

QUETTA VOICE

Editor :Asim khan

Monday November 13,2023

dquettavoice@gmail.com

Nawaz Set to Make Waves in Quetta: Electables Eye Joining His Party

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: In a significant political development, former Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif is poised to leave an indelible mark in Quetta as influential electables align themselves with the Pakistan Muslim League (N). Sources reveal that a strategic meeting between Nawaz Sharif and key political figures from Balochistan is on the horizon.

The formal announcement of this political realignment is expected to take place in the presence of the former premier himself. After a five-year hiatus, the Pakistan Muslim League (N) aims to re-establish its influence in Balochistan.

Notable figures, including former provincial ministers from the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) such as Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetrar, Noor Muhammad Dumar, Sardar Masood Luni, Toor Uthmankhail, and Dr. Rubaba Buledi, recently held discussions with Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, the former Speaker of the National Assembly, in Quetta.

According to Sheikh Jaffar Mandokhail, the Balochistan Chief of the PML-N, the details of the collaboration have been finalized, with only



the formal announcement pending. This development marks a pivotal moment for the party as it aims to solidify its presence in Balochistan with the support of key political players.

The anticipated meeting between Nawaz Sharif and Balochistan's electables is expected to reshape the political landscape in the region, adding a new chapter to the political narrative of Pakistan.

Balochistan PCS Exam: 17,000+ Candidates Begin Pursuit of Civil Services Success

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: In a much-anticipated event, the Balochistan Provincial Civil Service (PCS) examinations commenced with over 17,000 candidates competing for 122 coveted government posts. Amidst stringent security measures, the examination is a significant milestone for the region, marking the first time in years that the Balochistan Public Service Commission (BSPSC) has advertised such a substantial number of vacancies.

Candidates Testing Muscles For 122 Posts

Candidates are vigorously testing their mettle for 50 assistant commissioner positions, 29 section officer roles, and 43 deputy superintendent of police (DSP) positions. The unprecedented number of vacancies is expected to have a profound impact on the governance landscape of Balochistan.

BPSC Conducting Tests And Interviews

The BPSC, responsible for conducting tests and interviews for these positions, has emphasized its commitment to



upholding merit and transparency throughout the recruitment process.

The move is seen as a positive step towards ensuring a fair and competitive selection of candidates for key administrative roles in the province.

The increased number of advertised positions reflects a strategic effort to address personnel gaps and enhance the efficiency of governance structures in Balochistan.

As the examinations unfold, candidates and stakeholders are keenly observing the proceedings, anticipating a transformative impact on the region's administrative landscape.

US does not want to see firefights in Gaza hospitals, says national security adviser

GAZA: Hamas has said it is suspending hostage negotiations because of Israel's handling of the Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza, a Palestinian official briefed on the hostage talks has told Reuters.

The hospital has come under intense fire as Israeli forces close in on the facility.

Around 500 foreigners and dual nationals, as well as several wounded Palestinians, have been evacuated from the Israeli-bombarded Gaza Strip to Egypt, according to reports from both sides of the border, AFP reports.

Some "500 foreign nationals from 15 different countries entered Egypt," an Egyptian security official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

AlQahera News, an outlet close to the Egyptian intelligence services, reported the crossing of an additional "seven wounded Palestinians" through the terminal.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that Israel had offered fuel to Gaza's Al-Shifa hospital but Hamas had refused to receive it, Reuters reports.

Netanyahu was asked by NBC News whether Israeli allegations that Hamas had a command post under Gaza's main hospital justified jeopardising the lives of sick people and babies.

"On the contrary, we offered actually, last night, to give them enough fuel to operate the hospital, operate the incubators and so on, because we [have] no battle with patients or civilians at all," Netanyahu said.

Netanyahu was asked if Israel had a plan to get fuel into Gaza to power hospitals. "We just offered Shifa hospital the fuel, they refused it," Netanyahu said.

The United States does not want to see firefights in hospitals in the Gaza Strip where civilians are caught in the crossfire, White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan told CBS News, Reuters reports.

"The United States does not want



to see firefights in hospitals where innocent people, patients receiving medical care, are caught in the crossfire and we've had active consultations with the Israeli Defense Forces on this," Sullivan told CBS News' "Face the Nation" programme.

Russia has evacuated dozens of citizens from the Gaza strip, the country's emergency services said, after Moscow denounced the long waiting time this week, AFP reports.

"Seventy citizens crossed the Rafah crossing," the Russian emergency services said, referring to the checkpoint with Egypt that reopened November 1 to allow for the evacuation of foreigners and dual nationals.

The ministry published footage of staff welcoming evacuees, some of them crying, and providing them with basic necessities.

Israeli forces fired artillery into southern Lebanon after an incoming anti-tank missile wounded several Israeli civilians near the border, an army spokesman said, AFP reports.

The Israeli army said "a number of civilians were wounded" in the anti-tank missile strike near the village of Dovev,

Rare Blue Whale Found Dead in Gwadar, Highlights Perils of Illegal Fishing

Mir Salam Jogezi:

QUETTA: In a heartbreaking discovery, a majestic 27-foot-long blue whale was found lifeless on Churbandan beach, entangled in pieces of fishing net. The incident sheds light on the alarming frequency of rare marine species deaths in the Sea of Gwadar, where illegal fishing trawlers, plastic nets, and ships pose a grave threat to the rich marine biodiversity.



Increasing Incidents Of Marine Life Casualties

Marine biologist Abdul Rahim Baloch, an expert in the field, expressed concern over the increasing incidents of marine life casualties due to the collision of illegal fishing trawlers with plastic nets and ships.

The blue whale, considered the largest species of whale globally, succumbed to the impacts of human activities in the area.

Bale Whales Are A Rare Species Worldwide: Experts

Abdul Rahim Baloch emphasized the rarity of the blue whale, making this incident even more significant in the global context.

"Blue whales are a rare species worldwide, and the Sea of Gwadar is home to various marine species, including these majestic giants," he stated.

7 to 8 Tons Weight

Baloch estimated the weight of

the deceased blue whale to be between seven to eight tons, underscoring the immense size and significance of the marine mammal.

This unfortunate event underscores the urgent need for stronger measures to combat illegal fishing practices and protect the vulnerable marine ecosystem in the region.

Conservation efforts must be intensified, and authorities should take decisive action against those engaging in destructive activities that jeopardize the existence of rare marine species.

The global community is urged to take notice of this tragic incident, emphasizing the importance of sustainable practices and responsible fishing to ensure the survival of these magnificent creatures in the Sea of Gwadar.

The untimely death of this rare blue whale serves as a somber reminder of the critical role humans play in preserving and safeguarding the delicate balance of our oceans.

Quetta Civil Society Holds Vigorous Protest Against Adil Raja

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: In a fervent display of patriotism, members of the civil society in Quetta gathered outside the Quetta Press Club to vehemently protest against Adil Raja, a social media activist currently facing corruption charges and engaged in anti-Pakistani propaganda. Meena Majeed Baloch, Allauddin Kakar and others participated in the protest demonstration.

The demonstrators, who organized the protest under the banner of national unity, expressed their unwavering commitment to Pakistan and its institutions. According to sources, Adil Raja is believed to be evading authorities on corruption charges and has been accused of collaborating with the land mafia in the country.

Speakers at the event highlighted their concern over Raja's alleged involvement in activities contrary to the interests of Pakistan, accusing him of orchestrating anti-Pakistani propaganda in alignment with an Indian script.

"We have faith in our country and



forces, and we will not allow any external interference in our national affairs," declared a representative of the civil society. "If anyone dares to cast a lecherous eye on Pakistan, rest assured, they will receive a resolute response."

Protesters raised spirited slogans in support of Pakistan, its armed forces, and against India, branding Adil Raja as an alleged agent of the neighboring country. The demonstration reached its climax with the symbolic burning of an effigy representing Adil Raja.

Gastro Outbreak Claims Lives, Including Three Children, in Sibi

Nashad Baloch:

SIBI: Gastro outbreak claimed human lives including three children and a man in the Sibi district of Balochistan on Saturday.

Dr. Noor Qazi, the Director-General of Health Balochistan confirmed the tragic loss of four persons including three children in the province.

11 Patients Brought To Hospital

An emergency was declared in the district headquarters hospital Sibi to provide medical treatment to the gastro-affected patients.

So far 11 persons including 8 children, 2 women, and a man have been brought to the Sibi hospital. Mr. Qazi told Daily Quetta Voice via telephone.

The gastro outbreak prompted the Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan,

Ali Mardan Domki to take notice and dispatch a team of senior health officials.

CM Domki Takes Notice

Health Secretary



Balochistan, Abdullah Khan, under the supervision of DG Health Dr. Noor Muhammad Qazi, dispatched teams of expert doctors and medical staff along with essential medicines and ambulances to the Castro-affected area.

Additional medical staff and essential medicines have been provided to gastro-affected areas in Sibi.

Steps are being taken with the support of the Secretary PHE Department to prevent epidemics caused by lack of clean water in the areas of Sibi district and improve the situation.

Sibi's pediatricians, specialist doctors and medical staff from other fields are engaged in the treatment of gastro-affected people in the affected area of Sibi. Secretary Health Department, Balochistan, measures are being made effective to provide the best medical facilities and services to the people of Sibi district.

QUTTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Healthcare Crisis in Balochistan Favours Karachi as Patient Destination

Editorial:

The recent exodus of Congo virus patients from Quetta to Karachi has unveiled the alarming state of government-run hospitals in Balochistan. The tragic loss of Dr. Shakarullah Baloch, who succumbed to the deadly virus en route to Karachi, serves as a poignant reminder of the dire situation.

11 Doctors Tested Positive For Congo Virus

Most of the nearly dozen patients, including 11 doctors, have sought refuge in private hospitals in Karachi in their desperate fight for survival. This raises a crucial and deeply troubling question: when healthcare professionals themselves lack confidence and trust in Balochistan's healthcare system, how can we expect the general public to place their faith in it?

Investigation Into Outbreak of Congo Virus Is Imperative

First and foremost, a comprehensive investigation into the outbreak of the Congo virus within the Civil Hospital's trauma centre is imperative. It is vital to understand how and why approximately two dozen healthcare professionals fell victim to this deadly virus. We must examine whether standard operating procedures for treating Congo virus patients were followed and determine whether the government has initiated an inquiry to address this critical matter. Furthermore, the destination for Congo virus patients was intended to be the Fatima Jinnah Chest and TB Hospital, yet the patient was inexplicably admitted to the trauma center of the Civil Hospital. These discrepancies warrant a thorough review.

Time Has Come For Complete Overhaul of Health Care System

It is disheartening that despite a substantial investment of over Rs. 50 billion in Balochistan's healthcare sector and a significant number of medical professionals, patients continue to be referred to Karachi for medical treatment. This trend underscores a lack of trust in the healthcare system within the province, and corrective measures are urgently required. The time has come for a comprehensive evaluation and overhaul of Balochistan's healthcare system to regain the trust of both healthcare professionals and the general public. Only by addressing these critical flaws can we hope to build a robust and dependable healthcare system that serves the needs of the people.

We cannot forget

By Muna Khan:

WHEN I landed in Beirut in 2009, the immigration officer asked if it was my first time in Lebanon. Technically, it wasn't. I told him, because I was here as a baby with my parents in 1975. The officer smiled and said "tafadal" (in this instance, "welcome"), a phrase I would hear all during the night I spent travelling throughout Lebanon with my friend.

Our family and friends had expressed concern about our trip, given Lebanon's precarious security — one perspective can throw a sense of stability off. It was a familiar feeling and we bonded over it with everyone we met in Beirut including the seers of politics in the Middle East taxi drivers. While they all had widely different takes on the then impasse in Lebanon, when it came to Hezbollah, there was an understanding "who else will protect us against Israel?" It is probably the most we thought twice before walking into a Hezbollah stall outside the magnificent Baalbek temple ruins. It was a large tented area with an exhibit filled with posters, literature, and even music, a travelling museum if you will.

We were in Lebanon following Israel's longest war in the Middle East in 2006 where Hezbollah fought back for 34 days. Wars shouldn't have winners but Hasan Nasrallah topped popularity polls across the region then, irrespective of faith.

So, here we were face to face with members of an organisation once famed as suicide bombers but who were now dominant political players as elected members of the government. These young men walked us through an exhibit, talking in broken-basis English, Arabic, French about Israel's war against Lebanon. There was no whataboutery, nothing was lost in translation. The men even gifted us memorabilia when we left — stickers, notebooks, literature and T-shirts. I was given a better perspective on armed resistance, sans hyperbole.

My friend wanted to visit Qana, a village in southern Lebanon, 12 kilometres north of the border with Israel, the site of devastating Israeli air strikes in 1996 and 2006 that killed hundreds, many of them children. We managed to find Google maps to find a site which villagers had chosen to memorialise by placing schoolbags, shoes and other paraphernalia. I hope you won't think I was participating in disaster tourism, the few villagers who helped us find this place said they were happy that Palestinians hadn't forgotten.

I understood why Hezbollah had been memorialised in some images outside one of the country's most popular tourist destinations and why villagers came together to place objects around there. It is easy to use "never forget" hashtags on social media but quite something else to stand still and witness the impact of war. Many friends slam this as "war porn" but having taken many guests to the War Remnants Museum in Saigon when I was living in Vietnam, I assure you there is no "viewing for emotional gratification". Many American friends said they did not have the full picture about their country's role in Vietnam until they visited this museum.

Just look at the images of what is rightly being described as the second Nakba (catastrophe) and forced displacement of Palestinians from their Gaza homes where they have lived for decades and where their children and their children's children have been born since their expulsion from their homes in Palestine 75 years ago.

Seeing thousands of men, women and children, including the infirm and elderly, streaming out of Gaza on short notice, during a few hours' "pause" in Israel's genocide, with not even their basic belongings, it is difficult to imagine that just a few weeks earlier, they could only speak about the impact visiting such places had on me. I am not Hezbollah, Hamas or Viet Cong or sitting far away waiting to hear if my entire family has been wiped out in Gaza or if one person was spared in an attack that will be blamed on a group that is defending its territories.

By Madeeha Ansari:

As part of a global research project on forced migration, I was able to listen closely to the stories of children who had perhaps one, perhaps two parents of Afghan origin, and whose only memories were of life in Pakistan. The most powerful, common motif reverberating through their experiences was: "I was born here".

In September 2023, an announcement was made giving undocumented families and individuals of Afghan origin a deadline of Nov 1 to exit the country. This impacts an estimated 1.7 million people, and includes communities that have experienced protracted displacement since the 1980s. For many, a second and third generation of children grew up in Pakistan. However, without pathways to citizenship, their position has remained insecure — even for registered refugees, Proof of Registration (PoR) or Afghan Citizen cards have been subject to renewal after a certain time period.

What then, is identity? If identity is a document, then it could be a valuable key opening doors to education, livelihoods, the dream of a future different from that of an uprooted generation. The PoR or Afghan

Born in Pakistan

Citizen card fit into some doors, enabling bright-eyed young people to enter formal schools and build a life for themselves, those imagined futures. But identity as a document can be a vanishing breeze, with homes, brick, those imagined futures. But identity as a document can be a vanishing breeze, with homes, brick, those imagined futures. But identity as a document can be a vanishing breeze, with homes, brick, those imagined futures.

The fear of repatriation was one reason why some of the most vulnerable communities — often in informal, urban contexts — chose to remain invisible, even if that meant giving up even the most basic rights. There was nothing promised to them, yet they fought to stay — moving multiple times, even from the rubble of bulldozed settlements. Perhaps, then, identity is more than a piece of paper, and has something to do with homes, brick, and rebuilt relationships forged, children born and raised. They were born here. When embracing refugees, saying goodbye, tearing up at the border while facing uncertain futures, it is hard to hear those who whisper: they belong here.

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would be able to open doors, enabling bright-eyed young people to enter formal schools and build a life for themselves, those imagined futures. But identity as a document can be a vanishing breeze, with homes, brick, those imagined futures. But identity as a document can be a vanishing breeze, with homes, brick, those imagined futures.

But our reality is less than utopian, with a crippling economic crisis and worsening security conditions driving both public and policy reactions. One question is whether the sudden exodus of Afghan communities will truly impact, for the better, the fuel prices having a paralytic effect on families in Pakistan — or the rising threat of violence from angered Taliban neighbours.

For the children and families now being sent to holding centres or across the border, signs are pointing to a humanitarian and "human rights catastrophe", a voice unlikely to be UNHCR, the UN refugee agency. It will be the last of a parallel reality, children born in Pakistan would have had access to the same kind of birthright citizenship, livelihoods, and few or no remaining personal networks to moor them. The likely scenario will be the set-

ting up of, yet more camps during a harsh winter, with little time to prepare for their arrival and basic survival in terms of food and shelter, let alone livelihoods and education. The journey itself is fraught with physical protection risks for women and children, who are ever the most vulnerable in a crisis. Once there, unless there are provisions for protection, sanitation and hygiene in camp conditions, there will be more than one only risks in terms of disease but also physical and sexual violence. They were refugees here. And if they go back to Afghanistan in this way, they are being sent across the border in a "host" country means their identities are not transmitted memories and culture — but also very much by the violation of safe and child-friendly spaces that can provide stability. In fact, there is a high likelihood of families relying on negative coping strategies such as early marriage and child labour to survive. Girls are ex-

pressing terror at the prospect of losing their chance to go to school, in the only country where female education is banned.

As of Nov 5, an estimated 128,000 people have left via Torkham. While this is a fraction of the intended numbers, there are reports of minors being separated from caregivers, and of Pakistani Pakhtun minors being mistakenly sent across the border. If anything, all this indicates that an undertaking of this magnitude needs more time, careful planning and communication across stakeholders — including government, UN agencies, civil society and individuals at risk — to ensure that any return is truly what was a decade ago. Promising it will be voluntary, safe and dignified. Identity is a tangled mesh of past and present, sudden and involuntary migration can have a deeply traumatic impact for which there are unlikely to be psychosocial support mechanisms, or the provision of safe and child-friendly spaces that can provide stability. In fact, there is a high likelihood of families relying on negative coping strategies such as early marriage and child labour to survive. Girls are ex-

No humanity in our times

By Abbas Nasir:

OUR world is being increasingly defined by governments — from the most powerful to the smallest — nations and entities which are bereft of empathy and humanity and seem immune to misery, death and destruction. Scores of people in their areas of influence and control.

Just look at the images of what is rightly being described as the second Nakba (catastrophe) and forced displacement of Palestinians from their Gaza homes where they have lived for decades and where their children and their children's children have been born since their expulsion from their homes in Palestine 75 years ago.

The question is whether thousands of men, women and children, including the infirm and elderly, streaming out of Gaza on short notice, during a few hours' "pause" in Israel's genocide, with not even their basic belongings, it is difficult to imagine that just a few weeks earlier, they could only speak about the impact visiting such places had on me. I am not Hezbollah, Hamas or Viet Cong or sitting far away waiting to hear if my entire family has been wiped out in Gaza or if one person was spared in an attack that will be blamed on a group that is defending its territories.

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Chaman borders as "illegal" Afghans were expelled from Pakistan.

The 241-million strong nuclear-armed nation of Pakistan, a land of refugees, totalling not even a couple of million, as a security threat and death and destruction to these poorest of the poor Afghans for the wave of terrorist attacks on Pakistani soil targeting mainly security forces.

One can heave a sigh of relief that the current military leadership says that the Afghan Taliban are not friends and have done nothing to rein in TTP destroyer Kadab, now even better armed thanks to sophisticated US weapons and explosives that they laid their hands on as the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces collapsed, what possible leverage could Islamabad or Rawalpindi have on a TTP? What was once supposed to be our strategic depth has now turned into our Achilles' heel. Yet another vulnerable, another chink in our armour. Our list of grievances is long and deep. The Red Army and then abandoned after the Soviet withdrawal. The 9/11 and the London bombings, the 2001 and 2002 bombings, the 2008 Mumbai attacks, the 2011 and 2012 bombings, the 2013 and 2014 bombings, the 2015 and 2016 bombings, the 2017 and 2018 bombings, the 2019 and 2020 bombings, the 2021 and 2022 bombings, the 2023 and 2024 bombings, the 2025 and 2026 bombings, the 2027 and 2028 bombings, the 2029 and 2030 bombings, the 2031 and 2032 bombings, the 2033 and 2034 bombings, the 2035 and 2036 bombings, the 2037 and 2038 bombings, the 2039 and 2040 bombings, the 2041 and 2042 bombings, the 2043 and 2044 bombings, the 2045 and 2046 bombings, the 2047 and 2048 bombings, the 2049 and 2050 bombings, the 2051 and 2052 bombings, the 2053 and 2054 bombings, the 2055 and 2056 bombings, the 2057 and 2058 bombings, the 2059 and 2060 bombings, the 2061 and 2062 bombings, the 2063 and 2064 bombings, the 2065 and 2066 bombings, the 2067 and 2068 bombings, the 2069 and 2070 bombings, the 2071 and 2072 bombings, the 2073 and 2074 bombings, the 2075 and 2076 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Justice (rtd) Arshad Hussain Shah nominated as new caretaker CM of KP

PESHAWAR (INP): Justice (Retired) Arshad Hussain Shah has been nominated as Caretaker Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Former opposition leader Akram Khan Durani has expressed his commitment to reaching a consensus on the appointment of a new caretaker chief minister as quickly as possible in a bid to navigate the political landscape of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa amidst economic and political challenges.

Despite having a finalized name for the

caretaker chief minister, Akram Durani has not yet revealed the chosen candidate.

There has been opposition to the proposed appointment from the Tehreek-e-Insaf (TI) party, with Akram Durani firmly asserting that the constitution provides clarity on the matter.

He suggests that PTI should consult its legal experts for a clearer understanding. Acknowledging the economic and political crisis looming over the province, Durani emphasizes the urgency of finaliz-

ing the names for the caretaker chief minister.

The potential candidates, according to sources, may include senior bureaucrats or former justices.

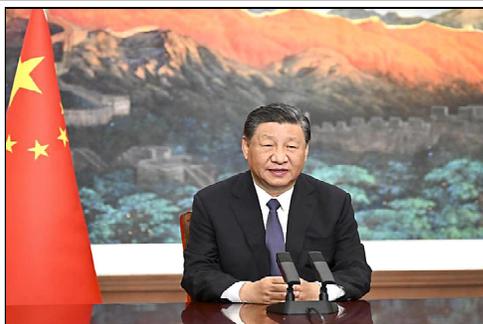
As the political discussions unfold, all eyes are on the upcoming meeting between Akram Durani and former Chief Minister Mehmood Khan, which is expected to play a crucial role in the appointment process. Stay tuned for further updates as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa navigates through this transitional phase.

PTI accuses ECP of planning to rig elections

ABBOTTABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) General Secretary Umar Ayub has accused the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) of planning to rig the upcoming general elections.

In a statement on social media, Ayub alleged that the ECP is planning to appoint District Returning Officers (DROs) and Assistant District Returning Officers (ADROs) of grade 17 and 18 who have less than one year of retirement. He claimed that these officers will be specially rewarded if they follow the instructions of rigging, and will be shown the retirement slip if they fail.

Ayub said that this is a clear attempt to rig the elections, and that is pushing Pakistan towards a path where there will be no way to restore democracy.



The Chinese president Xi Jinping is addressing the World Internet Conference Wujin Summit 2023 via video link.

NASA probe to observe near-Earth asteroid's 2029 close encounter

WASHINGTON, D.C. (INP): About 5-1/2 years from now, astronomers predict, an asteroid about as wide as the Empire State Building is tall will streak through space within 20,000 miles (32,200 km) of Earth, the closest any celestial object of that size will have come to our planet in modern history.

When it does, a spacecraft launched by NASA in 2016 is expected to be in position to provide a detailed examination of this rare close encounter.

The mission, directed by University of Arizona scientists, is expected to yield insights into planetary formation and knowledge that could inform efforts to build a defense system against possible doomsday asteroid collisions with Earth.

At the time of its 2004 discovery, the asteroid Apophis, named for a demon serpent embodying

evil and chaos in ancient Egyptian mythology, appeared to pose a dire impact threat to Earth, with scientists forecasting a potential collision in 2029. Refined observations have since ruled out any impact risk for at least another century.

Still, its next approach in 2029 will bring the asteroid within a cosmic cat's whisker of Earth—less than one-tenth the moon's distance from us and well within the orbits of some geosynchronous Earth satellites.

The spacecraft now headed for a rendezvous with Apophis is OSIRIS-REx, which made headlines plucking a soil sample from a different asteroid three years ago and sending it back to Earth in a capsule that made a parachute landing in Utah in September.

Rather than retire the spacecraft, NASA has rebranded it as OSIRIS-APEX—short for Apophis Explorer

and fired its thrusters to put it on course for its next target.

The Apophis expedition was detailed in a mission overview published in the Planetary Science Journal.

Apophis, oblong and somewhat peanut-shaped, is a stony asteroid believed to consist mostly of silicate materials along with iron and nickel. Measuring about 1,110 feet (340 meters) across, it is due to pass within about 19,800 miles (31,860 km) of Earth's surface on April 13, 2029, becoming visible to the naked eye for a few hours, said Michael Nolan, deputy principal investigator for the mission at the University of Arizona.

"It's not going to be this glorious show," Nolan said, but it will appear as a point of reflected sunlight in the night sky over Africa and Europe.

An asteroid that large passing so near to Earth is estimated to occur roughly once every 7,500 years. The

Apophis flyby is the first such encounter predicted in advance.

The tidal pull of Earth's gravity likely will cause measurable disturbances to the asteroid's surface and motion, changing its orbital path and rotational spin. Tidal forces could trigger landslides on Apophis and dislodge rocks and dust particles to create a comet-like tail.

The spacecraft is set to observe the asteroid's Earth flyby as it nears and ultimately catches up with Apophis. These images and data would be combined with ground-based telescope measurements to detect and quantify how Apophis was altered as it passed by Earth. OSIRIS-APEX is scheduled to remain near Apophis for 18 months— orbiting, maneuvering around it and even hovering just over its surface, using rocket thrusters to kick up loose material and reveal what lies beneath.



ISLAMABAD: A potter guiding a girl to make mud pots during 10 Days annual Lok Mela at Lok Versa.

400 new products, technologies, and services introduced at CIEE

SHANGHAI (INP): This year over 3400 companies from 128 countries attended the six sessions of China International Import Expo (CIIE), releasing over 400 new products, technologies, and services, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

According to the report, the CIIE witnessed more and more enterprises growing from exhibitors to investors.

Meanwhile, their confidence in the Chinese market and Chinese opportunities has been unwavering," said a quote from Archer-Daniels-Midland Co, a US agricultural origination and processing company that has been participating in CIIE for 4 years in a

At the CIIE, the company has debuted a series of products and signed contracts with multiple Chinese grain

enterprises. One can find countless cases as such in the grand six-day expo lasting from Nov. 5 to 10.

"China's unwavering practice of high-level opening-up has enabled the annual CIIE to attract top enterprises in the world like a huge magnet", said Zhu Linbo, President for China at ADM.

This year, over 3400 companies from 128 countries attended the Business Exhibition. Among them, over 200 companies have participated in CIIE every year since its inception six years ago. To debut innovations at CIIE has become an increasingly common practice for exhibitors.

At the exhibition stand of Johnson & Johnson, over a third of the products are displayed for the first time in China.

With full attendance at all six sessions

of CIIE, the company still managed to present a new look by releasing an updated Chinese brand logo.

"CIIE is a stage to debut and gather global innovative products, and it is also a gravitational field that continues to promote the acceleration of innovation", the company said. Behind the zeal of participating companies from around the globe are the boundless opportunities in the open Chinese market.

Global hotel management company Marriott International, in its sixth-year presence at CIIE, announced its Sheraton Hotels and Resorts brand will soon exceed 100 stores in China.

"From 2016 till now, our group has nearly doubled the number of hotels in China with three new brands launched.

We have full con-

ference in China's culture and tourism market and look forward to continuously breaking new milestones in "China", the company said.

Anu Rathindne, Vice President of Johnson Controls and President for Asia Pacific at the company, said that China is so big that it takes a long time for anybody to truly understand it.

As the market grows, it's required that we launch new products, expand the scale, get into digital platforms, and foster innovation.

Even with 26 years of experience in China, I still have things to learn", he told CEN.

It is learned that the company, which has been attending CIIE for six consecutive years, has already confirmed its presence at the 7th CIIE to be held next year.

FBR Makes Historic Seizure of Non-Duty paid/Counterfeit Cigarettes

ISLAMABAD: In an unprecedented drive to get to grips with the menace of Non-Duty paid/Counterfeit cigarettes, the designated teams of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) have successfully recently conducted 429 raids throughout the length & breadth of the country. The effort culminated

into the seizure of about 16 million Non-Duty paid/Counterfeit cigarette sticks.

On the direction of Chairman FBR, Malik Amjed Zubair Tiwana, Member Inland Revenue Operations, Mir Badshah Khan Wazir supervised the whole exercise. According to him, the success of this exer-

cise would convey an unequivocal message to the duty evaders to forswear their illicit practices. He also reiterated to continually fight the issue till its logical conclusion. It was further resolved that the next phase of

the drive, criminal proceedings would be initiated against such culprits.



HYDERABAD: Motorcyclists crossing rail tracks as a train approaches on the same tracks may cause a mishap and need the attention of concerned authorities at Makrani Para railway crossing.



QUETTA: A vendor selling peanuts on his hand cart.

Over 217,000 illegal Afghans returned home: officials

ISLAMABAD (INP): Repatriation of illegal foreigners including Afghans to their homeland continues on Sunday amidst the crackdown against illegal immigrants.

Thousands of unregistered Afghan citizens are returning to their homeland through Torkham and Chaman border daily.

Transit camps for illegal foreigners have been established in various districts of KP and Balochistan, which have all the daily facilities. According to details, 2,957 illegal Afghans returned to Afghanistan on Saturday (November 11). So far 217,355 illegal Afghans have returned to their home. The caretaker government of Pakistan has made foolproof arrangements for the safe return of illegal immigrants.

US military aircraft crashes during training

PENTAGON (INP): An American military aircraft crashed after experiencing a "mishap" during training in the eastern Mediterranean, according to a statement from the US European Command (EUCOM) on Saturday.

The specific type of aircraft and its origin were not disclosed in the statement. It's worth noting that the United States had deployed a carrier-strike group to the region as part of efforts to prevent the Israel-Hamas conflict from escalating into a wider regional crisis. "On the evening of November 10, a US military aircraft conducting training operations in the eastern Mediterranean suffered a mishap and went down," EUCOM said in a statement that did not provide information on the fate of the crew. "We can definitively say that

the aircraft sortie was purely related to training and there are no indications of hostile activity," the statement said, adding: "The cause of the training incident is currently under investigation." Following a cross-border attack by Hamas from Gaza on October 7, which Israeli officials' claim resulted in approximately 1,200 casualties, the United States swiftly provided military support to Israel. This support included the deployment of the USS Gerald R. Ford aircraft carrier and additional warships to reinforce the U.S. presence in the region. In response to the Hamas attack, Israel launched a comprehensive air, land, and naval offensive on Gaza. The territory's health ministry reported a tragic toll, stating that over 11,000 people have lost their lives in the conflict.

'No talks yet on seat adjustment,' says PML-N's Saad Rafique after meeting MQM-P leadership in Karachi

ISLAMABAD: PML-N leader Khawaja Saad Rafique said on Sunday that there had been no talks as yet on seat adjustment with the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan.

Rafique made the comments after a PML-N delegation, including Ayaz Sadiq and Bashir Memon, called on the MQM-P leadership at its office in Karachi's Bahadurabad.

His remarks come after, in a surprising turn of developments, the "eleo-toral alliance" announced by the PML-N and MQM-P on Tuesday appeared to have been downgraded to "seat adjustments". On Tuesday, a three-member MQM-P delegation comprising Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Farooq Sattar, and Mustafa Kamal called on the Sharif brothers — Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif — in Model Town Lahore. After the meeting, the PML-N declared that both parties had decided to form an electoral alliance in light of an

understanding reached in April last year when the MQM had joined the Shehbaz-led coalition government. Late in the night, however, senior MQM-P leader and former federal minister Annuul Haque clarified that it was not an electoral alliance as both parties would contest the election on their respective election symbol.

Subsequently, MQM-P convenor Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui had stated that the party had developed a "consensus" on issues facing the country in a recent meeting with the PML-N and not an electoral alliance. At the outset of today's press conference in Karachi, Siddiqui welcomed the PML-N delegation. He expressed the hope that relations between the two parties would prove to be an "important step" for Pakistan's democracy and security. Siddiqui then invited Rafique to speak. Thanking the MQM-P leadership for welcoming the PML-N leadership, Rafique said, "Both the parties think that democracy in Paki-



stan needs to be transformed into the democracy of the common man. The time has come to decide formulas for the equal distribution of resources and to give it legal and Constitutional protection." He said that this matter did not just concern Karachi but all cities in the country. "So this partnership between PML-N and MQM will benefit not just Karachi but all of Pakistan," he said. Rafique said that the Provincial Finance Commission (PFC) award should also be "made a reality" and implemented. He said that the equal distribution of resources should now move from the provinces to local governments. NEWSDESK.



KARACHI: Commander Pakistan Fleet, Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi and Chinese Commander Rear Admiral Liang Yang with Pakistan and Chinese officials at the Opening Ceremony of Pakistan Navy and PLA (Navy) bilateral exercise Sea Guardian-2023. INP

Condolences Pour In as CM KP Azam Khan Sadly Passes Away

From Our Correspondent:

PESHAWAR: Caretaker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Mohammad Azam Khan passed away on Saturday, a hospital spokesperson said. He was 89, according to his nephew Muhammad Ahmed.

Rehman Medical Complex spokesperson Shabbir Shah confirmed the development to reporters.

He added that the former bureaucrat was admitted to an intensive care unit last night after he fell unwell a day ago.

The chief minister's nephew said his uncle had invited him yesterday and discussed a plan to visit

Charsadda University next Monday and was "absolutely fine".



PESHAWAR: Vehicles drive on a road during fog after recent winter rain.

Zig-zagging cars collide in Lahore's Defence, kill six of family

LAHORE (INP): Six members of the same family, travelling in two cars, were killed when they met with an accident at Lahore's Defence Housing Society (DHA) early Sunday morning.

Police said the accident took place because of fast speed of the vehicles as well as negligence on the part of drivers who were zig-zagging on the road. The drivers lost control of their vehicles which collided with each other.

As a result of the accident, six people were seriously injured who were rushed to a

nearby hospital but they succumbed to their injuries.

Giving further details, the police informed that Razaqat Ali, a resident of Shadab Colony, Ferozepur Road, Lahore, was heading to Phase-7 of the DHA along with members of his family to meet his daughter's in-laws.

The dead were identified as Razaqat's 45-year-old wife Rukhsana, 27-year-old son Hasnain, 23-year-old daughter-in-law Aesha, four-month-old grandson Huzafa, 30-year-old son-in-law Sajjad and four-year-old granddaughter

Anabya.

The police shifted the bodies to Lahore's General Hospital for the postmortem.

Police said that they arrested one of the drivers whose negligence had led to the incident.

Police also took in custody the cars involved in the accident. Police jawans collected the forensic evidence from the accident site. Traffic police also reached the spot and removed the damaged vehicles from the road to normalize the traffic flow.

APHC expresses concern over surge in Indian state terrorism in IIOJK

SRINAGAR (INP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has expressed serious concern over the surge in Indian state terrorism and atrocities in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the APHC spokesman in a statement issued in Srinagar said innocent people are being harassed and humiliated during cordon and search operations, whereas confiscation of civilians' properties are being used by India as a war tactic to suppress Kashmiris' struggle for right to self-determination.

He said the Modi regime is crafting false narratives of investment and development to justify its illegal actions of 5 August 2019 and intending to paint the picture that all is well

in IIOJK but the fact is that all is against normal there. Ground situation negates India's false narrative of return of normalcy in IIOJK, he said adding even so-called pro-India Kashmiri politicians are questioning Modi's normalcy narrative in IIOJK.

He said the United Nations has passed several resolutions on Kashmir but the lingering dispute is yet to be resolved. He said the Indian forces have detained thousands of Kashmiri youth under black laws, including Public Safety Act (PSA) and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and conduct raids on the residences of the people but they will never succeed in suppressing the Kashmiri freedom movement.

The spokesman said the

Kashmiri people reject the illegal and unilateral actions of August 05, 2019, including the repeal of Kashmir's special status by the Modi-led fascist Indian government.

He deplored that India, which claims to be the largest democracy of the world, is committing the worst kind of human rights violations in IIOJK and appealed to the international community to hold India accountable for its brutalities on innocent Kashmiri people. The APHC spokesman urged the world community to impress upon India to stop massive rights abuses by its troops in IIOJK. He also appealed to the United Nations to resolve the lingering Kashmiri dispute according to its resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

Deadly diseases like diabetes can be controlled by healthy lifestyle, healthy food: Governor

PESHAWAR (INP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali Sunday said that by adopting a healthy lifestyle and healthy food, dangerous and deadly diseases like diabetes could be controlled.

Diabetes is a silent killer, diagnosis and proper management of this disease takes time and diabetes is a serious health challenge, he added.

To deal with this, we need to change our lifestyle, he said and added that as a result of prevalence of diabetes, the risk of other diseases could also be reduced and in this context philanthropists should add a function organized by Omar Diabetes Foundation on the occasion of World Diabetes Day at Governor House here Sunday.

Omar Foundation Chairman Justice (Retd) Mian Mohammad Ajamal, CEO Dr. Umar Rohab, Professor Dr. Abrar Ahmed, Dr. Sheikh Fahad Falah, members of the Board of Directors, diabetes experts, social and political personalities and representatives of the business community also participated in the ceremony.

A chairman Umar Foundation Justice (Retd) Mian Muhammad Ajamal, Professor Dr. Abrar Ahmad and CEO Dr. Umar Wahab while addressing the ceremony, informed the Governor and other stakeholders about the Umar Foundation were performing by serving the people in Islamabad, Muzaffarabad and Peshawar.

He said that Pakistan was the third largest country in the world in terms of the prevalence of diabetes, where there were more than 30 million diabetic patients. Almost one fourth person is suffering from diabetes, he said, add-

ing, "It can also cause heart failure, which can be prevented by a charity organization like Omar Diabetes Foundation providing free treatment facilities to poor people and so far more than 40,000 patients have been treated free of charge.

Addressing the ceremony, the Governor said that service to suffering humanity was the greatest worship and Omar Foundation was providing selfless free treatment services for the completion of a healthy society and complete eradication of diabetes, which was not only commendable but also for the eradication of diabetes.

There is also a practical struggle and people who consider the selfless service of suffering humanity as their motto have a dignified position in the society. Like Omar Foundation, the welfare organizations across the country are also working along with service, he expressed.

Saleem Khoso Resigns from PPP in Protest Against Provincial President

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: Saleem Khan Khoso, the former Balochistan Minister resigned from the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) in protest against the provincial president Mir Changaz Jamali.

"The Provincial President has really disappointed me", Mr. Khoso said in a statement issued to the press.

The former minister's resignation came a day after the party held a day's meeting in Karachi under the chairmanship of Bilawal Bhattu Zardari regarding the upcoming general elections.

As a sitting MPA of the former ruling Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), Khoso had announced joining the PPP, he recalled.

"I risked my MPA ship and joined the PPP", he said. Now the elders of my area



asked me to resign from PPP after unwanted interference from the PPP Balochistan president, he said.

Chinese and Pakistani experts preserve Upper Indus rock paintings

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chinese and Pakistani experts joined hands to preserve Upper Indus rock paintings corridor, Gwadar Pro reported.

A joint China-Pakistan archaeological survey team led by Chongqing Normal University for the project of conserving the Upper Indus Rock Painting Corridor held its opening ceremony in Bahawalpur.

In a groundbreaking collaboration, the joint initiative aims to preserve and promote the region's rich cultural heritage while fostering international cooperation in the field of archaeology.

The corridor of Buddhist rock paintings and Chinese inscriptions on the Upper Indus is not only a valuable historical and cultural heritage of the local people but also belongs to all mankind. These rock paintings were left behind by various travelers, traders, pilgrims, and ancient inhabitants of the area who

passed along the trade routes, and date back as early as between 5000 B.C. and A.D. 1000, providing valuable insights into the lives and beliefs of the ancient civilizations that once thrived in the area.

Recognizing the significance of this cultural treasure, the Chinese and Pakistani governments have collaborated to ensure the preservation of these ancient artworks.

The joint initiative brings together experts from institutions and universities of both countries including Chongqing Normal University, Xi'an Jiaotong University, Lanzhou University, Pakistan Higher Education Commission Bahawalpur, University of Bahawalpur, Punjab Archaeology Department, and others.

Multiple units from Chongqing will also actively participate in the project, providing technical and logistical support for the archaeological work. The project team will carry out a 3-year

field investigation and survey to comprehensively investigate and protect major sites and artifacts in the project area, and conduct academic seminars, personnel training, achievement presentations, and other work.

Furthermore, the project also includes capacity-building initiatives where local communities are actively involved in the conservation efforts. By engaging the local population, the project aims to create awareness about the meaning of the rock paintings and foster a sense of ownership and responsibility among the community members. Conservation efforts in the Upper Indus Rock Painting Corridor are expected to have a major impact on the tourism potential of the area. As the site becomes better preserved and accessible, it is likely to attract both domestic and international tourists, further contributing to the socio-economic development of the area.



HYDERABAD: Vendors displaying the firework stuff to attract the customers in connection with Hindu festival Dewali at Market Road.