

Mazari for boosting Pak-Kazakhstan ties

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC), Ehsan ur Rehman Mazari believes Pakistan and Kazakhstan should work together to promote people-to-people contacts while also enhancing trade and investment between both countries. The Kazakhstan Ambassador to Pakistan, Yerzhan Kistafin, called on the Minister here at the Ministry on Wednesday. Federal Secretary Ahmed Hanif Orakzai was also present on the occasion, said a press release. The Minister welcomed the Ambassador and appreciated efforts of the Government of Kazakhstan in strengthening bilateral relations between both countries. The two dignitaries discussed matters of mutual cooperation between Pakistan and Kazakhstan focusing on sports, tourism, flight connectivity, ease in visa regime, and facilitation of business community from both sides. In the meeting, the Minister also stressed the need for further

enhancing cooperation in the field of sports, tourism, flight connectivity, and facilitation of business community. He said both countries should work together to promote people-to-people contacts and enhance trade and investment between the two countries. The Ambassador expressed his gratitude to the Minister for his warm hospitality and expressed his commitment to further strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries. He also highlighted the importance of the flight connectivity between the two countries and told that a direct flight from Lahore to Almaty was likely to be started in April this year followed by the one from Karachi to Almaty in May, 2023. "This will be a huge step towards achieving other bilateral goals of cooperation." The ambassador also expressed his commitment to work in liaison with both sides for strong and durable connectivity at all level especially in trade and tourism for both the countries have breathtaking sights. He said for the business community a significant stride had been taken in

terms of ease in visa regime which would be processed within no more than three days. "A memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been signed between BoK Pakistan and Bank of Kazakhstan to establish correspondent accounts for business people. Yerzhan said Kazakhstan was working on prospective MOU on tourism, which would likely to be signed between the two countries in coming months covering various aspects of tourism cooperation by bringing it to a revolutionary level. The Minister appreciated the efforts and assured that a lot was yet to be explored in sports especially Taekwondo and Judo between both countries. "We are hoping to start a massive exchange program of coaches and players for mutual benefit in various sports." The two dignitaries agreed to work together to promote people-to-people contacts, enhance trade and investment, and strengthen the bilateral relations between the two countries. They also agreed to explore ways to facilitate the business at all possible level.



ISLAMABAD: Advisor to Prime minister on Kashmir affairs and GB Qamar Zaman Kaira in the meeting with Chief minister GB Mohammad Khalid Khurshid Khan in Federal Capital .—APP

817 teams delayed for census in dist Attock

QAZI SHOAB KHAN

ATTOCK: Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza on Wednesday while inaugurating the digital population census campaign in Attock has said that 817 teams were deployed to conduct the census process within the territorial jurisdiction of inter provincial bordering district Attock amid a tight security in line with the other parts of the country. This he said during his briefing to the media persons. The inaugural ceremony was also attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner General Mr. Waqar Akbar Cheema, Assistant Commissioner Attock Ms. Shagufta Jabeen, census officer Rao Tasleem, CO Municipal Committee Attock Sardar Aftab Khan, Deputy Director Public Relations Mr. Shahzad Niaz and all other stake holders, as well. The Deputy Commissioner Attock also directed the district police to accelerate the crackdown launched

against the illegal kite manufacturers strictly in compliance with the ban imposed by the Punjab Government at all costs. Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner also took a surprise round of Government Post Graduate College Attock and directed the Principal Prof. Majid Waheed Bhatti to make all the laboratories including computer labs functional with the necessary equipment besides ensuring hygienic and conducive working environment in the college. The Deputy Commissioner Attock also visited the school of special students at Peoples Colony and expressed his satisfaction over the instructional techniques with the assurance to get the vacant positions filled in through the provincial authorities. Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza while talking to the media persons has reiterated that the land grabbers of illegal housing societies are being proceeded against strictly in accordance with the law be-

sides retrieving the savings of the affected people from their clutches and removing the mushrooming growth of encroachments on private and state lands dealing with iron hands. Replying different questions of the media Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza said that in order to beautification and change of environment more 1.3 million plants will be planted through launching tree plantation move within the territorial jurisdictions of the inter provincial bordering district. He said that 26 price control magistrates were deployed to reduce the alarming inflation in the all markets of the district who also imposed fine of Rs.1.6 million and 198 profiteers were arrested during the end of February, 2023. The Deputy Commissioner Attock further said that 2866 vacant positions out of 11403 teaching faculty will be filled in after the conduct of elections process. The Secretary Local Government was also requested to

get the vacant post of Chief Officer Hazro filled in at the earliest. He said that traffic problems are also being solved for the smooth flow of the vehicular rush on the inter city and inter provincial routes linked with the district Attock. He said the first state of the art mother and child hospital with a total cost of Rs.5.00 billion was to be completed within the period of target date. In addition, all necessary health care medical facilities were also made available in Asfandyar Bokhari District Headquarter Hospital Attock, THQs and rural health centres of the district besides handing over the donation of Cheque of Rs.10 lacs to the patients welfare society Attock. He also directed the relevant officers of the revenue department to expedite the courts cases and resolve the public hardships at their revenue centres on top priority as the district of Attock stood first in revenue collection throughout the province.



KP Police will provide all possible security to Chinese: IGP

PESHAWAR: IG Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Akhtar Hayat Khan has said that Pakistan-China relations are higher than mountains, deeper than the ocean and sweeter than honey and both countries have supported each other in every difficult time, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police will provide all possible security to the Chinese throughout the province. He expressed these views on the occasion of his visit to China Window, a Chinese cultural center established in Peshawar. The IG Police was briefed about the security of China Window. He visited various galleries related to Chinese culture and expressed deep interest in them. Talking to the media, Akhtar Hayat Khan said that the CPEC is a project for the development and prosperity of Pakistan, while in the ongoing projects in KP will provide employment to the local people and the economy will also be strengthened. IG said in this regard, he especially visited Rashkai Special Economic Zone, while the relevant regional police officers across the

province have reviewed the issues related to the security of the Chinese working in the various projects and all possible measures are being taken in this regard. Akhtar Hayat Khan said that in view of the popularity of digital media and importance of Chinese language the youth should be encouraged to take advantage of this most important medium and should learn Chinese language, it is commendable that the National Commission for Technical and Vocational Training NAVTTC and UN-HCR, training was organized in the China Window, which will yield very important results in the future. The IG Police described the establishment of the Chinese Cultural and Information Center in Peshawar with the support of the Chinese Embassy as a center of excellence. He said that it is commendable that a large number of people have visited this state-of-the-art center to learn about the culture of their brotherly neighboring country, China. —DNA

Pakistan must cultivate business ties with Vietnam

M.A RASHID

FAISALABAD: Ambassador of Vietnam to Pakistan, Mr. Nguyen Tien Pong, has said that there are vast opportunities to increase bilateral trade between the two countries, which need immediate steps to take advantage of accelerating businesses. He was talking during a meeting with Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) President Dr. Khurram Tariq. He said that there is a need for direct contacts between businessmen of Pakistan and Vietnam. He asked the president of the Faisalabad Chamber to provide him with a list of businessmen who want to do business with Vietnam so that he can get in touch with the businessmen in Vietnam. Mentioning the trade opportunities between the two countries. He further said that Vietnam can export cotton to Pakistan while Pakistan can meet Vietnam's yarn and fabric needs. He elaborated conclusively that cooperation be-

tween the two countries can also be done in the areas of value addition for which coordinated efforts will be made. He also emphasized on creating facilities at the government level to increase mutual relations between the two countries and said that he will provide all possible cooperation in the exchange of delegations. Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Dr. Khurram Tariq told them about the economic strength of Faisalabad and said that Faisalabad Chamber is always ready to increase bilateral trade with Vietnam. He also invited the Ambassador of Vietnam to visit the Faisalabad Chamber so that he can arrange a delegation of Vietnamese businessmen after assessing the potential of Faisalabad for himself. He also assured the Vietnamese ambassador of providing the list of leading trade organizations of Faisalabad. Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Senior Vice President Dr. Sajjad Arshad was also present on this occasion.



Imran's popularity an alarm for govt

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Nusrat Khan has said that those who make Imran Khan irrelevant in politics will become irrelevant themselves. In a statement, Nusrat Khan said that the growing popularity of Imran Khan from Khyber to Karachi is an alarm bell for the government coalition. The PTI leader said that it is a pity that retired General Aamjad Shoaib has been arrested simply because



he raised his voice in favor of Imran Khan on the basis

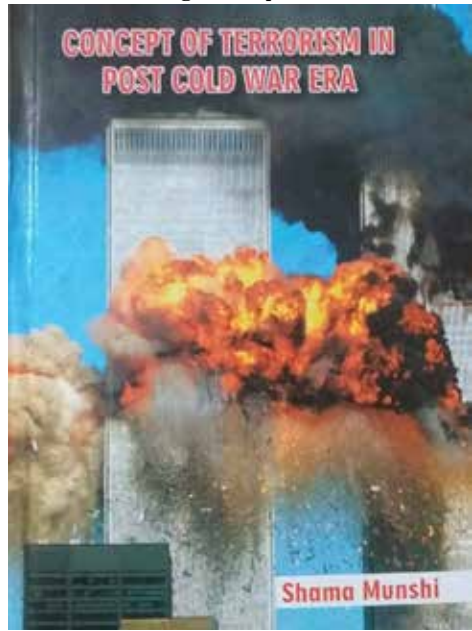
of right and truth. Nusrat Khan said that the matter of concern is that the PDM alliance is now trying to make the courts controversial just because they are deciding on the basis of truth and justice. The leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf said that the government coalition should understand that as soon as they keep the matter of general elections pending, the popularity of Imran Khan will increase further.—DNA

"Concept of terrorism in Post Cold War Era"

DR YOUSAF ALAMGIRIAN

Mass communication is a widespread term these days, however, one of its major sources i.e. books is usually ignored. Books play a major role in stating and clarifying narratives that any other source of the communication might miscarry. Events from history have proven the importance of books that had been published as a response to the ongoing misleading events and their repercussions. Resultantly, the importance of books will remain intact, no matter how advanced technology gets. Reading books as a hobby as well as for a source of information is and will continue to be a part of common practices until the man yearns for knowledge and his soul yearns for a delightful feast in the form of a good read. Recently, I came across a non-fiction book named "Concept of terrorism in post-cold war era" by Ms Shama Munshi who is a renowned analyst, social worker as well as a media person. Being a bilingual writer, she has been an active contributor to various national and international forums. In her book, she has thrown light on terrorism and narrated how it had been shaped and propagated during the post-cold war era. The postmodern idea of terrorism has been the centre of discus-

sion, mainly analysing how the word 'terrorism' which had a totally different connotation prior to the twin attack of 9/11 was reshaped afterwards. Discussing the repercussion this con-



textualization of terrorism with Islam had, she brought to light some major cases through the examples of Iraq and Libya. The things discussed earlier might seem already known to many of the readers but the writer has built the context of the whole discussion in a decent academic way. From the initial romanticism of Islamic countries with the West during the cold war against the Soviet Union, to the war on terror in Afghanistan leading to a massive wave of Islamophobia, the writer has discussed the complete topsy-turvy voyage with required references. Focusing on the linguistic terminologies, that have evolved or been given a negative connotation over time such as fundamentalism, and Jihad have also been discussed in the book. The writer has emphasized and condemned the association of terrorism with Islam, as it is the vested interests of superpowers cloaked in the guise of Islamophobia. In short, this book is a source of awareness, and a response to the ongoing Islamophobia in the world, as well as a portrayal of the true image of Islam. Islam, the religion of peace, preaches humanity, pluralism and harmony and it has no place for hate at all. Hence, the author Ms Shama Munshi must be applauded for the publication of such a book which advocates the true face of Islam as a religion. The book is published by Loheadab Publication Karachi.

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Briefs

7th Census begins in Islamabad

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The 7th population and housing census has started in Islamabad Capital Territory for which 873 enumerators have been tasked to carry out the important survey in 1,783 blocks. Talking to a state run news agency, the spokesperson of Islamabad Capital Administration, Dr Abdullah Tabassum said that Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon held a meeting for the census in various union councils of Islamabad and reviewed the arrangements. He said that the census was a continuous activity which is "significant in policy-making and resource allocation". "It is a fundamental tool for measuring population which is expected to provide important data for planning and development in the capital city," he added. Meanwhile, the deputy commissioner has urged the citizens to provide accurate information to the census workers for ensuring the success of the census survey.

Special envoy for Afghanistan resigns

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Senior diplomat Mohammad Sadiq Pakistan's special envoy to Afghanistan resigned on Wednesday, thanking colleagues for helping him serve in the crucial position. Mohammad Sadiq said in a series of Tweets on Wednesday that after serving nearly three years as Pakistan's special envoy to Afghanistan, the time had come for him to move on and focus on personal stuff - family, books and agriculture, and more. The prominent diplomat wholeheartedly thanked the prime minister and all his colleagues for supporting him during his mission as their special representative for Afghanistan. Mr. Sadiq's resignation was accepted by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who appreciated his efforts in the capacity of Pakistan's envoy to make Pakistan-Afghanistan relation work.

US dollar delivers another heavy blow to rupee

ISLAMABAD: The US dollar delivered another hard punch to the Pakistani rupee in the inter-bank trading on Wednesday, going up by a healthy margin of Rs1.25. According to the information received from the forex dealers, the Pakistani rupee was under pressure and cleared the way for the greenback to flex its muscles by gaining Rs1.25 and was currently being traded at Rs252.75. - DNA

CARs Ambassadors eye huge trade potential with Pakistan

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, ICCI said that Central Asian Republics (CARs) and Azerbaijan are estimated to be over 90-billion-dollar market with huge potential for business and investment, however, Pakistan's trade with these countries is not up to mark

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) opened CARs and Azerbaijan Facilitation Desk to help its members in promoting trade and exports with Central Asian Republics and Azerbaijan. The Desk was inaugurated by H.E. Atadjan Movlamov Dean of Diplomatic Corps CARs and Ambassador of Turkmenistan, H.E. Khazar Farhadov Ambassador of Azerbaijan, H.E. Yerzhan Kistafin Ambassador of Kazakhstan, H.E. Ismatullo Nasredin Ambassador of Tajikistan and H.E. Ulanbek Totuivae Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan during their visit to ICCI.

Speaking on the occasion H.E. Atadjan Movlamov Dean of Diplomatic Corps CARs and Ambassador of Turkmenistan congratulated ICCI for opening a Facilitation Desk for CARs and Azerbaijan as it would boost Pakistan's trade ties with these countries. He said that ICCI should set up a web portal on its websites for CARs to help private sectors of Pakistan and CARs to share business proposals with each other. H.E. Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan said that the geographical location of Pakistan is special for CARs and Azerbaijan as these landlocked countries can access many markets through Pakistani ports. He said Azerbaijan would launch more direct flights with Pakistan to promote people to people and B2B ties.

H.E. Yerzhan Kistafin Ambassador of Kazakhstan said that the ICCI Facilitation Desk would be a great milestone to promote trade ties. In April the direct flights between Almaty and Lahore and in May between Almaty and Karachi will start. H.E. Ulanbek Totuivae Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan said that his country is keen to promote strong economic ties with Pakistan and said that this Facilitation Desk would help in achieving this goal. He said that his country will organize the Investment and Business Forum and invited the ICCI delegation to participate in it. H.E. Ismatullo Nasredin Ambassador of Tajikistan termed the Facilitation Desk a very good initiative to promote Pakistan's business relations with CARs and Azerbaijan. Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari,



ISLAMABAD: Ambassadors and Heads of Economic Sections of Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkiye and others cutting the ribbon during the inauguration ceremony of "CARs and Azerbaijan Facilitation Desk" at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry. - DNA

President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) said that Central Asian Republics (CARs) and Azerbaijan are estimated to be over 90-billion-dollar market with huge potential for business and investment, however, Pakistan's trade with these countries is not up to the mark. He said that Pakistan can export many products to these countries including textiles, leather, pharmaceuticals, agricultural products, electrical appliances, communications, machinery & equipment and various services. He said that these countries import a large variety of machinery and equipment from various sources, and Pakistan can become

a major exporter of these high value products to them. Similarly, Pakistan can import energy and other products from these countries. He said that Pakistan also provides shortest routes through its ports to the landlocked CARs for international trade. He hoped that the CARs and Azerbaijan Facilitation Desk at ICCI would help business community in identifying new areas of promoting trade and investment with these countries. Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI said that Pakistan is a gateway for CARs. He said that Pakistan can import energy from CARs and export many products to them that they

need. Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader ICCI stressed that the work on CASA 1000 and TAPI projects should be expedited for their completion that would bring many benefits to Pakistan's economy. Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI also spoke on the occasion and highlighted many areas that offer good potential for business collaboration between Pakistan and CARs & Azerbaijan. He stressed the need of regional cooperation and development as the bilateral relations are important, but real economic development is only possible by the regional cooperation among Pakistan, CARs & Azerbaijan.

Covid-19 likely originated from China lab: FBI chief

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON: FBI Director Christopher Wray has said that the bureau believes Covid-19 most likely originated in a Chinese government-controlled lab. "The FBI has for quite some time now assessed that the origins of the pandemic are most likely a potential lab incident," he told Fox News. It is the first public confirmation of the FBI's classified judgement of how the pandemic virus emerged. Many scientists point out there is no evidence that it leaked from a lab. And other US government agencies have drawn differing conclusions to the FBI's. Some of them have said - but with a low level of certainty - that the virus did not start in a lab but instead jumped from animals to humans. The White House has said there is no consensus across the US government on the origins. A joint China-World Health Organization (WHO) investigation in 2021 called the lab leak theory "extremely unlikely". However, the WHO investigation was deeply criticised and its director-general has since called for a new inquiry, saying: "All hypotheses re-



main open and require further study." Mr Wray's comments come a day after the US ambassador to China called for the country to "be more honest" about Covid's origins. In his interview on Tuesday, Mr Wray said China "has been doing its best to try to thwart and obfuscate" efforts to identify the source of the global pandemic. He said details of the agency's investigation were classified but the FBI had a team of experts focusing on the dangers of biological threats.

Saudi Arabia to train Hajj pilgrim leaders

The training program includes a detailed explanation of the pilgrims' trip and covers all aspects of performing Hajj and crowd management skills

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Hajj and Umrah has launched a program to train the leaders of foreign Hajj pilgrim groups before their arrival in the Kingdom. The first session was held in Tabung Haji, in the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur, and was attended by

more than 30 group leaders. The aim of the program is to improve the quality of service for pilgrims, facilitate their trip and enrich their religious and cultural experience, in line with the goals of Saudi Vision 2030. The event, which came under the directives of King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, was sponsored and attended by Minister of Hajj and Umrah Dr. Tawfiq Al-Rabiah, Arab news reported. Further sessions will be organized in other countries before the start of this year's Hajj season. The training program includes a detailed explanation of the pilgrims' trip and covers all aspects of performing Hajj and crowd management skills. The training center aims to work with all agencies involved with Hajj and Umrah both within the Kingdom and overseas. It contributes to raising the quality of administrative and field services provided to Hajj and Umrah pilgrims and offers the best programs to teach and prepare trainees. - APP

Russia closes in on Bakhmut as Ukrainian resistance persists

NEAR CHASIV YAR: Russian forces carried out relentless attacks on Bakhmut on Wednesday, trying to encircle the small eastern Ukrainian city and claim their first major prize for more than half a year after some of the bloodiest fighting of the war. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy accused Moscow of throwing waves of men into battle in Bakhmut with no regard for their lives. The leader of Russia's Wagner mercenary group said the Ukrainians were putting up "furious resistance" trying to hold the city at all costs. Russia also said it had repelled a massive drone attack on Crimea, the peninsula its forces seized and claimed to annex in 2014. That came a day after Moscow accused Kyiv of launching a series of drone strikes on targets in Russia itself. Reuters was able to reach Bakhmut from the west on Monday, proof that the city was not yet surrounded despite Russian forces pressing from north and south to close the last routes in. Flames and smoke rose into the sky from blazing buildings. Constant gunfire and explosions rang out into the sky.

Ukrainian armoured vehicles roared through the streets, while stray dogs wandered amid the mud and debris. Thousands of residents remain inside the ruined city from a pre-war population of around 70,000. "It is frightening indeed," said a middle-aged man bundled in a coat and woolly hat on the steps of his apartment block. "I can hardly move my legs - they barely move - from the stress of the situation," he said. "As long as my home is intact and I am not hurt, I will stay here." In the town of Chasiv Yar to the west, a grocery shop was ablaze. "We won't give up Bakhmut. We will hold on to it until the very last," a 25-year-old army medic headed towards the front told Reuters. "Glory to Ukraine, death to the enemies." The area around Bakhmut has been the one part of the front where Moscow has made substantial gains during a winter offensive that has seen what both sides describe as the bloodiest fighting of the war. "Russia in general takes no account of peo-

ple and sends them in constant waves against our positions, the intensity of the fighting is only increasing," Zelenskiy said in an overnight address, describing the fighting in Bakhmut as "most difficult" but its defence as essential. In an audio message on social media, Yevgeny Prigozhin, whose Wagner private army has led Russia's offensive there, said the Ukrainian military was throwing extra reserves into the battle, "trying to hold the town with all their strength". "Tens of thousands of Ukrainian army fighters are putting up furious resistance. The bloodiness of the battles is growing by the day," he said. After losing extensive territory in the second half of 2022, Russian forces have been replenished by hundreds of thousands of reservists. Kyiv, for its part, has stuck mainly to defence over the past three months, hoping Russia's assault will exhaust Moscow's forces before Ukraine launches a counter-attack with new weapons promised by the West. Fighting near Bakhmut has been

led by Wagner, which has recruited tens of thousands of convicts from prisons. Its boss Prigozhin has accused the regular Russian army brass of treason for inadequately supplying his men. Wagner received an apparent show of Kremlin support on Wednesday when Russia's rubber-stamp lower house of parliament, the State Duma, discussed extending censorship laws to include a 15-year jail sentence for those who discredit "volunteer formations". "This initiative will protect everyone who today is risking their lives to ensure the security of the country and our citizens," Duma chairman Vyacheslav Volodin wrote on social media. "The punishment for violators will be severe." Ukrainians and Russians traditionally view March 1 as the start of spring. Already, frozen ground has melted at the front, bringing the season of sucking black mud - "bezdorizhzhia" in Ukrainian, "rasputitsa" in Russian - notorious in military history for destroying attacking armies in the region. - Agencies

Pakistan grieved over loss of lives in Greece train accident

ATHENS: The Embassy of Pakistan in Greece has expressed condolences on the news of the tragic train accident. In a Twitter message the Embassy said, "we convey our heartfelt condolences on the news of the tragic train accident in central Greece and extend deepest sympathies to the grieved families who lost their loved ones. We pray for the quick recovery of those who were injured in the accident". It may be mentioned here that two trains collided head-on in Greece killing at least 32 people and injuring 85 late on Tuesday night, the fire brigade said, but the cause of the deadliest rail crash in Greece in decades remained unclear.

An intercity passenger train travelling from Athens to the northern city of Thessaloniki collided at high speed with a cargo train outside the city of Larissa in central Greece, said the governor of the Thessaly region. Thessaly regional governor Konstantinos Agorastos told that the first four carriages of the passenger train were derailed in the crash, while the first two carriages, which caught fire, were "almost completely destroyed". He said the two trains hurtled towards each other on the same track. "They were travelling at great speed and one (driver) didn't know the other was coming," governor said. - DNA

All problems of GB to be addressed on priority: Kaira

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira, and the Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan Khalid Khurshid discussed the constitutional issues of Gilgit-Baltistan and the plan of mutual consultation regarding the determination and supply of wheat price. According to a statement issued on Wednesday, a detailed exchange was held during the meeting about the security situation in Gilgit-Baltistan, development projects, budget issues, and wheat supply. Qamar Zaman Kaira said he had met the Prime Minister regarding salaries, development projects, and wheat supply in Gilgit-Baltistan. He said he will continue to solve the problems of Gilgit-Baltistan regardless of any political affiliation. He said the whole country was facing problems due to the prevailing economic crisis, however, relevant forums would be approached to solve the economic problems of Gilgit-Baltistan. Kaira added, "budgets of all the provinces, but the annual budget of Gilgit-Baltistan was maintained. In the wheat supply and also discussed in detail agreed upon to set action regarding wheat determination and supply with mutual consultation of all political parties. - APP

Rain-wind thunderstorm likely

ISLAMABAD: Rain-wind/thunderstorm with snow over hills is likely in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, Kashmir, Islamabad, upper/central Punjab and Potohar region during the next 24 hours, according to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD). Hailstorm is also expected at a few places during the forecast period. Few heavy falls are also likely to occur in upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir and north Balochistan. Cloudy weather is expected in most parts of the country. In Islamabad, cloudy weather with rain-wind/thunderstorm is expected. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, cloudy weather is expected in most districts of the province. However, rain-wind/thunderstorm snow over hills is expected in Chitral, Kurram, Waziristan, Dir, Swat, Balakot, Kohistan, Kohat, Peshawar, Mardan, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan. Few heavy falls are also expected in upper areas during the period. - APP

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