

PDM protest rally in Bahawalpur today

ISLAMABAD: The PDM will hold protest rally against the govt today (Sunday) in Bahawalpur. The rally will be led by PDM Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman while Maryam Nawaz, vice-president PML-N will also participate in the rally. As per schedule PDM leadership will arrive at Bahawalpur toll plaza on Sutlej pull and later rally will reach residence of PDM leader MPA Malik Zahir. Maryam Nawaz is likely to deliver brief address there. —Online

The Business

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CSB to meet tomorrow

ISLAMABAD: The Central Selection Board (CSB) will meet tomorrow (Monday) under the chairmanship of chairman Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) Captain (Retd) Zahid Saeed. The meeting will continue for three days. Officers of grade 19 and 20 from different services, groups and federal departments will be promoted to next grade in the meeting. Board agenda has been issued. Prime Minister will give final approval to the recommendations by board. It may be mentioned that meeting is going to be held after one year. —Online

PFMA firm to back PCST for first industrial survey

By Our Special Correspondent

LAHORE: The Pakistan Footwear Manufacturing Association (PFMA) Chairman Muhammad Imran Malik M.D Bata has welcomed Pakistan Council for Science and Technology (PCST) 4-members delegate for arranging successful meeting prior to conducting Industry related survey. The PFMA has appreciated the government gesture of reaching out to Industry at their doorstep by PCST before carrying out the survey. It has put forward important industry-related issue hampering the growth of Footwear industry in Pakistan.

The PCST has been given task to carry out Pakistan First industrial national innovation Survey (FINIS). The objective of the survey is to conduct National survey of manufacturing sector for gaining insight into their Industry innovative process and gauging extent & nature of its innovation activities.

They have to identify the factors hampering the innovation activities at the firm-level. They have to find out the motivational factors for firms for undertaking innovation activities. Based on their finding, PCST will suggest policy measures/framework for promoting innovation in manufacturing sector for enhancing its competitiveness in the national and International market. The PFMA chairman has briefed the PCST delegates about contemporary footwear industry issues in which Importing of Raw material is most important factor in determining the growth of manufacturing sector in Pakistan.

Currently Industry is relying on Importing raw material to produce final products. Industry importing raw material either from China or from Europe to meet its domestic demand. There is dire need to develop indigenous Raw material producing industry in Pakistan to reduce reliance on important material and safe valuable foreign exchange. Beside this. The basic shoe components like Mold, it is most important component for shoe making, is not produced in Pakistan locally and Industry has to import either from China or European country.

Car prices can be cut only through localisation

LAHORE: The Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts & Accessories Manufacturers (PAAPAM) has appreciated the PM's taking notice of higher automobile prices in the country, which is mainly due to lower content of localized parts and government's strict tariff and taxation policy, affecting the car prices in the country and need to be reviewed.

In a meeting held here on Saturday, the senior PAAPAM members endorsed the Federal Cabinet direction to launch inquiry in this regard, saying the rates of vehicles can be reduced through full implementation of localization regime. The imposition of RD, additional customs duty, devaluation of rupee and higher federal excise duty are major burden on the consumers of cars, they added.

"As the existing Auto Policy is to expire by the midyear, right away triggering preparations for AIDP 2021-26, it is right time to give a complete shake up to the stagnant system regulating the Automotive regime, to bring transparency and credibility to the procedures," they demanded. The participants of the meeting observed that PM Imran has rightly pinpointed the issue. —Online

FO rejects Indian remarks on Pak minority rights

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has categorically rejected completely unwarranted assertions by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in connection with the Hindu temple incident in Karak.

The Foreign Office spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri said in a statement on Saturday, "This is not the first time the Indian Government has tried to feign concern for minority rights elsewhere while being the most egregious and persistent violator of minority rights itself." He said the RSS-BJP regime's record is replete with instances of gross and systemic violations of the rights of minorities, in particular Muslims. The Spokesperson said as a perennial purveyor of state-sponsored

that the department received a complaint on Friday night for a robbery bid in Shams Colony by some dacoits in a car. The vehicle was followed by CTF officials who were on patrolling duty in the area, police added. However, after many failed attempts to stop the car, the personnel shot fires on the tyre but unfortunately, the driver received two bullets to his body which later led to his death. The body was shifted to the hospital where his post-mortem was conducted.

Sources of PIMS Hospital said that the deceased youth is identified as 21-year-old Usama Satti. A senior medico-legal officer (MLO) conducted the post-mortem of the victim of a car firing incident in the federal

capital. According to the initial post-mortem report which was handed over to police, Usama Satti received six bullets to different parts of the body including head, left arm and four bullets on the waist, sources added.

Police said that a case will be registered against the car firing incident over the complaint from the victim's family. On the other hand, the victim's father claimed that 16 to 17 bullet marks are present at car but not a single bullet was shot at the tyres. Following the incident, Inspector General (IG) Islamabad police ordered to immediately launch a thorough probe into the firing case and constituted an investigation team headed by deputy inspector general (DIG). —TLTP



KARACHI: A delegation of Sindh Business Chamber meet wit President Dr Arif Alvi at the Governor's House.

PIAF greets Anjum for BMP re-victory in FPCCI elections

LAHORE: The Pakistan Industrial & Traders Association Front (PIAF) has greeted Businessmen Panel Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar for clinching the historic victory in the annual elections of the country's apex trade body, retaining almost all the main seats of the office for second year in a row.

PIAF chairman Mian Nauman Kabear, senior vice chairman Nasir Hameed and vice chairman Javed Siddiqi congratulated the BMP candidate Mian Nasser Hyatt Magoo for his election as FPCCI president and Khawaja Shazaib Akram as senior vice president after fighting a tough battle.

Mian Nauman Kabir said that credit of historic success goes to the top leadership of the group for working day and night for the betterment and welfare of the business community. He hoped that FPCCI President, SVP and other body members will take up the issues, being faced by the business community, with the government. He hoped that FPCCI leadership will accord top importance to the prompt solution to collective problems and issues being confronted by the business community.

UBG outrightly rejects rigged result of presidential slot of FPCCI

The top leadership of United Business Group (UBG) Saturday reaffirmed that it firmly believed in democracy, rule of law and supremacy of constitution but outrightly rejected the rigged election result of top slot of president Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

UBG Presidential candidate Muhammad Khalid Tawab talking to media in city today alleged that despite securing equal number of 178 votes biased election commission unlawfully announced his rival Mian Nasir Hayat Mangoon of Businessman panel as president. He said it's tradition that in case of tied election, the fate of office bearer is decided very next day through toss at the annual general meeting of the FPCCI but unfortunately in an undemocratic move and through unlawful recounting of votes, engineered and manipulated result of the election of President was announced on December 31 while results of SVP and all VPs were declared same day of polling on December 30.

Khalid Tawab further explained that it was also unanimously agreed by the polling agents of both groups that three disputed votes will not be included in the voting but again the Election Commission unilaterally and without any lawful authority counted these three votes in favour of his rival in a clandestine manner showing an edge over him with 180 votes.

He further explained that actually during counting in presence of polling agents his rival got 177 votes while he was polled 178 votes but election commission illegally opened the sealed vote of Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber Balochistan making the total number of votes equal. He said that DGTO had already cancelled the votes of all joint chambers across the country and didn't allow them to take part in election process,

but his opponents were bent upon to clinch the top slot by hook and crook.

ICCI hails extension in relief package for construction industry

Fatima Azim, Acting President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that the business community of the entire country was demanding extension in the relief package for the construction industry as insufficient time was given to take advantage of it and hailed the announcement of the Prime Minister Imran Khan to extend this package for another year. She termed it a very commendable decision as it would prove highly beneficial for the country and steer the economy out of current difficulties towards better recovery and growth.

Fatma Azim said that the PM has extended the fixed tax regime for the construction sector for one and the facility of non-disclosure of source of income for six months, which was very encouraging. She said that the businessmen has also welcomed the one year's extension in the period for construction projects by allowing them to be completed by 2023 which would facilitate initiation and execution of more projects in this important sector. She said that many other industries were associated with the construction industry so the expansion of the construction package would not only boost the business of all allied industries, it would also increase investment and create plenty of new jobs leading to reduction in unemployment and poverty. —On-

2020 stained with inflation, unemployment, says PEW

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Saturday said the 2020 was stained with inflation, unemployment, and political as well as economic instability marred the year 2020.

The year was beneficial for influential mafia, profiteers, hoarders and politicians while it saw unprecedented inflation, unemployment, instability, lawlessness and tall claims, it said. The wheat, sugar, poultry, pharma and other mafias transferred trillions from the pockets of the poor to their accounts while the tariff of electricity, gas, price of petrol and food further damaged the masses, said Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President PEW.

He said that masses were burdened with heavy taxes during the outgoing year while the practice of rewarding nobility through tax breaks worth hundreds of billions continued while masses will continue to brave problems in absence of corrective measures. Millions lost their jobs and businesses while many more saw cuts in their incomes at a time when the price of almost everything rose exponen-

tially breaking all previous records. Record erosion in the exchange rate took toll on masses as well as the economy and trillions were wasted on fancy projects and deliberate delay in import of wheat, sugar, LNG and other needed items.

MD PTV refutes charges against him

The Managing Director of Pakistan Television Corporation, Aamer Manzoor, firmly rejected the charges placed against him, by the newly constituted PTV Board of Directors under the direction of PTV Chairman Naam Bokhari.

Manzoor said the "charge sheet" presented to him was in reaction to Manzoor's efforts to stabilise the organisation, which has been thrown into disarray by Bokhari's adhoc decisions. Manzoor pointed out that he has consistently followed the rules of the State owned broadcaster and followed the mandate given by Prime Minister Imran Khan to raise the stature of PTV to internationally accepted standards.

Manzoor added that he had spearheaded PTV's financial turnaround and the State broadcaster had shown operational profits

consistently during his tenure and termed the charges against him as ill-intentioned and part of a campaign to discredit his contributions to the organisation.

Govt prepares interest-free loan package for small private schools

The govt has prepared an interest-free package of loans for low-income private schools, aimed at providing them financial support in this testing time due to virus.

This was stated by Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Shafiqat Mehmood during a meeting with a delegation of Supreme Council of All Private Schools Association, in Islamabad.

Shafiqat Mehmood said the government will make all out efforts to open schools as soon as possible. He said keeping in view the current situation, the summer vacations will be reduced. The Minister said decision regarding the exams scheduled in March, would be taken in Inter Provincial Education Ministers Conference meeting on Monday. He said the meeting will also consult about start of annual educational year

Decision on resignation after 31st: Fazl

LAHORE: Head of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) Maulana Fazlur Rehman has said that decision regarding resignations from assemblies and long march towards federal capital will be taken after January 31.

Talking to media persons, JUI-F chief said that war has been declared against the incumbent government and all parties of alliance are working together to send government packing.

He also said that he will raise voice against government which sold Kashmir and announced to observe Kashmir Solidarity Day on February 5. JUI-F chief said they will also raise voice for Palestinians and an anti-Israel rally will be held in Karachi on January 21.

On the other hand, PML-N leader Rana Sanaulah has said that decision about resignations will be taken after decisive long march.

The PML-N leader talked to media and said Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has presented its stance pertaining to the matter of resignations according to the present situation with argument. Rana Sanaulah said that the intensity of the government's politics of revenge is increasing with every passing day and the judiciary should intervene and stop this practice. —DNA

Resignations will be given after Long March: Sana

LAHORE: PML-N Punjab president Rana Sana Ullah has said the decision for giving resignations from assemblies will be taken after the Long March. "The decisions for resigning from assemblies will be taken after Long March. All know where we will camp in Rawalpindi. The judiciary should stand as wall against the political vendettas", he said this while talking to media men here Saturday.

He hoped PDM anti-government movement will continue to pile pressure more and more. During the PDM meeting a day before, some people were of opinion that resignations should be given before Long March. PPP gave stance as per situation. We will give resignations and the assemblies will be dissolved.

He held decision about Long March will be given on February 02. The decision about resignations will be taken after. He stated NAB has failed in detecting a single secret bank account of a penny so far. —Online

'We will not resign on opp pressure'

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister (FM) Shah Mehmood Qureshi has said we will not resign at the behest or pressure of opposition as we are enjoying people mandate.

"Why the opposition is waiting for January 31. We will not resign at the behest or pressure of opposition. We have people mandate", he said this while reacting to opposition press conference here Saturday. He went on to say that PM Imran Khan is enjoying confidence of parliament. People have lost interest in opposition narrative. He underlined more than five hours long PDM meeting at Lahore remained inconclusive. This meeting endorsed the decisions taken in the central executive committee meeting of PPP as they have too announced they will take part in by polls like PPP. —Online

82 people die in a day by coronavirus

ISLAMABAD: About 82 people have been killed in last 24 hours by novel corona virus as the number of positive cases has reached to 484,362. The nationwide tally of fatalities has reached to 10,258.

According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCO), 2,184 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours.

216,632 corona virus cases have been confirmed in Sindh, 139,341 in Punjab 59,023 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 38,020 in Islamabad, 18,181 in Balochistan, 8,303 in Azad Kashmir and 4,862 in Gilgit-Baltistan.

4,085 individuals have lost their lives to the epidemic in Punjab 3,582 in Sindh, 1,661 in KP, 421 in Islamabad, 224 in Azad Kashmir, 184 in Balochistan, and 101 in GB.

6,775,307 corona virus tests have been conducted so far in Pakistan and 38,229 in the last 24 hours. 438,974 corona virus patients have recovered in the country whereas 2,264 pa-

Five cops held after firing at vehicle leaves youth dead

ISLAMABAD: Five Counter-Terrorism Force (CTF) officials were arrested on Saturday for opening fire at a vehicle, leaving a youth dead in Islamabad.

According to details, five Counter-Terrorism Force (CTF) officials were arrested and shifted to Ramna police station of the federal capital over allegedly opening fire at a vehicle. Earlier in the day, a firing incident was reported in Islamabad's G-10 where the security officials shot multiple fires at a 'suspicious' vehicle after allegedly trying to stop the driver many times.

Police told the media that the officials followed a suspicious 'vehicle with tinted glasses and tried to stop it many times'. They claimed



ISLAMABAD: People erupt fire to block the Srinagar Highway during protest against the murder of a 22-year-old youth named Usama by ATS personnel.