



HOSPITALITY

INTERIOR MINISTER ANNOUNCES CHEAP PASSPORT SERVICE FOR LABOURERS

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Federal Interior Minister Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed has announced the issuance of cheap passports for unskilled labourers who are considering traveling to the Middle East in search of jobs.

In an informal conversation with the media Sheikh Rasheed said that the passports will be issued for an extended period of 10 years for Rs 3,000.

The minister also promised to make the visa process easy for the Chinese nationals working on the China Pakistan Economic Corridor

(CPEC) projects.

Expressing his resolve to improve the financial position of the Directorate of Immigration and Passports, the minister announced that a new e-passport service will be launched on 28 April 2021.

He added that an SMS service is being launched to alert people six months before the expiry of their passports and that the home delivery of passports is being started in Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

The minister also objected to the length of the

Exit Control List (ECL) and blacklist that contain the names of the people who are prohibited from leaving the country.

“I have directed them to shorten the lists which have over one hundred thousand people on the blacklist and the ECL. Only those elements involved in criminal and anti-state activities should be kept in the list,” he said.

The minister also issued a warning to the petrol pumps selling smuggled petrol and diesel and said that if they do not refrain from the activity, the ministry will take action against them.

GOVT TO BIFURGATE LAHORE INTO TWO DISTRICTS

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In light of Lahore’s increasing population and numerous urban issues, the government has decided to bifurcate the district of Lahore into City and Saddar districts. Accordingly, five new tehsils will be created in the two proposed districts.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Lahore has been directed to prepare a PC-2 to conduct an impact assessment study for geographic and social/cultural cohesion. Consultancy services will be hired for this purpose under the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority Rules to ensure that the historic charter of the city remains intact during the division.

The City District will comprise the tehsils of the city, Thokar Niaz Baig, Model Town, Kahna,

and Raiwind while the Saddar district will comprise the tehsils of Ferozewala, Kot Abdul Malik, Shalimar, the Cantonment, and Harbanspura. Each tehsil will be further divided into numerous revenue circles.

The City tehsil will include the Lahore Khaas, Shahdara, Naulakha, Sanda, the Ravi Urban Development Authority (RUDA), and Sharaqpur circles and the Thokar Niaz Baig tehsil will comprise the Thokar Niaz Baig, Chuhng, and Maraka circles

Similarly, Model Town will comprise the Ichhra and Nawan Kot qanungois, Kahna will have the Kahna, Kamahan, and Pandoki qanungois, and the Raiwind tehsil will include the Raiwind, Paji, Manga, and Kasur district qanungois.

The minutes of a meeting held on 3 December under the chairmanship of the Senior Member of the Board of Revenue, Babar Hayat Tatar stated: “The participants were apprised that the meeting of the technical group had been convened to discuss the progress upon the implementation of the decision taken during the meeting of the technical group held on Nov 26, 2020. The Lahore DC explained that the proposal of the creation of two new administrative districts, namely Lahore City and Lahore Saddar, in the present Lahore city district has been discussed with the Sheikhpura DC and further rationalized”.