

Veteran journalist Rahimullah Yusufzai laid to rest in Mardan

MARDAN: The Funeral prayer of veteran journalist and analyst Rahimullah Yusufzai was offered at Shamozi Katlang in Mardan on Friday. Politicians, relatives, well-wishers, journalists, government officials and a large number of people belonging to different walks of life attended the last rites of Rahimullah Yusufzai. Yusufzai was laid to rest at his ancestral graveyard in Shamozi Katlang. Qul will be held tomorrow (Sunday) at Shamozi Katlang. —Online

The Business

Lahore, Saturday, September 11, 2021 Safar 03, 1443

Lahore sees record increase in flour prices

LAHORE: A new storm of inflation hit the provincial capital on Friday as the price of wheat flour has been increased against for the ninth consecutive time by Rs10 per 20 kilogram bag and reached Rs1240 in the open market. The new rate of per kilogram flour has reached to Rs78. The official price of 20 kilogram flour bag is Rs 860. The official price of flour is Rs 43 per kg and with the artificial increase, the price of flour has gone up to Rs 66 per kg. The prices of flour have gone up by Rs 23 per kg. —The Business Report

FO spokesperson assumes charge at HC-designate

Jamil Siraj

CANBERRA: A spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri assumed responsibilities as the High Commissioner-designate of Pakistan to the Commonwealth of Australia.

Chaudhri holds a Masters degree in International Law from the University of London and Masters in Business Administration from the University of Punjab. He is also an alumni of the American University and the National Defence University, Washington DC.

Chaudhri is a career diplomat with over 28 years of experience at key positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad and at Pakistan Missions abroad. He has also served at the President's Secretariat and the National Security Division. Prior to his appointment as High Commissioner to Australia, he served as Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Additional Secretary responsible for Asia-Pacific. The High Commissioner-designate looks forward working for further strengthening Pakistan-Australia bilateral relations particularly in the areas of trade and investment, agriculture, education, mining, water resource management, Information Technology and defence and security cooperation. Providing maximum facilitation to the Pakistani community and Pakistani students in Australia will be his key priority.

83 die, 3689 infected due to coronavirus

ISLAMABAD: At least 83 persons lost their life and 3689 tested positive due to corona virus in 24 hours in the country.

According to National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) 61128 corona tests were conducted during 24 hours in the country and out of which 3689 returned positive taking the tally of the cases to 1197887 in the country. The positivity ratio was recorded 6.03 percent. The active cases stand at 91440 while 1079867 persons have recovered. —Online

Afghan soil was used against Pak in the past: FM

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister (FM) Shah Mehmood Qureshi has said Afghan soil was used against Pakistan in the past.

The humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan is not in the interest of Afghan citizens, region and world. We will continue to help Afghan brethren. If Taliban come close to the international community then they will create easy situation for them", he said this in a statement issued here Friday. Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi held Pakistan wants peace and prosperity in Afghanistan and is committed to help the Afghan brothers despite limited resources. He mentioned that Pakistan sent to Kabul the humanitarian supplies in the form of medicine and food and we are also trying to send them the relief goods to avert any crisis.

He stressed that saving Afghanistan from humanitarian crisis is the common responsibility of all. He said that we should encourage the Taliban not to allow their land to be used against any other country. He pointed out Qatari foreign minister came to Pakistan and called on PM Imran Khan and talks were held in foreign ministry. —Online

Govt all out to rig next elections, says PML-N

ISLAMABAD: Reacting to insulting the Election Commission (EC) by minister in the meeting of Senate Standing Committee on Parliamentary Affairs, the PML-N has said it seems as if government is planning to carry out rigging in the next election by occupying the EC.

This was said by PML-N leaders Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Ahsan Iqbal, Maryam Aurangzeb and Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry in a hurriedly called meeting in Islamabad on Friday. Khaqan Abbasi said this government has made the election controversial.

It is endeavor of the government to presurize EC. The strange laws are elected in



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain, Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Azam Khan Swati and Advisor to Prime Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Babar Awan address a press conference at the PID Media Centre.

APNS reiterates resolve to oppose PMDA come what may

KARACHI: The All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) has strongly lamented the perpetual efforts of the Federal Government to curtail the independence of the media, the latest being the proposed PMDA which, in the opinion of the APNS Executive Committee, is intended to strangle and control the entire media of the country.

The Executive Committee of the APNS at its meeting held at Karachi on September 09, 2021 chaired by the President, APNS, Sarmad Ali was briefed by the President on different meetings with the stakeholders and the Federal Government on the establishment of Pakistan Media Development Authority. The members unanimously rejected the proposal and termed it as an attempt to tighten the Federal Government control over the media from one platform. The proposed PMDA appears as extension of PEMRA to all media with more regimental provisions as subjugate and take over the independence of free media.

The Executive Committee further stated that the proposal was unconstitutional as any Federal legislation to regulate print media is beyond the power of parliament after the 18th constitutional amendment. The APNS out-rightly rejected the proposal to make it mandatory for all types of media to obtain licenses and renewal of registration. The proposal envisages the concept of media tribunal whose members were to be appointed by the Federal Government which is a form of direct control over the media. The Concept is contrary to

the very notion of the justice and a fair hearing as it denies the right of appeal in the high courts. The tribunals have been authorized with the punishment up to 03 years imprisonment and a fine of Rs.25 million.

The Committee observed that the Federal Government intends to tighten its control on media at large. The committee also noted that unless the proposed law to establish the PMDA is shared with stakeholders, no meaningful consultation was possible.

The Executive Committee considered the report of Advertising Committee and approved M/s. Advertising & Business Consultants (Pvt.) Ltd, Peshawar for confirmation of accreditation. M/s. Marcom (Pvt.) Ltd, Islamabad and M/s. Wings Media (Pvt) Ltd, Lahore were granted provisional accreditation. The Committee also approved the restructuring of M/s. Zenith Advertising Communication (Pvt.) Ltd, Karachi.

The members offered fatiha on the sad demise of Arif Nizami, a veteran editor and journalist, Mrs. Shamim Akhtar wife of Ghulam Akbar and mother of Inam Akbar and Nadeem Akbar. Sahibzada Zia-ur-Rahman Shami, elder brother of Mujeeb-ur-Rahman Shami, Chief Editor, Daily Pakistan, Lahore and aunt of Ms. Fauzia Shaheen, publisher, Monthly Dastak, Karachi.

The following attended the meeting: Sarmad Ali, President, Shahab Zuberi, Vice President, Fauzia Shaheen

(Monthly Dastak), Najamuddin Sheikh (Daily Deyanat), Muhammad Younus Mehar (Daily Halchal), Adnan Faisal (Daily Jiddat, Karachi), Javed Mehr Shamsi (Daily Kaleem), Muhammad Aslam Leghari (Daily Kawish), Muhammad Manzoor Rana (Daily Mashriq, Quetta), Zahida Abbasi (Daily Nau Sijj), S.M. Munir Jilani (Daily Paigham), Humayun Gulzar (Daily Sayadat) and Nasir Daad Baloch (Daily Sindh Sujaag)

The following attended the meeting on Zoom: Jamil Athar, Sr. Vice President, Nazafreen Saigol Lakhani, Secretary General, Mohsin Bilal, Joint Secretary, Awaiz Khushnood, Finance Secretary, Syed Sajjad Bokhari (Daily Abtak), Mumtaz A. Tahir (Daily Aftab), Waseem Ahmed (Daily Awam, Quetta), Ansar Mahmood Bhatti (Monthly Centre Line), Kazi Asad Abid (Fortnightly Ibrat), Imtihan Shahid (Daily Khabrain), Umer Mujib Shami (D/Pakistan, Lahore), Faisal Zahid Malik (D/Pakistan Observer) and Dr. Waqar Yousuf Azeemi (M/Roohani Digest).

CPNE again rejects PMDA

A meeting of the Joint Action Committee of media organisations was held on Friday. All representative media organizations namely All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS), Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE), PBA, Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ), and the AEMEND reiterated their stance of rejecting the proposed PMDA vehemently and termed the concept as unconstitutional and a move to muzzle the

KCCI asks SBCA to unseal cottage industries

KARACHI: The Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) has strongly criticised the Sindh Building Control Authority's move to seal thousands of cottage industries in Mehran Town.

The leadership of Businessmen Group (BMG) and office-bearers of KCCI, in a joint statement on Friday, said that the cottage industries have been sealed with an excuse that these cannot be operated in a residential locality but it is purely unlawful as the Finance Act clearly defines 'cottage industry' as a manufacturing concern 'which is located in a residential area'.

Chairman BMG Zubair Motiwala, President KCCI Shariq Vohra, Senior Vice President Saqib Goodluck, Vice President Shamsul Islam Khan, Chairman Special Committee for Small Traders Majeed Memon and PCLC Chief Hafeez Aziz pointed out that all the cottage industries in Mehran Town have been sealed in re-

sponse to a particular fire incident that happened in this area last month in which precious lives were lost but penalizing everyone for someone else's negligence is not the solution to the problem but it is obviously sheer injustice to millions of workers who are associated with all the cottage industries in Mehran Town.

They said these cottage industries are a major source of generating employment, particularly for women, which is the basic phenomena for establishing these cottage industries in the neighbourhood not only in Pakistan but all over the world so that women could easily focus on their work as well as their homes. They said that the biggest advantage of setting up cottage industries in residential areas is that it creates gender employment which has always been the top priority of the government.

They said that all types of businesses, particularly small traders, shopkeepers,

eateries and cottage industries etc. are already going through the toughest times of their lives due to the disaster caused by COVID-19 pandemic. In such a situation, SBCA, instead of acting leniently, aggravated the hardships by sealing all the cottage industries in Mehran Town which would intensify the misery for millions of people by rendering them jobless."

The BMG leaders and Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) office-bearers appealed that in order to save jobs hundreds and thousands of workers and also their families from poverty and starvation, the Sindh government must intervene in this most serious matter and issue directives to SBCA to immediately unseal all the cottage industries located in Mehran Town and regularise them so that the owners of all these industries and their workers could take some sigh of relief and resume their activities.

Rupee nears new record low against dollar; at Rs 168

KARACHI: Pakistani rupee continued struggling against the US dollar for the second straight day on Friday and shed 36 paisas (-0.21 percent) in the interbank.

According to the State Bank of Pakistan, the US dollar opened at Rs167.66 and closed at Rs168.02. This is the lowest level of the local currency against the greenback since August 26, 2020. The dollar made the historic high against the rupee at Rs168.44 on August 26, 2020. Within the open market, the rupee was traded at Rs168.20/169 per dollar.

Overall, Pakistani rupee shed Rs1.11 against the US dollar during this week, while depreciation during the fiscal year 2021-22 has been Rs10.66. The local unit has shed Rs7.83 against the US dollar in the current year 2021. The rupee has depreciated 6.2 percent since June 2021 while devaluation has been 9.4 percent since May 14, 2021 when it reached its recent high against the US dollar.

The currency experts said that external payment remained high which resulted in increased dollar's demand. They said that the dollar's demand was also high due to upcoming weekly holidays. They said that it is interesting to note that the remittances data issued by the SBP early in the day also failed to support the rupee. —TLTP

Alvi to address Parliament on Monday

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi has summoned the joint sitting of the parliament to meet at Parliament House Islamabad on Monday at 11:00am.

As per media reports the President will address the joint session to mark the beginning of the fourth parliamentary year. —Online

Chemicals, pharma exports witness 61.37pc increase

ISLAMABAD: The exports of Chemicals and Pharma products during the first month of FY 2021-22 grew by 61.37 percent as compared to the exports of the corresponding period of last year. During the period from July 21, Chemicals and Pharma products worth \$121,152,000 were exported as compared to worth \$75,078,000 of the same period last year.

According to the data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, the exports of Plastic materials increased by 59.28 percent, worth \$30,100 thousand were exported as compared to the exports of US \$ 18,897 thousand of the same period of last year.

Meanwhile, the exports of Onyx manufactured increased by 118.47 percent, worth the US \$ 627 thousand were also exported in the current financial year as compared to the exports of valuing the US \$ 287 thousand of the same period of last year. During the period under view, Other chemicals exports increased by 111.13 percent as worth US \$ 66,760 thousand were exported in the current fiscal year as compared to the exports of valuing the US \$ 31,620 thousand of the same period of last year. —APP

PDM to boycott parliament session

ISLAMABAD: The Opposition's Pakistan Democratic Movement on Friday announced a boycott of the joint parliamentary session due on Monday next week.

The announcement was made after a meeting of the PDM's steering committee. The meeting was attended by PML-N's Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Ahsan Iqbal, Marriyum Aurangzeb, JUI-F's Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Owais Noorani, Akram Khan Durrani, Hafiz Hamdullah, Quami Watan Party chief Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao and Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party chief Mahmood Khan Achakzai.

Hafiz Hamdullah spoke to the media following the meeting to announce the decision. "PDM stands with media organisations and will continue to stand by them," he said. He said that what had occurred earlier in the day during a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Parliamentary Affairs was "non-parliamentary" and "non democratic".

"Babar Awan and Azam Swati has insulted

Swati levels serious charges

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imprisoning the Opposition when they ask questions and silencing the media," he tweeted. He wondered how a government that does not demonstrate seriousness during a consultative meeting, be expected to take concrete decisions on electoral and administrative reforms.

"ECP officials walking out [in protest] over the ministers' attitude tells us of the government's attitude," he said. "How can a government that is unable to answer members of a committee logically expect us to put faith in its legislation and claims?" he wondered.

Sharif said the government does not have any answer to the logical, comprehensive, solid and technical reservations pointed out by the ECP on the EVMs. He regretted how the government had "bull-

dozed" bills in the National Assembly a few months ago and today, forced the ECP members to walk out of a committee meeting.

"The government does not have reasoning to promote electronic voting, it only has threats," he said. "On rejecting the idea of EVMs, the government has resorted to threatening the ECP," he added.

Bills to be approved through joint session: Babar

Meanwhile, Babar Awan criticised the chairman of the senate committee for not allowing a government member to vote during the meeting. "Senate Parliamentary Committee chairman has deprived Senator Samina Mumtaz of exercising her right of the vote after which the government members walked out of the meeting," he tweeted.

He said that the Opposition has

been exposed after it voted against the EVM and overseas Pakistan's right to vote. "We will get both the bills approved from the joint session of parliament," Babar Awan said.

On Friday, the Election Commission of Pakistan submitted a four-page letter to Taj Haider, the chairman of the senate's standing committee on parliamentary affairs, which expressed its reservations regarding the proposed election amendment bills. The ECP stated that it endorses the introduction of new technologies in the electoral process but has concerns about the process being pushed in "haste".

"The Commission, while in favor of technology, believes that the technology to be used must be secured and sufficiently tested," the letter argued, adding that the EVM should be subject to massive testing by procuring the machine on a small scale for



RAWALPINDI: Personnel of Pak Army are arrived with their equipments for rescue operations after the rise of water in Lai-Nullah, after heavy rain.