a) heatwave," said hydroclimatologist Arpita Mondal at the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, on the coast of Maharashtra, where she said the heat was "unbearable". Mumbai temperatures hit 37C on Wednesday.

Climate change is "beyond doubt" a contributing factor to the weather extremes, Mondal said. In February, a report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warned of India's vulnerabilities to extreme heat. For example, at 1.5C of warming above pre-industrial temperatures, the West Bengal capital of Kolkata could once a year see conditions match that of the 2015 heatwave, when temperatures hit 44C and thousands died across the country.

Mondal's research has found that urban pollution may also play a role, with black carbon and dust absorbing sunlight and leading to greater heating in India's cities. While heat risks lives and livelihoods in India, the real danger comes when high temperatures mix with high humidity, making it difficult for people to cool down through

**RAWALPINDI: Passengers board in the bus at Pir Wadhai Bus Station as people start leaving for their native villages to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr with their beloved ones.**

## Deepika Padukone makes it to the jury of Cannes Film Festival

**MUMBAI:** Look who made it to the jury of the 75th Cannes Film Festival! Bollywood bigwig Deepika Padukone was announced as part of the film festival's jury on April 26, a line-up chosen from all walks of the international film industry. The jury is responsible for selecting films to honour them with an award.

Padukone shared the news with her followers on social media. The Gehraiyaan actor's jury member bio introduces her as an "actress, producer, philanthropist and entrepreneur" who has "over 30 feature films to her credit" both in Bollywood and Hollywood.

According to the festival's official website, French actor Vincent Lindon has been selected as the "Jury President of the 75th Festival de Cannes. He will reward one of the 21 films in competition with the Palme d'or", the highest prize awarded to the best film screened at the festival.

Other jury members apart from Padukone are English actor and filmmaker Rebecca Hall, Swedish actor Noomi Rapace, Italian actor Jasmine Trinca, Iranian film director Asghar Farhadi, French film director and screenwriter Ladj Ly, American film director Jeff Nichols and Danish-born Norwegian film director Joachim Trier. This year a Pakistani film is being shown at the film festival. Director Saim Sadiq's debut feature Joyland has been selected for the Un Certain Regard category. It stars Sarwat Gilani, Salman Peerzada, Sania Saeed, Ali Junejo, Alina Khan and Rasti Farooq. The film is produced by Sarmad Khoosat, Apoorva Guru Charan and Lauren Mann. Joyland is the tale of sexual revolution in a patriarchal family that yearn for the birth of a baby boy. While the family wishes for boys to carry on their family line, the youngest son secretly joins an erotic dance theatre and falls for a transsexual star. UK and France-based sales firm Film Constellation has been appointed to handle the international rights for Joyland. Sales duties in North America for the film will be handled by WME. **—Agencies**

## Italy's court gives mothers equal name rights

**ROME:** Italy's constitutional court has ruled as unlawful the practice of automatically giving children their father's surname, in a judgement hailed as a step forward for women's rights. The highest court in the country said on Wednesday existing norms are unconstitutional, "discriminatory and detrimental to the identity of the child", and called on parliament to change the law. The court emphasised that both parents should be involved in choosing their child's surname, which "constitutes a fundamental element of personal identity". From now on, "the child takes the surname of both parents in the order agreed by them, unless they decide jointly to attribute only the surname of one of the two", it said in a press statement. In case of disagreement, a judge will decide. "Italian women have won a historic right," leading daily La Repubblica said. Among those hailing the ruling were Alessandra Mussolini, the granddaughter of former Italian ruler Benito Mussolini, who gave her three children her last name only after a tortuous process. "To be able to pass on one's surname... is an act of civilisation," she told Il Messaggero newspaper. **—AFP**

## Ben Stokes named England Test captain

**LONDON:** Star all-rounder Ben Stokes was named as England's new Test captain on Thursday, replacing Joe Root, who stood down earlier this month after a string of defeats. The 30-year-old, who served as Root's deputy, was the overwhelming favourite to take charge of a struggling team that has won just one of their past 17 matches.

Stokes, whose career is peppered with staggering performances with bat and ball, has been a loyal lieutenant to Root and made a point of praising his friend and predecessor in a short statement. "I am honoured to be given the chance to lead the England Test team," he said. "This is a real privilege and I'm excited about getting started

# Russia steps up assault on east Ukraine, Putin threatens countries that intervene

**MOSCOW:** Russia stepped up its assaults on eastern and southern Ukraine, Kyiv said on Thursday, and President Vladimir Putin threatened "lightning-fast" retaliation against any Western countries that intervene on Ukraine's behalf.

More than two months into an invasion that has flattened cities but failed to capture the capital Kyiv, Russia has mounted a push to seize two eastern provinces in a battle the West views as a decisive turning point in the war.

"The enemy is increasing the pace of the offensive operation. The Russian occupiers are exerting intense fire in almost all directions," Ukraine's military command said of the situation on the main front in the east. It said Russia's main attack was near the towns of Slobozhanske and Donets, along a strategic frontline highway linking Ukraine's second-largest city Kharkiv with the Russian-occupied city of Izyum. The Kharkiv regional governor said Russian forces were intensifying attacks from Izyum, but Ukrainian troops were holding their ground. Although Russian forces were pushed out of northern Ukraine last month, they are heavily entrenched in the east and also still hold a swathe of the south that they seized in March.

Ukraine said there were strong explosions overnight in the southern city of Kherson, the only regional capital Russia has captured since the invasion. Russian troops there used tear gas and stun grenades on Wednesday to suppress pro-Ukrainian demonstrations, and were now shelling the entire surrounding region and attacking towards Mykolaiv and Kryvyi Rih, President Vladimir Zelenskiy's southern home city, Ukraine said. Kyiv accuses Moscow of planning to stage a fake independence referendum in the occupied south. Russian state media quoted an official from a self-styled pro-Russian "military-civilian commission" in Kherson on Thursday as saying the area would start using Russia's rouble currency from May 1.

Western countries have ramped up weapons deliveries to Ukraine in recent days as the fighting in the east has intensified. More than 40 countries met this week at a US air base in Germany and pledged to send heavy arms such as artillery for what is expected to be a vast battle of opposing armies along a heavily fortified front line. Washington now says it hopes Ukrainian forces can not only repel Russia's assault on the east, but weaken its military so that it can no longer threaten neighbours. Russia says that amounts to Nato waging "proxy war" against it. "If someone intends to intervene in the ongoing events from the outside, and create strategic threats for Russia that are unacceptable to us, they should know that our retaliatory strikes will be lightning-fast," Putin told lawmakers in St Petersburg. "We have all the tools for this, things no one else can boast of having now. And we will not boast, we will use them if necessary. And I want everyone to know that."

'Cancerous growth' British Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said Putin's remarks were a sign of "almost desperation, trying to broaden this either with threats or indeed, with potential false flags or attacks". "Having failed in nearly all his objectives," Putin was now seeking to consolidate control of occupied territory, Wallace said. "Just be a sort of cancerous growth within the country in Ukraine and make it very hard for people to move them out of those fortified positions." Ukrainian troops are still holed up in a giant steel works in Mariupol, the ruined southeastern port where thousands of people have died under two months of Russian siege and bombardment. **—Reuters**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Whereas Mr. Khushi Muhammad S/O Muhammad Ibrahim allottee of plot No. 603/B measuring 10-M 128 sft Gulberg Colony Kasur has appointed Mr. Muhammad Din S/O Abdul Qadir vide dastaviz No. 858. Bahi no. 4 Jild No.53 dated 26-11-1991 registered in the office of Sub Registrar Kasur. The above name general power of attorney intends to transfer in favour of Mr. Kashif Yasin S/O Muhammad Din if anybody has any objection he should submit objection in writing to the undersigned within a period of 15 days from publication of this notice . After that the department shall not accept any responsibility whatsoever on this behalf

Deputy Director Punjab Housing & Town Planning Agency DHC, Kasur.