



All Pakistan Newspapers Society

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Ref: APNS/2011/

March 31, 2011

The Editor,
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Dear Sir,

Please read the following news item and oblige:

The Annual Meeting of the APNS General Council held on March 31, 2011 has elected the Executive Committee for the year 2011-12 which unanimously elected Hameed Haroon as President, Mr. Mehtab Khan as Senior Vice President, Sarmad Ali as Secretary General, Umer Mujib Shami as Vice President, Rameeza Majid Nizami as Joint Secretary and S.M. Munir Jilani as Finance Secretary of the Society.

The AGM held under the Chairmanship of Hameed Haroon, President for the year 2010-11, unanimously approved the report of the Executive Committee for the preceding year as well as the Annual Accounts of the Society. The Council elected Mr. Younus Riaz of Daily Beopar, Karachi as member emeritus in recognition of his services for the newspaper industry.

The General Council, attended by 138 members from across the country, formed an Election Commission headed by Mr. Younus Riaz, Mr. Usman Arab Saati and Ms. Rukhsana Seham Mirza as members. At this stage, 19 member publications left the meeting and did not participate in the election process. The Election Commission conducted the election of the Executive Committee for the year 2011-12. Following were elected un-opposed:

Karachi Daily Seats: Aghaz, Deyanat, Jurat, Kainat, Millat & Qaumi Akhbar.

Lahore Daily Seats: Business Recorder, Dawn, Jang, Khabrain, Nawa-i-Waqt & Pakistan

Rawalpindi/Islamabad Daily Seats: Al Akhbar (Rawalpindi) and Ausaf (Islamabad)

Balochistan Daily Seats: Awam (Quetta) and Balochistan Times (Quetta)

Khyber Pakhtoon Khwa Daily Seats: Mashriq (Peshawar) and Wahdat (Peshawar)

Sindh excluding Daily Karachi: Kaleem (Sukkur) and Kawish (Hyderabad)

Punjab (excluding Lahore/Rwp/Ibd.): Aftab (Multan), Business Report (Faisalabad) and Paigham (Faisalabad).

General Seats (Metropolitan Dailies): Asas (Islamabad) and Pakistan Observer (Islamabad)

General Seats (Regional Dailies): Ibrat (Hyderabad) and Tijarat (Sargodha)

Periodicals Seats: Cricketer Monthly (Karachi), Naya Rukh Monthly (Karachi), Naey

Ufaq Monthly (Karachi) Roohani Digest Monthly (Karachi)

News & News Comments Periodical (Punjab / KPK): Nikhar Weekly (Islamabad)

News & News Comments Periodical (Sindh / Balochistan): Economic Outlook Monthly (Karachi)

News & News Comments Periodical (General): Dastak Monthly (Karachi)

The President -elect nominated Qudsia K. Khan on woman - publishers seat.

The APNS Council considered the Govt.-Press relations, the state of newspaper industry as well as the problems faced by member publications. The General Council in a special resolution noted with concern that the Federal as well as provincial governments are denying government advertising to majority of genuine publications and stressed that the government advertisement data should be released on website of the PID and provincial information departments to ensure transparency in the release of government advertisements. The members also urged upon the Federal Government to make it compulsory for a publication to be included in the Central Media List.

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The General Council urged upon the Federal and provincial governments to stand by their commitments for freedom of press and refrain from victimizing the newspapers that do not follow the officials dictates. The members based in Khyber Pakhtoon Khwa and Balochistan have also reported to the Council that the Information Departments of the provinces have adopted discriminatory approach while releasing government advertisements which are being distributed to irregular publications while the senior and genuine publications were being completely ignored. This has resulted in the acute financial crunch to the newspaper industry in the province. Daily Azadi, Swat briefed the members that the Federal and provincial governments have not so far honored their commitments to compensate the publication for the loss incurred due to terrorist attacks and military action resulting in damages to their office premises.

The General Council was addressed by Hameed Haroon, Syed Faseih Iqbal, Dr. Jabbar Khattak, Jamil Ather, Khushnood Ali Khan, Mumtaz A. Tahir, Mumtaz Sadiq, Qudsia K. Khan, Fauzia Shaheen, Mukhtar Aqil, Amir Mahmood, Danish Iftekhar, Abdul Rashid Ghazi, Ilyas Shakir and other members from across the country.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(Dr. Tanvir A. Tahir)

Executive Director

APNS