

Reg: MC-945

New **FLYER**®

INTERNATIONAL  
AVIATION & TOURISM

APRIL 2022



**AirSial signs MoU to acquire  
two A320 aircraft**



**PIA acquires A320  
flight simulator**

**Always on top**





**SEAGOLD (PRIVATE) LIMITED**



**PAKISTAN - BANGLADESH - DUBAI - MYANMAR - AFGHANISTAN**

## **YOUR PARTNERS IN SUCCESS**

- ▶ Ocean Freight
- ▶ Air Freight
- ▶ NVOCC
- ▶ Consolidation
- ▶ Ware Housing
- ▶ 3PL Services
- ▶ Shipping Agents
- ▶ PO Management
- ▶ Supply Chain Management
- ▶ Custom Brokerage
- ▶ Perishable Logistics
- ▶ Heavy Lifts
- ▶ Project Cargo Management
- ▶ Vessel Charters
- ▶ Packing & Moving
- ▶ Land Transportation
- ▶ Afghan Transportation
- ▶ ISO Cleaning Station

**HEAD OFFICE:**

Suite # 418-421, 4th Floor, The Plaza, G-7, Clifton Block 9, KDA Scheme 5, Karachi, Pakistan.  
TEL: (+92-21) 35205013, (+92 21) 35308691 - 3, (+92 21) 35810181 - 3

# Built on Tradition. Powered by Innovation.



With more than 25 years of Industry experience, over 80 offices around the world and a growing global network through exclusive membership in the WorldWide Alliance and AirCargoGroup, Shipco Transport is your global solution for worldwide shipping needs.



- LCL
- FCL
- Airfreight
- Trucking
- E-Commerce
- Warehousing
- Customs Clearance
- Consolidation / Deconsolidation

### Weekly LCL Export Services from Pakistan

Aarhus, Antwerp, Barcelona, Durban, Felixstowe, Genoa, Gothenburg, Hamburg, Helsinki, Hong Kong, Jebel Ali, Los Angeles, New York, Rotterdam and Singapore

### Weekly LCL Import Services to Pakistan

Antwerp, Atlanta, Bangkok, Barcelona, Busan, Durban, Genoa, Hamburg, Hong Kong, Jabel Ali, New York, Nhava Sheva, Port Klang, Savannah, Shanghai, Shenzhen and Tianjin

Supplementing the diverse product offerings, our dynamic E-Commerce platform provides tools to get you through the shipping process from A-Z with 24/7 access. Shipco Web Apps also provide useful shipping resources in one convenient location. Visit [www.shipco.com](http://www.shipco.com)

- View, download or subscribe to Sailing Schedules
- Get a Quote
- Make a Booking
- Track a Shipment
- Set Notifications for Shipment Progress
- Generate Reports
- Explore Web Apps

### Shipco Transport Pakistan (Pvt) Ltd. - Karachi Office

Suite #702 703 704, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
Progressive Plaza, Beaumont Road  
Civil Line, Karachi-75530, Pakistan

UAN: 92 21 111 Shipco (111 744 726)  
Main Tel: +92 21 35642400 9

[www.shipco.com](http://www.shipco.com)

Member of



New  
**behind FLYER**  
International Aviation

Chief Editor Abdul Sattar Azad  
 Managing Editor Muhammad Faryal Azad  
 Assistant Editor Musharrarf Azad  
 Associate Editor Shahida Hameed  
 Resident Editor Waqas Masood  
 Reporter Bazla Sardar  
 Photographer S. Shahid Ikram  
 Contributors Prof. Safdar Sandal  
 Chief Correspondent Prof. Karamat Rajput.

Address B-65 Ablagh-e-Aamma  
 (media) Cooperative  
 Housing Society  
 Block-8, Gulistan-e-Jauhar  
 Karachi-75290  
 Phone 34615924  
 Cell 0333-2194853  
 Web. www.newflyerintl.com  
 E-mail flyer\_intl@hotmail.com  
 facebook.com/flyerintl

Issue Monthly  
 Price Rs. 500/=

Annual Subscription Pakistan Rs.5000/=  
 Other Countries US\$100/=

Published from New Flyer International  
 B-65 Ablagh-e-Aamma  
 (media) Cooperative  
 Housing Society  
 Block-8, Gulistan-e-Jauhar  
 Karachi-75290

By Abdul Sattar Azad  
 Phone 34615924  
 Fax 34615924  
 Printed by Sardar Sons

Lahore Waqas Masood  
 123 HH Phase 4  
 DHA, Lahore  
 Cell: 0333-3872222

Islamabad 8-Huma Plaza Block-25  
 Blue Area  
 Tel: 2275946-7,  
 Fax: 2279975

Peshawar 5-Biloor Plaza Saddar  
 Tel: 284649-50  
 Fax: 284614

Sialkot S. Shahid Ikram  
 Pervaiz Plaza Near  
 Railway Crossing  
 Kutchary Road  
 Ph: (052) 4268424  
 Cell: 0321-6114505

Art Director & Design Decent Print Enterprises  
 Ph: 32211978

PRODUCTS  
**CATALOGUE**  
www.sublime.international.com



Your Safety is Our Priority!

**For Sales and other details  
 Please contact  
 0300 8610303 - 0333 4230800**

New  
**FLYER**  
INTERNATIONAL  
AVIATION & TOURISM  
Pakistan's Leading Tourism and Trade Journal

**For latest  
 news and  
 updates visit**

[www.newflyerintl.com](http://www.newflyerintl.com)

**For any suggestions  
 e-mail**

[flyer\\_intl@hotmail.com](mailto:flyer_intl@hotmail.com)

# CONTENTS

New  
**FLYER**

International

Monthly Magazine of Aviation and Tourism

Vol 29 APRIL 2022 No.08

PCAA issues new guidelines for international, domestic passengers	06
AirSial Signs MoU to acquire two A320 aircraft	07
S. Arabia to allow 1m Haj pilgrims	08
HK to lift flights ban on Pakistan, eight countries next month	09
PIA direct flights to Sydney from 22nd: PIA	09
Emirates has no plans to stop Russia flights	10
Air India prohibited from transporting dangerous goods to Delhi	12
Luxury travel platform Bear Luxe Japan inks new deal with Sabre	12
Virgin's exclusive Beyond lounge opens for business	13
West Virginia Airport to open new customs facility	13
PIA acquires A320 flight simulator	15
ICAO adopts new set of sarps	16
Eviation signs deal with Cape Air for 75 all-electric Alice commuter aircraft	16
Sustainable fuel rises to new levels with LH Cargo and K + N initiative	17
Iraqi Airways to start flights to Pakistan soon	21
Tackling the "old boys' network" and helping women into pilot training roles	23
Why cockpit doors are open during boarding	24
5 ways to get a Pilot Job soon after the training?	24
Air India chairman performs major management shakeup	25
Antonov conducts damage assessment of an-225 Mriya	26
Transit trade with Kabul under TAD allowed	30
China says willing to extend CPEC to Afghanistan	32
Textile exports jump over 25pc to \$14.3bn	33
Fourth ITI train departs for Turkey	33
Gwadar Port to be utilised for Afghan transit trade	34
The hands deserve the books	36
Moot calls for quality research on life of Qalandar	39
Dubai world fair closes in blaze of fireworks	40
Always on top	41
Tourism to be given industry status: SAPM	43



*Sialkot International Airport Ltd. (SIAL) not only provides air travel facilities to the people of Sialkot and adjacent areas, it also helps to the needy institutions of government and non-governmental organizations. photo shows Ch. M. Afzal Shaheen Director and Ex-Vice Chairman SIAL distributing cheques to the institutions.*

**WE MAKE SHIPPING SIMPLE**

**PACE**  
LOGISTICS  
DELIVERING WITH PERSONAL CARE!  
INTERNATIONAL FREIGHT FORWARDERS

- ★ Air Freight
- ★ Sea Freight
- ★ Road Freight
- ★ Custom Clearance



**Al Khalil Center, 3rd Floor, Off#416, Kashmir Road, Sialkot 51310**

**Tel: +92 3550406,3550407 Fax:+92 3550408 Email: info@pacelogs.com Web: www.pacelogs.com**

## PCAA issues new guidelines for international, domestic passengers

The Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) on Friday 1st April issued guidelines for inbound travellers to and from Pakistan as well as domestic travellers.

The guidelines will take effect immediately.

Under the guidelines, only fully vaccinated passengers aged 12 years and above will be allowed to undertake international air travel to Pakistan.

The Pakistani deportees, passengers (Pakistani and foreigners) with valid medical reasons for exemption of vaccination issued by a doctor (certificate from classified specialist) will be exempted.

In addition, Pakistani passengers less than 12 years of age, foreigners, foreign passport holders less than 18 years of age and passengers who travelled outbound from Pakistan before Oct 1, 2021, whereby such passengers travelling through connecting flights after entering Pakistan, would be allowed to continue their domestic travel.

Passengers between 12 and 18 years of age may travel to Pakistan without proof of Covid-19 vaccination up to April 30, 2022.

The CAA said that any non-vaccinated passenger aged 12 years or above traveling to Pakistan and fulfilling any criteria above (except for deportees) would be required to possess a negative PCR test result conducted within 72 hours prior to commencement of travel to Pakistan.

Partial or non-vaccinated passengers not fulfilling any pre-defined criteria listed above and seeking exemptions from vaccination pre-departure PCR testing may apply through the Pakistani High Commission concerned to the exemption committee for inbound travel to Pakistan.

Deportees will be tested on arrival through Rapid Antigen Testing and positive cases will be home-quarantined for 10 days.

All passengers travelling to Pakistan will be required to submit requisite data through Pass Track App or web portal prior to departure for Pakistan.

It said only fully vaccinated passengers aged 15 years and above will be allowed to undertake domestic air travel within Pakistan.

Additionally, mask-wearing will not be mandatory on domestic air travel within Pakistan.

Notwithstanding, passengers are encouraged to wear face masks in closed spaces such as aircraft cabins or passenger terminals for their protection.

Passengers showing any Covid-related symptom will, however, be required to wear a face mask while undertaking air travel.

If a passenger exhibits symptoms of Covid-19 during the flight, he or she will be subjected to isolation by the airline crew accordingly.

In-flight public announcements relating to Covid-19 will also not be required to be made by Pakistani airline operators.

The Civil Aviation Authority said that this was also to note that any additional Covid-19 stipulation mandated by any other country for passengers wishing to undertake international travel to and from Pakistan will also be complied with by passengers.

All other relevant standard operating procedures issued by this office from time to time will cease to take effect.

## PIA allows discounts of up to 15pc for Quetta's business community

The Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and the Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry (QCCI) signed a memorandum of understanding on Tuesday 29 March under which businesspeople would be given a 15 per cent discount on tickets for domestic flights and 10pc on those for international ones.

PIA's general manager for Quetta district Bilal Afzal and QCCI president Fida Hussain Dashti signed the MoU on behalf of their organisations.

Mr Dashti praised PIA's decision and expressed the hope that the national flag carrier would provide more facilities to the business community, which in turn would help promote trade and business activities in the province. "Concession on local and international flights was our long-standing demand," he said. Panjgur should be included on the Quetta-Turbat route, he said, calling for revival of flights between Quetta and Jeddah. He also called for starting flights from Quetta to Iranian cities.



it's all about

# CHAMPIONS

## AL HAMDOLILLAH







### Our Services

- International & Domestic Ticketing
- Corporate Travel
- Leisure Holidays Packages
- Online Worldwide Hotel Bookings.
- Executive
- Umrah & Hajj Packages



**Universal Brothers (Pvt) Ltd.**  
Travel Agent & Tours Operator  
Umrah & Hajj Organizer

**THE LEADER & TREND SETTER**



**Maxim's Travel & Tours**  
For Your Complete Travel Needs.

Maxims House, A-9, 1st Floor, Hassan Homes, FL-3/8, Opposite Nehr-e-Khayyam, Block-5 Clifton, Karachi Pakistan, UAN No: (92-21) 111-106-786 Fax No: (92-21) 111-108 & 35865954  
Email: infor@maximsgroup.com.pk GL No. 2014 HR No. 4143  
www.maximsgroup.com.pk  www.facebook.com/universalbrothers

## AirSial Signs MoU to acquire two A320 aircraft

AirSial is excited to announce the signing for 2 additional A320 aircraft with BOC Aviation recently. With the addition of these new fuel-efficient aircraft, AirSial will be able to expand its network to international borders. With this, AirSial will also be

enhancing its inflight service experience for its esteemed guests onboard.

A signing ceremony was held, recently, attended by Mr. Fazal Jilani, Chairman, Mr. Umer Mir - VC, Mr. Ameen Ahsan - CEO, Mr. Tariq Ameen - COO & Mr. Muhammad Moeed - GM

Corporate Planning AirSial.

Attendees from BOC Aviation were Mr. John Bloemen - Head of Leasing APAC & Mr. Sleiman Fakhredine - SVP Leasing APAC. Mr. Fazal Jilani Presented shields and Souvenir to his counter parts.



Mr. Fazal Jilani Chairman AirSial and Mr. John Bloemen Head of leasing APAC exchange the documents after signing a MoU.



Chairman AirSial Mr. Fazal Jilani presenting memento to Mr. Sleiman Fakhredine SVP APAC, also seen in picture are Mr. Ameen Ahsan CEO Mr. Umer Mir VC AirSial.



Group photo taken on the occasion shows (from R) Mr. Tariq Ameen COO, Mr. Umer Mir VC AirSial, Mr. John Bloemen, Mr. Sleiman Fakhredin from APAC, Mr. Ameen Ahsan CEO, Mr. Fazal Jilani Chairman and Mr. Moeed GM, Air Sial.



View of the meeting.



Mr. Fazal Jilani presenting a souvenir to Mr. John Bloemen.

## Saudia sees a 75% passenger increase with 5 million+ passengers in Q1



### Helped by Saudi cultural events

Saudi Arabia's ambitious 'Vision 2030' plans have the country hoping to attract 100 million yearly tourists by the end of this decade. As expected, the country's national carrier Saudia will play a huge role.

Ibrahim Al-Omar added,

"Our strategy is especially important in light of the Kingdom's megaprojects and transformation agenda for the tourism industry, as we continue to serve as the 'Wings of Vision 2030' and welcome the world to Saudi Arabia."

The national carrier will play a big part in Saudi Arabia's tourism ambitions.

One of the most significant cultural events in Saudi Arabia is Riyadh Season, set in the capital city. This year's Riyadh Season edition hosted over 7,000 events and ran from October 2021 to March 2022. Saudia stated that its increase in passenger traffic was driven by entertainment and cultural events hosted in Saudi Arabia.

### Expanded international network

Saudia has recently announced several new destinations as it expands its international network. The carrier has added Barcelona, Malaga, Marrakech, Moscow, Seoul, Entebbe, Amsterdam, Chicago and Mykonos to its network.

Flights to Barcelona and Malaga will launch on June 30th, while its Marrakech service will begin on May 30th.

The Saudi Arabian national airline has seen a surge in demand this year.

Saudia has enjoyed an excellent start to 2022, overseeing a 75% increase in Q1 capacity compared to last year. The Saudi Arabian national carrier served over five million passengers in the first three months as demand for its services increased.

### Saudia carries 5.1 million passengers

With airlines across the globe experiencing a resurgence in travel demand, Saudia has benefited from a 75% increase in passenger capacity during Q1 2022.

During the first quarter, the carrier operated over 40,000 flights, representing a 44% increase from last year.

Ibrahim Al-Omar, Director-General at Saudia, said,

"As the momentum for travel continues to build, we will increase frequencies and introduce new destinations on our network during 2022."

Saudia recently added several international destinations to its network.

In terms of flight hours clocked in, the airline's fleet of 144 aircraft logged a total of 101,600 hours over the three months, an increase of 77% from last year.

Saudia CEO, Captain Ibrahim Koshy, said,

"As demand returned, our strong airline business fundamentals have translated into a significant improvement in our performance. This achievement has been made possible by the commitment of our hardworking employees combined with our business agility."

The airline has said that it is prepared to add extra flights and seats to routes wherever demand dictates.

## S. Arabia to allow 1m Haj pilgrims

Saudi Arabia said on Saturday 9 April it will permit one million Muslims from inside and outside the country to participate in this year's Haj, a sharp uptick after pandemic restrictions forced two years of drastically pared-down pilgrimages.

However, the pilgrimage, which will take place in July, will be limited to Muslims under age 65 and fully vaccinated against the coronavirus, the ministry of Haj and Umrah said in a statement carried by the SPA news agency.

Those coming from outside Saudi Arabia, who must apply for Haj visas, will this year also be required to submit a negative Covid-19 PCR result from a test taken within 72 hours of travel. Many Muslims outside the kingdom have been barred from making the trip since 2019.

About 2.5m people took part in 2019.

But after the onset of the coronavirus pandemic in 2020, Saudi authorities allowed only 1,000 pilgrims to participate. The following year, they upped the total to 60,000 fully vaccinated Saudi citizens and residents chosen through a lottery.

This year the Saudi Haj ministry "has authorised one million pilgrims, both foreign and domestic, to perform the Haj," it said in a pre-dawn statement on Saturday 9 April.

The government wants to promote pilgrims' safety "while ensuring that the maximum number of Muslims worldwide can perform the Haj", the statement said.

Authorities took a number of special measures to reduce the spread of the coronavirus last year, including dividing pilgrims into groups of 20 and handing out disinfectants, masks and sterilised pebbles for the "stoning of Satan" ritual.

But the relatively small crowds were distressing to Muslims abroad.





## HK to lift flights ban on Pakistan, eight countries next month

Hong Kong plans to relax some anti-Covid-19 measures next month, lifting a ban on flights from nine countries, reducing quarantine and reopening schools, after a backlash from business and residents.

The moves, announced on Monday 21 March by Chief Executive Carrie Lam, come as many countries shift to trying to living with the virus rather than trying to keep it out.

Residents in the Chinese-ruled territory have become increasingly frustrated with the stringent measures, many of which have been in place for over two years.

A ban on flights from Australia, Britain, Canada, France, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines and the United States will be lifted from April 1.

"The flight ban is no longer timely and appropriate...it will bring huge disturbances to Hong Kong people who are stuck in these nine countries if we continue the ban," Lam told a news briefing.

Hotel quarantine for Hong Kong residents arriving into the city could be cut to seven days from 14 if they tested negative, Lam said. She had previously said measures would be in place until April 20.

Schools would resume face to face classes from April 19 while public venues including sports facilities would also reopen from April 21, she said.

Hong Kong's border has effectively been shut since 2020 with few flights able to land and hardly any passengers allowed to transit, isolating a city that had built a reputation as a global financial hub.

Hong Kong has registered the most deaths per million people globally in recent weeks more than 24 times that of rival Singapore - due to a large proportion of elderly who were unvaccinated as the highly transmissible Omicron variant ripped through care homes.

The densely-packed city has recorded more than a million infections since the pandemic started and about 6,000 deaths - most of them in the past month. Authorities reported 14,068 new cases on Monday 21 March and 223 deaths.

As many as 4 million people, out of a population of 7.4 million, could be infected according to estimates from health experts as many residents have contracted the virus and isolated at home without notifying authorities.

Businesses and the city's economy are reeling from widespread closures, while doctors say many residents are grappling with rising mental health issues, particularly among low-income families.

Lam's policy turnaround came after her administration was scolded repeatedly by politicians, pro-Beijing media and on Chinese social media, just weeks before the city is due to hold an election on May 8 to choose who will lead the territory for the next five years.

She declined to comment on whether she will run for a new term.

### Exit strategy

A plan to carry out mass coronavirus testing would be put on hold, Lam said, citing experts who said it was not a suitable time. Hong Kong needs to have a clear exit strategy rather than trying to completely eradicate the virus, experts said.

While the former British colony has officially stuck to the "dynamic zero" coronavirus policy, similar to mainland China, which seeks to curb all outbreaks, it has been shifting to mitigation strategies as deaths skyrocketed.

Lam said social distancing measures would be eased in phases starting April 21, allowing restaurant dining after 6pm with tables of four people from two currently.

Nightclubs, pubs and beaches would be allowed to open in the second phase while people would be allowed to exercise outdoors without a mask. Masks are currently compulsory everywhere outside the home.

Until this year, Hong Kong had been far more successful at controlling the coronavirus than many other cities its size, but the latest wave of infections swamped its world class medical system, morgues are overflowing and public confidence in the city government is at an all-time low.

## PIA direct flights to Sydney from 22nd April

Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) will operate direct non-stop flights to Sydney from April 22 with an interline arrangement made with Virgin Australia (VA) for eight more connecting destinations within Australia.

A spokesman for the national flag carrier said on Thursday 24 March that the PIA flights would initially be operated from Lahore to Sydney on Fridays and from Sydney to Lahore on Sundays.

In order to further provide travel access to PIA passengers, the airline has also entered into an interline arrangement with Virgin Australia for destinations beyond Sydney, the spokesman said. He said with PIA direct flights to Sydney, eight more destinations in Australia had also been made easily accessible for the passengers.

The interline arrangement provides passengers with greater options and allows PIA to sell seats beyond Sydney connecting to eight destinations on the VA network that include Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Ballina Byron, Hobart, Cairns and Perth.

PIA's Chief Executive Officer Air Marshal Arshad Malik directed the marketing and frontline teams to provide best services to the passengers.

Passengers can now book flights through PIA's website, the official PIA cell and Android app, PIA call centre and also through travel agents, the CEO said.

The direct non-stop flights to Sydney not only bring added convenience of time saving but also offer baggage allowance of 45kg and 55kg for economy and executive economy passengers, respectively the highest free baggage allowance being offered to passengers, the spokesman said, adding that PIA planned to add more destinations to its network.



## Emirates has no plans to stop Russia flights



**E**mirates President Sir Tim Clark continues to say his airline will maintain its Moscow flights unless he's instructed otherwise.

Emirates President Sir Tim Clark has reiterated his airline has no plans to stop flying to Russia unless explicitly told not to. Sir Tim says Emirates plays an important role keeping Russia connected with the world and suggests the majority of passengers flying the Dubai - Moscow sector have nothing to do with the war in Ukraine and should not be penalized.

Speaking to the BBC's Middle East business correspondent Sameer Hashmi this week, the Emirates President says unless the airline's owner, the Government of Dubai, tells him to end flights, Emirates will maintain its flights to Moscow.

"If we are told to stop we will stop, unless we are told otherwise, we will continue," Sir Tim said. This message from Emirates isn't new. Rather, it is a line Sir Tim has repeated since other airlines began pausing their Moscow flights and banning Russia-based airlines from their airspace two months ago.

### Emirates continues its daily flights to Moscow

Emirates is flying its flagship A380-800 aircraft on the five-hour plus sector between Dubai and Moscow at least once a day, in most cases, twice a day. Dubai-based low-cost airline flydubai, also owned by the Government of Dubai, also flies between the two cities every day.

The Emirates President says it's "not his call" to end flights. He adds that the flights carry humanitarian goods, food and medical supplies into Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport. "We are catering to people who are on the periphery of the main issue here, and that is probably the way the government looks at it," he told the BBC.

Previously, the Emirates boss has

highlighted the importance of facilitating NGO and diplomatic passenger traffic in and out of Moscow. He added as far as cargo goes, Sir Tim says Emirates doesn't carry goods subject to sanctions. "All we're doing is being an enabler, facilitator, without taking a political position on this for the time being," the Emirates President said in March.

Emirates continues to fly to Moscow at least once a day, in most cases, twice a day.

### Boom times roll around again for Emirates

As Simple Flying's coverage of aviation news has reported, most western airlines have paused flights to Russia. But many airlines based in other parts of the world have not - reflecting the different relationships their respective countries have with Russia and differing geostrategic priorities. Alongside the Gulf-based airlines like Emirates, the big aviation markets of Turkey, India, and China have maintained air links with Russia.

And while many westerners may not approve of Emirates continuing to fly to Moscow, it hasn't stopped them boarding Emirates flights and filling the airline's coffers. Sir Tim says demand is "roaring" and the airline has returned to profitability. Emirates still has a handful of its Boeing 777s parked and nearly half its A380s remain grounded, but the Emirates President suggests it's a lack of crew that's holding the airline back rather than any demand issues.

"If we can have all our aircraft flying today, 270 of them then we would. I can't because I am just short of crew," Sir Tim told the BBC. The pandemic saw Emirates lay off thousands of workers, but now Sir Tim wants to hire 3,000 to 4,000 cabin crew and pilots to cater to that roaring demand and get those parked planes back in the air.

## China Eastern Airlines to resume 737 flights, reports



**C**hina Eastern Airlines has restarted using Boeing 737-800 aircraft for commercial flights less than a month after a fatal crash that killed 132 people on board and grounded over 200 of its aircraft. The airline has recovered the black box recorders from China Eastern flight MU5843, which crashed on March 21 in the mountains of Guangxi en route from Kunming to Guangzhou. In March 2022, the airline's traffic continued to suffer from COVID-19 with an escalation in local outbreaks within China. The airline's passenger transportation capacity (measured by available seat-kilometres) decreased by 62.35% year-on-year; passenger traffic volume (measured by revenue).

## PIA starts flights to Baku

**P**akistan International Airlines (PIA) has started its flight operations from Lahore and Karachi to Baku, Azerbaijan.

A PIA spokesman said that two simultaneous national flag carrier's flights with 340 passengers on board arrived in Baku one flight departed from Karachi, while the other took off from Lahore on Wednesday 16 March.

Simple cake-cutting ceremonies were held at Lahore and Karachi airports, while flowers and gifts were distributed among the passengers. Both flights operated with full loads.

At Baku airport, Azerbaijani Minister of Transport, heads of Civil Aviation, presidents of Azal Air and Baku Airport, and the Pakistani ambassador received the passengers and crew members.



For the first time in *Pakistan*

AirSial is serving  
**2 Main Course Meal Service**



Download The Official

**AIRSIAL APP**



**FLY SAFE-FLY AIRSIAL**

## Air India prohibited from transporting dangerous goods to Delhi



An Air India Boeing 777-300ER in Washington D.C.

**A**ir India failed a recent safety audit at Delhi Airport, prompting the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Indian aviation's regulatory body, to make the decision to prohibit the airline from transporting any goods deemed "dangerous" to the city for 15 days. The airline failed to pass an audit measuring its compliance with ICAO guidelines, prompting the decision. The prohibition will be in effect from April 7 to April 23.

### Hazardous Terrain

Following a DGCA examination of its handling facilities at Delhi Airport, Air India's authorization to handle hazardous items has been suspended for 15 days, according to the Times of India. Certain things, ranging from combustible commodities to radioactive materials, need authorisation to be transported in airline cargo holds.

According to sources, Air India's hub lacked storage room to segregate hazardous and radioactive commodities, as well as skilled people to handle non-risk goods and an emergency management system. These are only a few of the problems that resulted in the carrier's license being revoked. To continue transporting sensitive products in and out of Indian airports, all Indian airlines must pass inspections.

An AI representative stated in a statement, "A normal DGCA audit was conducted in Delhi for multiple departments. Regarding our domestic freight facility in Delhi, the regulator has made certain remarks. This is being followed as well."

### ICAO Regulations

Aviation authorities, such as the DGCA, follow International Civil Aviation Organization requirements for flying hazardous materials. When it

comes to managing these potentially delicate or hazardous items, this assures that airlines, sending and receiving airports are all on the same page.

When cabin workers make statements about lithium-ion batteries aboard airplanes, passengers may have had a glimpse of these laws in operation. Power banks and other batteries must be transported in handbags to avoid creating

a cargo hold fire. Flights are equipped with lockable bags to enclose the batteries and put out any fire or smoldering in the event of a mishap aboard.

### Air India's Turnaround Strategy

Air India now has 15 days to remedy the errors discovered during the audit and request to have its suspension removed. Given the potential effect of such a suspension on the airline's profitable cargo operations, the company is likely to resolve its concerns. The airline is also in the midst of a 100-day turnaround effort that started in January, after its purchase by the Tata Group.

## Luxury travel platform Bear Luxe Japan inks new deal with Sabre

**S**abre Corporation (NASDAQ: SABR), a leading software and technology provider that powers the global travel industry, recently announced a new agreement with Japan-specific luxury travel platform and business-to-business membership portal Bear Luxe Japan, to better connect its hoteliers to global markets while creating elevated experiences for travellers.

Inspired by the companions who accompanied aristocrats on their Grand Tours in the 17th to 19th centuries, who were known as Bear-leaders, Bear Luxe Japan is a global network of luxury travel designers, and leading Japanese luxury hotels in Japan. It aims to develop and deliver a luxury travel ecosystem to enable the international market to access the rich traditions and culture of Japan.

The new relationship will further cement Sabre's growing footprint in Japan, while opening up further access for Bear Luxe member hoteliers - primarily consisting of independent Japanese luxury hotels - through the Sabre SynXis hospitality platform and Bear Luxe Japan's international reach of the luxury travel market, to the markets and channels high-end travellers use to book their luxury trips to Japan. Bear Luxe will be utilizing a comprehensive suite of Sabre SynXis solutions to grow geographic reach, target the corporate travel market, drive increased bookings, and create personalized travel experiences.

"The absence of connectivity with the international luxury travel market has long been an industry-wide dilemma for Japanese luxury hotels. The anticipated partnership will be a game changer in bridging the market gap," said Hiro Miyatake, co-founder and chief operating officer of Bear Luxe. "We're also expecting that post-pandemic luxury travellers to Japan will have a more slow

and deliberate approach to their trip and a desire for meaningful travel. As such, it is vital to us that we have the right technology partner, one that offers the right solutions in opening up new markets for our hoteliers, all while ensuring that luxury travellers are able to access the personalized experiences they want and expect on their trip."

With this agreement, Bear Luxe hospitality members will be linked to hundreds of thousands of travel agents across the world through the Global Distribution System (GDS) connectivity solutions powered by Sabre SynXis, ensuring they can reach domestic and international travellers; strategically targeting markets which are able to travel, or have a desire to travel once borders re-open.

The new alliance will also enable the Bear Luxe platform to drive direct bookings, increase engagement and trigger conversions through the deep retail focus of the Sabre SynXis Booking Engine. Sabre's corporate booking tools will provide Bear Luxe with the ability to connect with corporate travel buyers. Meanwhile, SynXis Voice Agent will elevate the call centre experience for potential guests, equipping Bear Luxe agents with the tools they need to minimize call handling times while increasing opportunities for ancillary sales.

"We're thrilled that Bear Luxe has selected Sabre as its trusted, strategic technology partner in Japan," said Frank Trampert, Global Managing Director, Sabre Hospitality Solutions. "We look forward to supporting them in their endeavours to open up further domestic, regional and international markets to Japanese hoteliers while helping visitors to experience the unique characteristics Japanese destinations have to offer."

## Virgin's exclusive Beyond lounge opens for business

Virgin Australia's revamped invite-only lounge, Beyond, has opened its doors for the first time in two years for the airline's high-rolling frequent flyers.

Previously dubbed The Club, the Beyond program is an exclusive, invite-only program reserved for Virgin's high-status VIPs alongside its biggest corporate spenders, which now boasts private lounges in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.

The Club program was put on pause when Virgin entered administration in April 2020, and has since seen a major facelift, according to Virgin. However, two previous Club lounges in Canberra and Perth will not be reopened.

Lounges are accessed via an unmarked door, often hidden near Virgin's domestic lounges, which can be opened using their Beyond program membership card.

Virgin CEO Jayne Hrdlicka said key aspects of the new lounge and its facilities were shaped in consultation with its most loyal guests and members.

"We also spend a lot of time, in the design of this experience, talking to our guests to make sure that we understood what mattered to them," Hrdlicka said at a press conference in Sydney recently, to mark the opening of the Beyond lounges.

Virgin Australia's Jayne Hrdlicka unveils the airline's new lounge (Phil Tarrant)

Virgin Australia Group chief customer and digital officer Paul Jones

added, "Last year, our members told us privacy, comfort, functional spaces and relaxed dining experiences are important in a private lounge. And this is what we have delivered today.

"The dining experience is exceptional. Dishes take anywhere from five to 15 minutes to prepare and range from quick and convenient light dishes to more substantial items depending on the time of day and the duration of the members' visit.

"Our various seating zones also mean guests can dine with others or in private."

Last week, Australian Aviation reported that Virgin had sent out its exclusive invitations to the newly overhauled Beyond program.

While many previous members of The Club have already received their prestigious invitations to Beyond, reports suggest some high-profile former members were notably passed over after publicly defecting to Qantas' rival program, the Chairman's Lounge.

Virgin's biggest corporate spenders are expected to be on the exclusive list, with membership often negotiated as part of corporate contracts with the airline.

New members will see a six to nine-month trial in the program, while previous members will get a full 12-month membership.

Along with access to the exclusive lounge, Beyond members can access dedicated phone lines and email contacts to ensure their customer service needs are met quickly and can share all membership

benefits with one spouse or partner.

Membership also offers four complimentary upgrades to business class per year, as well as one complimentary Velocity Gold frequent flyer membership for the primary member's executive assistant.

## West Virginia Airport to open new customs facility



General aviation flights at West Virginia International Yeager Airport will be able to clear U.S. Customs at the newly-constructed facility adjacent to the airport-operated Capital Jet Center. (Photo: West Virginia International Yeager Airport)

West Virginia International Yeager Airport (KCRW), the state's only international gateway, will inaugurate its new general aviation U.S. Customs facility with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The \$4 million facility was funded equally between the airport and the state infrastructure fund. Construction of the 5,000-sq-ft structure, which is connected to the airport-operated Capital Jet Center FBO, took 14 months due to material supply disruptions during the pandemic.

It will normally be staffed from 9 am to 5 pm on weekdays but can also provide after-hours clearance by appointment. Previously, customs clearance at the airport was conducted by appointment only.

As a gateway, Yeager, which has a 6,700 runway, offers no air traffic congestion or taxiway traffic, and there is expected to be little to no wait for international clearance. "We expect several hundred international flights to clear customs at KCRW each year," said airport director and CEO Nick Keller. "In addition, flights that may not be destined for our state now have the option to stop at KCRW to quickly and conveniently clear customs and use the services of our FBO."



Shipping & Logistics

Commerce Times



# International Cargo Management

Int'l Invoc/Freight Forwarder/Consolidator

**AOG SPECIALIST**



**NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE  
TO ACHIEVE !!!!!**

**ANY WHERE  
ANY TIME  
YOUR DESTINY  
IS OUR SUCCESS**



BRANCH OFFICES  
Lahore - Sialkot  
Islamabad - Dubai

Room # 802,  
8th Floor, Business  
Plaza Mumtaz Hassan  
Road, of I.I Chundrigar Road, Karachi  
Tel: 0092-21-32417863-5,  
Fax: 0092-21-32417743,  
Email: [info@icmpk.com](mailto:info@icmpk.com)  
[www.icmpk.com](http://www.icmpk.com)

## Virgin Atlantic launches new brand platform and advertising campaign

Virgin Atlantic has recently launched a new brand and advertising campaign the first in more than two years since the Covid-19 pandemic hit.

The campaign has been created with newly appointed advertising agency Lucky Generals and introduces the end line “See the world differently”. The line draws on the airline's heritage of challenging the status quo as well as recognising that the travel industry is entering an exciting new era, after the disruption brought on by the pandemic.

The campaign will champion the rich individuality of the airline's people and customers, building on research showing that travellers find most airlines' crew to be impersonal in their service. In contrast, Virgin Atlantic crew are encouraged to be their true selves on board and on the ground. They don't follow a script and are seen to offer a more personal touch.



The hero of the campaign is a gloriously colourful 60-second TV ad which focuses on a group of charismatic characters, at an airport and on board a state of the art A350-1000 plane, set to the song “I am what I am”: a track made famous by Gloria Gaynor but reinterpreted here by breakthrough Jazz/Soul artist Lady Blackbird.

There is also a print campaign made up of shots of Virgin Atlantic crew and customers, with lines championing their individuality. These include a confident businesswoman saying “I am my own captain”, a family arriving for their holiday saying “A crew like no other” and a female Captain with the line “Born to fly”.

Virgin Atlantic is committed to championing the individuality of its people on the ground and in the air. Frontline crew are known for their stylish grooming credentials and unlike at some airlines, already have freedom when it comes to choosing to wear make-up, as well as

offering female crew the choice to wear trousers and flats, as well as skirts and heels.



Shai Weiss, Virgin Atlantic CEO explains: “At the core of our business is the understanding that every one of our people can be themselves at work and that they belong. They truly are the thing that sets us apart and the reason customers choose to fly with us. We know that the touchpoints that matter most and the experiences that differentiate Virgin Atlantic, are driven by our people and that's why it was so important they're at the heart of this campaign.”

Annabelle Cordelli, Vice President, Brand & Marketing at Virgin Atlantic sums up the approach: “It's more important than ever that we reimagine the world and lead the way with fresh ideas. Virgin Atlantic is uniquely placed to do this because of the rich individuality of our people and our customers: the unique people who march to their own drumbeat, fly their own path, see things from a different angle. So it makes sense to start by championing them and then apply this spirit to everything we do. After two challenging years when life has been on pause, it's time to see the world differently.”

Virgin Atlantic has recently reinstated its full portfolio of US destinations for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic, flying to destinations including New York, Los Angeles Miami, San Francisco, Orlando, Boston, Washington, and Seattle and looks forward to launching new services to Austin, Texas on 25th May 2022. Later in the year, Virgin Atlantic will also take delivery of its newest aircraft, the A330neo, a crucial step in Virgin Atlantic's fleet transformation programme creating one of the youngest, greenest fleets in the sky and also taking its onboard experience to new heights.

## PIA acquires A320 flight simulator



A view of the state-of-the-art Airbus A320 simulator which is being installed at Captain Abdullah simulator Complex in Karachi for the training of pilots.

Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has acquired a state-of-the-art Airbus A320 simulator for pilot training, refresher courses and air safety.

The simulator would lead to safer training and cost savings for the local airlines, as they have to spend a significant amount of money on training their pilots overseas.

The state-of-the-art digital 7E Evolution Airbus A320 Full Flight Simulator, acquired from L3Harris Technologies, will be installed at the PIA Training Centre in Karachi.

Currently, the national flag carrier operates 11 Airbus A320 aircraft. The simulator will not only benefit PIA's own pilots who fly Airbus A320 but also other Pakistani airlines like Airblue and AirSial that use the aircraft. Pakistan has 670 Airbus A320 pilots.

The acquisition of the simulator “is a wonderful step by PIA, as it will assist all pilots who are flying Airbus A320 in Pakistan”, said Imran Aslam Khan, director of Sky Wings and an aviation expert.

He said Airbus A320 pilots must go through four hours of simulator training every six months. “Now the question is whether one simulator will be sufficient for hundreds of Airbus pilots,” he wondered.

Mr Aslam said that sending a pilot abroad for simulator training costs between \$400 and \$500 per hour, in addition to the instructor's fee and other charges. All the expenses are borne by the airline.

He explained that in the early days, the plane manufacturing company would supply simulators to its customers at a lower cost under an agreement, but such arrangements were not considered by the officials concerned.

## ICAO adopts new set of SARPs

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Council says it has adopted a new set of international Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) addressing national civil aviation responses to public health emergencies, and the security and inspection of travel and related health documents.

According to ICAO, the new Amendment 29 to Annex 9 Facilitation to the Chicago Convention also addresses a wider range of facilitation provisions relating to the conduct of relief and repatriation flights, air travellers with disabilities, assistance to aircraft accident victims and their families, and the use of civil aviation for the trafficking in persons. The new SARPs will become applicable in November 2022.

Salvatore Sciacchitano, ICAO Council President, explains: "The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of passenger and cargo facilitation in assuring safe, and efficient international aviation, especially in challenging times."

"Through their adoption of these new Amendments, ICAO Council States have now addressed some important gaps which had been identified by an ad hoc task force it established, significantly reinforced Annex 9 in the process and making its framework much more fit for purpose to drive global harmonization across the full range of issues this Amendment has addressed.

The new public health standards adopted includes a requirement for countries to employ a multi-layered risk management approach when pursuing public health measures in the aviation sector to prevent or mitigate the spread of a communicable disease.

Further recommended is that States should issue digital vaccination certificates in line with WHO recommendations, and that the certificates should be interoperable with the specifications in the ICAO Technical Report Visible Digital Seal for non-constrained environments (VDS-NC).

ICAO says the new public health Standards also update requirements relating to aircraft and facility disinsection and disinfection, emergency medical relief, and the establishment of airport public health plans for preparing for, responding to and managing communicable disease outbreaks.

Regarding the inspection of digital health documents, Amendment 29 now requires countries to assist airlines in health proof evaluation to help deter fraud



Salvatore Sciacchitano, ICAO Council President.

and abuse. Countries are also recommended to encourage airlines to have procedures in place to check and evaluate standardized health documentation related to air travel. It further recommends that governments consider automating the inspection of health-related documentation, or using contactless procedures.

With respect to the obligations placed on States to assure sufficient care and information for aircraft accident victims and their families, the Amendment now elevates former ICAO Recommended Practice 8.46, which requires countries to set out appropriate legislation and policies in this area, to an international Standard.

The international regulatory framework on facilitation of transport of persons with disabilities was amended such that five previous recommended practices have now been elevated to Standards, including provisions relating to the accessibility of flight service-related information for the hearing- and vision-impaired, the basic right to assistance for disabled travellers, and the establishment of designated vehicle parking and drop off areas for disabled persons at passenger terminal buildings.

Lastly, the Annex 9 Recommended Practice concerning the establishment of measures to ensure that government procedures are in place to combat the

trafficking in persons, now encourages States to realize this capacity based on a comprehensive strategy including clear reporting systems and relevant points of contact for airport and aircraft operators.

## Eviation signs deal with Cape Air for 75 all-electric Alice commuter aircraft

Eviation Aircraft and Massachusetts-based Cape Air, one of the largest commuter airlines in the United States, have announced a Letter of Intent (LOI) for the purchase of 75 all-electric Alice commuter aircraft.

With this engagement, Cape Air aims to set up an unparalleled regional electric fleet, taking a pioneering step into the sustainable era of aviation.

Eviation's all-electric Alice aircraft can accommodate nine passengers and two crew. Cape Air flies more than 400 regional flights a day to nearly 40 cities in the Northeast, Midwest, Montana and the Caribbean. Deploying a fleet of all-electric Alice aircraft will significantly reduce carbon emissions, as well as maintenance and operational costs for the airline, and provide a smoother and quieter flight experience for passengers.

The Eviation Alice is the world's leading fully electric aircraft, designed to fly 440 nautical miles on a single charge and has maximum cruise speed of 250 knots. Alice will operate in all environments currently serviced by piston and turbine aircraft. The advanced electric motors have fewer moving parts to increase reliability and reduce maintenance costs. Alice's operating software constantly monitors flight performance to ensure optimal efficiency.





## Sustainable fuel rises to new levels with LH Cargo and K + N initiative

**L**UFTHANSA CARGO and freight forwarding giant Kuehne + Nagel (K + N) have cemented their commitment to the development of power-to-liquid (PtL) technology to propel the de-carbonisation of global airfreight by deploying a B777 freighter emblazoned with a special green message.

One of the European carrier's freighters with the registration D-ALFK took off for the first time to South Korea's Seoul airport with a new 'Flying into the Future CO2-neutral Power-to-Liquid Sustainable Aviation Fuel' livery inscription on 14 April 2022. The PtL concept is based on the conversion of renewable energy to liquid fuels and chemicals such as methanol, oxymethylene ether (OME), ammonia and Fischer-Tropsch products which predominantly refer to liquid hydrocarbon fuels, and the process is commonly known as gas-to-liquid (GTL).

These liquids offer the high energy density that is required for aircraft, ships and other applications with a high-power demand and the need to serve long distances, notes a report from the Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems (ISE). Oxygenated fuels based on methanol, such as OME and degradable Dimethyl ether (DME), a colourless highly flammable gas at ambient conditions, but can be handled as a liquid when lightly pressurised, has properties similar to those of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). They are attracting increasing interest as they offer improved combustion properties that could help to reduce local emissions.

"An essential pre-condition for PtL is the availability of hydrogen or synthesis gas that has a very low carbon dioxide (CO2) footprint. If this is fulfilled, the well-to-wheel CO2 emissions of PtL products can be reduced by 90 per cent as compared with the fossil benchmark," says the report.

"PtL fuels and chemicals are needed to meet the targets of the UN Paris Agreement on climate change," the Institute's report points out. "Long-distance transport and worldwide trade of PtL products are a vital component for the ongoing integration of renewable electricity into the energy system and industries."

The green partnership between K + N and Lufthansa Cargo, which was formed in 2021, has seen the two entities jointly commit to purchasing the equivalent of 20 tonnes, or 25,000 litres annually of synthetic crude oil from a production site at Werlte/Emsland,



Germany, which is operated by the Bonn-based non-governmental organisation (NGO) atmosfair.

The first quantities of crude oil are to be produced this year and utilised as synthetic fuel in aviation, according to the statement.

Dorothea von Boxberg, chief executive of Lufthansa Cargo, underscores: "We are very pleased to now also visibly express our joint commitment and to publicise it with the help of the global deployment of our freighter.

## Delta loses \$940 million in Q1, but bookings, revenue, surge

**A** Delta Airlines aircraft taxi's, Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021, at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, in Atlanta. Delta Air Lines lost \$940 million in the first quarter, Wednesday, April 13, 2022, yet bookings surged in recent weeks, setting up a breakout summer as Americans try to put the pandemic behind them. While Delta's revenue is recovering, the Atlanta airline faces stiff headwinds from higher spending on fuel and labor. A Delta Airlines aircraft taxi's, Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021, at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, in Atlanta. Delta Air Lines lost \$940 million in the first quarter, Wednesday, April 13, 2022, yet bookings surged in recent weeks, setting up a breakout summer as Americans try to put the pandemic behind them. While Delta's revenue is recovering, the Atlanta airline faces stiff headwinds from higher spending on fuel and labor. (AP Photo/Mike Stewart) Mike Stewart AP Delta Air Lines lost \$940 million in the first quarter, hurt by a rise in fuel prices, but bookings surged in recent weeks, setting up a breakout summer as Americans try to put the pandemic behind them. Wall Street had expected the loss in a quarter marred by the omicron variant of COVID-19. Investors focused Wednesday on Delta's upbeat outlook for the rest of the year. Shares of the Atlanta-based airline jumped more than 6%, and American, United and Southwest all gained between 5% and 11%. Delta still faces stiff

"A successful and sustainable transformation of airfreight can only succeed if we join forces with strong partners which is why we are very proud to have Kuehne + Nagel at our side as a supporter of this forward-looking technology," she adds.

Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) can be produced in various ways. To date, Lufthansa Cargo and K + N have utilised SAF of bio-genic origin, such as synthetic kerosene based on used cooking oils, for example.

Yngve Ruud, a member of the management board of K + N who is responsible for air logistics, points out: "With the new B777 freighter D-ALFK in Kuehne + Nagel's livery, we are sending a strong signal of our company's commitment to sustainable airfreight. We are already seeing a great deal of interest from our customers who want to avoid the carbon emissions of their shipments worldwide and the synthetic SAF project with Lufthansa Cargo is of utmost importance for our joint mission of CO2-neutral aviation."

headwinds, including the rise in fuel and labor costs. And it is not clear whether spiking inflation will cause consumers to pull back on travel spending. On Tuesday, the U.S. reported that in the past year inflation rose at its fastest pace since 1981, led by soaring energy prices. Jet fuel is Delta's second-largest cost after labor. \$2 for 2 months Subscribe for unlimited access to our website, app, eEdition and more CLAIM OFFER Delta's jet fuel costs rose 33% from just the last quarter. Total adjusted operating expense reached \$9 billion in the first three months of the year, up 11% sequentially due to fuel prices and the cost of ramping up operations from the pandemic. So far, though, neither inflation, the ongoing pandemic nor Russia's war against Ukraine seem to be having any impact on ticket sales. Delta officials say that bookings started to rise in late February and have kept going. "The last five weeks have been the highest bookings in our history," CEO Ed Bastian said in an interview. "I think that's an indication that people are through with the virus. They feel they have all the tools and the technology to manage it." Bastian said he expects travel demand to remain strong for two to three months about as far into the future as airlines care to venture. "Then, when we get to the fall, that will be the next inflection point as to consumer health, what impact inflation has had on them, higher fuel prices, what impact there is from the virus," he said.

# Karachi



FalconCargo



To book with us please contact:

Karachi: +92-21-3536 4502

[KHI.FalconCargo@gulfair.com](mailto:KHI.FalconCargo@gulfair.com)

## Antonov conducts damage assessment of an-225 Mriya

Could the world's largest aircraft be repaired and take to the skies once more?

Representatives of Ukrainian aircraft manufacturer Antonov have arrived at Kyiv's Hostomel Airport (GML) to conduct a damage assessment of its An-225 aircraft. The aircraft in question is UR-82060, named Mriya, meaning dream in Ukrainian.

The world's largest aircraft had arrived at Hostomel airport for maintenance in early February, but was damaged when the conflict began a few weeks later in the so-called Battle of Antonov Airport.

Access to the airport remained impossible until April 2nd, when Ukrainian forces regained control of the area as Russian troops retreated to the East of the country.

Antonov's team of investigators inspect the damaged An-225.

Assessing the damage

Soon after the attack at the end of February, pictures and videos began circulating online, including satellite images that showed significant damage to the hangar in which the An-225 was being stored.

It is believed that the nose and wings of the aircraft, in particular, suffered considerable damage. However, until now the full extent of the damage has remained unknown.

Antonov's team of investigators, including the An-225's chief pilot Dmytro Antonov, is now on-site to survey the damage and conduct a preliminary analysis of the repair costs. They are working in collaboration with the Ukrainian defense company Ukroboronprom.

Images and videos suggest the aircraft may have been damaged beyond repair.

Could the An-225 take to the skies once more?

The full findings of the damage assessment have not yet been released, although previous statements from the Ukrainian defense company Ukroboronprom put the cost of repair at \$3 billion over five years. It also declared that the aircraft would be rebuilt at Russia's expense.



However, if the An-225 has been as badly damaged as some pictures suggest, repairing the aircraft may not even be possible. Many of the aircraft's parts were constructed in the 1980s and replacements may be difficult to come across almost today, almost 40 years later.

Many aviation enthusiasts are keen to see Mriya back in the skies, although the aircraft may be too badly damaged for this to be possible.

Both Antonov and aviation enthusiasts worldwide are keen to see Mriya back in the skies, and the manufacturer recently called on public donations to support the rebuild.

Yet perhaps a more feasible option would be to continue construction of its second An-225, which was started but never completed. Although this semi-built aircraft was stored in the same hangar at Hostomel Airport at the time of

the attack, early reports suggest that it appears to be intact.

The Antonov An-225 – the world's largest aircraft

Only one An-225 was ever completed by Kyiv-based Antonov. Mriya, the world's largest aircraft, first took flight in December 1988 and until February of this year had been in active service ever since.

With its 290 feet wingspan and a length of 275 feet, the aircraft's enormous size and unique design meant it often drew large crowds wherever it went.

The Antonov An-225 always attracted attention wherever it went.

The An-225 has a varied service history and has at times been drafted in to help airlift aid during crises around the world. For example, following the 2010 Haiti earthquake, it delivered relief supplies to the neighboring Dominican Republic.

More recently, throughout the Covid pandemic, it was used to transport medical supplies to affected areas. Prior to arriving at Hostomel Airport, its final mission was to bring nearly 90 tons of Covid tests from Tianjin, China to Billund, Denmark on February 2nd.

## No sign of survivors as plane carrying 132 crashes in China

China Eastern confirmed there had been fatalities after a jet carrying 132 people crashed into a mountain in southern China on Monday 21 March, shortly after losing contact with air traffic control and dropping thousands of metres in just three minutes.

Prime Minister Imran Khan expressed deep grief over loss of lives in the plane crash. "Deeply saddened by the tragic loss of lives in the passenger plane crash in China. We share the grief of our Chinese brothers and sisters and convey our deepest condolences and sympathies with the bereaved families," he tweeted.

The Boeing 737-800 flight from the city of Kunming to the southern hub of Guangzhou "lost airborne contact over Wuzhou" city in the Guangxi region on Monday 21 March afternoon, according to the Civil Aviation Administration of China. The jet was carrying 123

passengers and nine crew members. Media said there were no signs of survivors.

China Eastern confirmed late on Monday 21 March that at least some people involved in the crash had been killed, without providing more information or giving details on any survivors. "The company expresses its deep condolences for the passengers and crew members who died in the plane crash," the airline said in a statement.

The disaster prompted an unusually swift public reaction from President Xi Jinping, who said he was "shocked" and ordered an immediate investigation into its cause. Hundreds of firefighters were dispatched to the scene in Teng county near Wuzhou, state media reported, as nearby villagers rushed to help the rescue effort. "Everyone went to the mountains," Tang Min, who runs a restaurant a few kilometres from the crash site, told AFP by telephone.



داریانا افغان هوایی شرکت  
ARIANA AFGHAN AIRLINES

هر هفته 4 پرواز

# کابل اسلام آباد

یک شنبه | دو شنبه | پنج شنبه | جمعہ

FRI

THU

MON

SUN

**For Booking:**  
021-35641050-52 info@knaviation.ltd  
Office 6 Lotia Building #2 Club Road  
Kracahi Pakistan

#ArianaIsYours



**ISB-KBL \$ 100**  
**KBL-ISB \$ 180**



## SPEEDY ACTIVE FREIGHT

"your business is our priority"

MULTI MODAL TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS SERVICES

Speedy Active Freight is providing Air Freight and Ocean Freight services for various business organizations all over the world. Our 27 years of proven experience help us understand our customer's needs, and we're always in the process of updating our operational structure & managing operations to serve our customers in a better way.




Branches:

Lahore

Islamabad

Karachi

Dubai U.A.E

WE WILL STRIVE FOR PROVIDING THE EXCELLENT SERVICE IN APPRECIATION OF YOUR SUPPORT.











## SPEEDY ACTIVE FREIGHT

"your business is our priority"

Al-Khalil Centre, Suite No. 12,-14, 3rd Floor, Kashmir Road, Sialkot = Pakistan.

Tel No. 0092 52 3240608, 0092 52 3242110, 0092 52 3242109, 0092 52 3252110

Web: www.saf.com.pk Email: info@saf.com.pk

## Iraqi Airways to start flights to Pakistan soon

Iraqi Airways has appointed Wardah International Services (Pvt) Ltd as its GSA in Pakistan in July 2017. On January 28th 2018 Iraqi Airways first inaugural flight landed Karachi airport. Under the supervision and guidance of Mr. Basil Ahmed Affendi Chief Executive (GSA), Iraqi Airways has successfully operated its schedule flights from Pakistan. The airlines used to operate 4 weekly flights from Baghdad / Najaf to Karachi. The airlines used Boeing 737-800 aircraft in low seasons it and in high seasons it operate B-747 & B 777 aircrafts to facilitate groups by uplift maximum passengers with the seat configuration of Economy plus Business class, on this route.

Iraqi Airways suspended its flights from Pakistan in the mid-year 2020 due to covid 19 badly hit aviation industry but still some flights were operated to carry stranded Pakistani passengers and also for the holy month of Muharram for Ashura and Arbaeen in September 2021

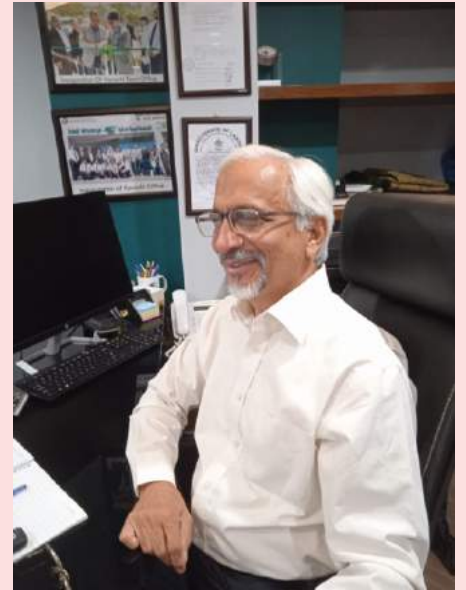


*Mr. Basil Ahmed Affendi*

Iraqi Airways operates 6 flights 4 for Karachi and 2 for Islamabad to facilities smooth services for the Zareen of Ameerul-Momaneen.

Iraqi Airways has announced to re-start its flight to Pakistan in May 2022. Initially, They will resume its operation from Baghdad / Najaf to Karachi and Islamabad. The airline has the most modern fleet including Boeing series of aircraft B 747, B777, B737, and Airbus series of aircrafts A320, A321, A220 also purchased 8 new dream liner aircrafts. Wardah International Services (Pvt.) Ltd. GSA Iraqi Airways Pakistan is all set with his dedicated team staff of Town and Airport office to facilitate their best professional services to all groups and passengers who will choose Iraqi Airways as their travel partner.

Mr. Syed Nehal Akbar Joined Wardah International Services (Pvt.) Ltd. GSA Iraqi Airways for Pakistan &



*Mr. Syed Nehal Akbar*

Azad Jammu Kashmir as Director Sales and Operations on 1st March of this year 2022. He has a vast experience in the aviation field. He started his aviation career in the year 1981 joining Japan Airlines and worked for eight years. He went to Saudi Arabia and worked two years. He joined Malaysia Airlines and served for 22 years. He also worked with flydubai for two years where through his efforts he managed to start flydubai flights operation for Iraq. He joined Serene Air since its inception and worked for five years as Regional Director South based in Karachi.

This was stated by Mr. Syed Nehal Akbar Director Sales and Operations Pakistan Wardah International Services (Pvt) Ltd GSA for Iraqi Airways in Pakistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir. It may be pointed out that Mr. Syed Nehal Akbar along with Mr. Basil Ahmed Affendi Chief Executive GSA for Iraqi Airways Pakistan their recent visit to Iraq and had meetings with high officials of Iraqi Airways who assured them that soon flights operation will resume for Pakistan.

Giving the details Mr. Syed Nehal Akbar said, that in meetings with high official of Iraqi Airways it was also discussed to allow onward Iraqi Airways stations sales from Pakistan as there is also a very good passengers traffic travelling to onward European destinations like Turkey Germany & United Kingdom from Pakistan.





PAKISTAN CARGO SERVICES  
*Serving with Excellence  
Since 1984*



# ROAD TRANSPORT TO EUROPE & UK SCANDINAVIAN

## UPTO DOOR UNDER TIR CONVENTION

**OUR FTL SERVICES COVERS**

- Eastern Europe
- Western Europe
- United Kingdom
- Scandinavia
- CIS Countries

- Door Delivery in 24days
- Door Delivery in 26days
- Door Delivery in 30days
- Door Delivery in 30days
- Door Delivery in 20days

- Safe & Reliable Logistics Solution
- Save Critical Lead Time
- Avoid Origin/Destination Handling Disruptions



**Pakistan Cargo Services**  
 Anwaar Club Road, Sialkot. Pakistan  
 UAN: +92 52 111 727 747

Email: [managerskt@wagonersworld.com](mailto:managerskt@wagonersworld.com)  
 WhatsApp: +92 300 8612637

## Tackling the “old boys' network” and helping women into pilot training roles

As the world celebrates International Women's Day, a new study has revealed lingering sexism in the aviation industry and called for action to help female aviators take up training roles.

The independent study from the Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS) and the University of the West of England (UWE) in the UK was commissioned to look into why so few pilot trainers are female and what the barriers are to career progression for female pilots.

“Has the question of diversity and inclusion gone away during the pandemic? No, it's come to the forefront. Our industry has had a watershed moment,” Captain Marnie Munns, one of the authors of the report, commented.

The reports highlights that while only 5% of the global pilot workforce is female, the number taking up training roles are even fewer. In the UK, just under 1% of type rating examiners are women, according to the Civil Aviation Authority.

“Training is the first point of contact for new entrants into the aviation industry and given its gender profile, conveys a message that this is a male dominated career,” the study states.

Sadly, the report said while it did not specifically ask about sexism, it still encountered some very concerning examples of sexism and sexual harassment, with respondents frequently citing an “old boys' network” and a lack of female role models and mentors.

“It is of grave concern to us that the unacceptable and shocking behavior towards women during initial pilot training, is still happening today. It is a wonder that these women have remained in the industry, although for some, ‘things have got better’ since becoming experienced pilots,” the report states.

Munns said if the industry wants to attract the best talent it needs to appeal to everyone, irrespective of gender, ethnicity or age and that action needs to be taken now.

“Change does not happen on its own,” she told an online presentation. “There's comments in the report that it will take 100 years for gender parity. We need to do something positive now. You cannot actively encourage a diverse group of people onto an industry which does not foster them and encourage them.”

**Building back better**

The report highlights that with the



industry rebuilding its operations after the pandemic, there is now “an opportunity to build back with more diversity” and to investigate how the industry can learn from the part-time working models that have been employed during the pandemic.

In particular, the authors note that many airlines' requirement for trainers to be full-time has a disproportionate effect on women.

“Whilst it's acceptable for a pilot to be working part-time, it doesn't seem true of the pilot trainer role,” Professor Susan Durbin from UWE Bristol noted during the presentation. “It came out very strongly from men and women that this role should be offered on a part-time basis.”

In the report, Durbin said the findings show the industry is “a long way” from achieving gender equality.

“Through this study, we have enabled the voices of men and women in the industry to be heard; I believe it is time for the industry to listen and take urgent action,” she commented.

The study gathered responses from over 700 airline pilots worldwide. Three quarters of the sample was male, reflecting the under-representation of women in the industry, but their responses also showed they supported their female colleagues, the authors said.

Many of the male respondents recognized the presence of the “old boys' network”, with some feeling excluded from it themselves, and said they understood that sexism and sexual harassment was a problem for women.

Munns also noted that women were hit harder during the pandemic than men, with 62% of the female pilots in survey having been furloughed, compared to only 31% of the male respondents.

**Is the industry failing women?**

The report sets out four key areas where it would like to see airlines and flight schools take action.

The first is on sexism, sexual harassment and the old boys' network. The study recommends mandatory gender diversity awareness training and professional standards training at airlines.

The second concerns the reluctance of airlines and training companies to offer trainer roles on a part-time basis. The study says both men and women would like such roles to be offered on a part-time basis and that airlines and training schools should listen to this.

The third area deals with the lack of transparency in the recruitment and selection process, with the report showing that often men were given training roles without an interview. The authors recommend companies approach women directly to encourage them to apply and look at targeted recruitment campaigns.

Finally, the study turns to the lack of female role models and mentors. Current female trainers should be made more visible as role models and a formal mentoring scheme should be set up for female pilots and trainers, especially those in the initial phase of their pilot training.

Concluding, the study says becoming a pilot and pilot trainer involves much emotional and financial investment and is seen as a vocation.

“The airline industry is failing many of the women, and some of the men, who follow this vocation and make heavy financial and emotional investments,” the study says, adding that women need more support from their employers and to be treated with respect by both peers and passengers.

### Japan removes 160 countries from covid travel ban list

Japan plans to ease COVID 19-related border restrictions and lift its entry ban for foreign nationals from 106 countries, such as the United States, Britain, France, etc.

Recently the foreign ministry said that foreigners from the 106 countries would not be denied to enter Japan. However, foreigners with tourist purposes were still not allowed into the country. The ban was initially put in place in December 2021 due to the Omicron variant and barred all foreigners in 159 countries in the last 14 days from entry.

Another government statement said that after the planned lifting, Japan will still keep its doors closed to 56 countries.

## Why cockpit doors are open during boarding



The cockpit of a Boeing 737-900ER.

We take a look at why there is a global practice of keeping cockpit doors open during boarding of a flight.

One of the most enticing sights for an aviation geek is getting the chance to peek through the cockpit while boarding the aircraft. It does not take a lot to notice that the flight deck's door is wide open while the aircraft is being prepared for departure, but what is the exact reasoning behind the globally followed procedure?

A pilot's job extends to more than merely flying the plane

Overall, cockpit doors need to be kept open due to the number of people that need to enter and exit the flight deck prior to departure. For instance, the First Officer is required to leave to conduct an external walk-around preflight before returning. Along with this, keeping the door open allows the Captain to monitor the boarding procedure. Additionally, many ground staff members are also meant to keep in continuous contact with the pilot. These include technicians, fueling staff, and those responsible for cleaning and catering the aircraft.

Stay informed: Sign up for our daily and weekly aviation news digests.

Many times, an airplane undergoes vital checks before a flight and hence, a technician needs to provide an airworthy approval to the pilots before they are cleared to commence the flight. Fueling staff provides the pilots with a felling slip which is used to confirm if the right quantities are loaded in the right tanks. The cabin crew also coordinates with the pilots during the boarding process, before handing them a list and count of passengers who are onboard the flight. This information is provided with any last-minute changes that may have occurred during the boarding process, such as missing passengers, canceled transits, or upgrades in the traveling class.

Airbus A350-900s operating on long-haul routes tend to have three or four pilots. Photo: Air France

Aviation is more complex than the

common man thinks

Once the pilots are satisfied with the information they have received from various departments working on getting the plane ready, they order for the door to be locked and subsequently begin communicating pushback and take-off

clearance with the air traffic controllers. Once ready for engine start, the cockpit doors are kept closed for the better part of the airborne duration unless there are over two pilots flying. Hereon, the door is opened only for the pilots to be served their meals or when they are changing shifts, or heading to the bathroom. Upon arrival, the cockpit door is wide open again and this is when the flying faithful can also get a chance to visit the flight check and have a look at the intricacy of the systems.

## 5 ways to get a Pilot Job soon after the training?



We will not say it is difficult to get a job at an airline once you get your commercial pilot licence. We would instead call it challenging or competitive. However, like with anything in life, those who try the hardest eventually get what they want. The key is to stay patient, focused and... Not ready to give up on your aim to become an employed airline pilot.

### 1. Choose a cadet program

If you are new to the industry and only mulling the idea of becoming a pilot, a cadet program is a great choice. Why? Because once you pass both the school and airline assessments, you receive a Letter of Intent (LOI) from the airline. It shows the airline's intention to hire you if you match their expectations along the training process. It is not a 100% job assurance, but your opportunity to turn it into one by training hard to stand out from the crowd.

BAA Training has had experience with many cadet programs throughout the last decades: Wizz Air, LOT Polish Airlines, Avion Express, etc. For the moment, it offers a SmartLynx Airlines cadet program.

SmartLynx Airlines has recently announced its plans to employ 400 pilots to cater to the increased number of new aircraft deliveries planned. Therefore, supposedly, chances are high you'll be in the loop after finishing their cadet program. In the upcoming weeks, BAA Training will launch one more cadet program with one of Spanish leading airlines.

### 2. Select a training organization with

### links to airlines

You are in good hands if you entrust your pilot training to an organization that cooperates with many airlines. The training organization can then refer you to one or more airlines if it has a connection with. Again, there are no guarantees, but dedication and persistence make miracles happen, and people notice you.

For instance, BAA Training has strong links to Wizz Air, SmartLynx, Avion Express, KlasJet, etc. We often recommend our best students to them as part of our „Student aftercare program“. It ensures our trainees receive proper mentorship while studying and after they are done with their training. A couple of days ago, we recommended a bunch of our students to Wizz Air.

### 3. Try to secure an airline job interview at any price

While the previous points were more or less accomplishable, this one might sound surprising mainly because there're not many ways to do it. However, if you decide to do your A320, B737NG or B737 MAX Type Rating and Base Training at BAA Training, you can rest assured we'll schedule an interview with an airline for you.

But keep in mind the already familiar “mantra” – the guarantees are only for high-performing and hardworking students. If you feel you'll prove you're the one, start getting ready for the interview, or better wait. Because on top of the actual interview arrangement, at BAA Training (in Spain or Lithuania), you will cover a unique Airline Job preparation course with psychological coaching! You get this long-awaited ticket to the airline's premises absolutely free of charge – you only pay for your Type Rating and Base Training.

That's already something, isn't it? The rest will be the question of how well you manage to present yourself.

### 4. Work on your “election campaign”

If you find yourself in the situation



where the initial training, Type Rating, MCC, IFR and everything else that an airline may wish for is done, but no job offer is on the table... Start hustling but not panicking. You know what knowledge you have and what you're worth, so it's time to find that very first pilot job of yours by doing some consistent, strategic actions.

Make sure you have a professional resume containing these critical components: heading, objective, certificates and ratings, flight times, work history, formal education, professional training, and availability. It is also helpful to prepare a cover letter accompanying your resume. You can use websites such as aviationjobs.me, aerjobseurope.com, etc., LinkedIn or companies' career pages to send out your applications.

A little life hack: don't be embarrassed to make a follow-up call after sending your resume, and it's totally fine if you repeatedly apply to the same company once per three months.

#### 5. Do some networking

There're a lot of aviation-related networking events where you can meet and mingle. For example, Pilot Expo is Europe's largest event dedicated to flight crew recruitment and training. There, experienced pilots, recent flight school graduates, aspiring future pilots, training companies, etc., meet under one roof to potentially work together and produce something of value.

This year, the exhibition is set for May 6-7 in Germany, Berlin, and BAA Training will have a booth there as well. The event's website says: "It is a chance for flight crew and cabin crew to look for new employment opportunities and for young dreamers to explore numerous pilot training possibilities, cadet programs and financing options." Whether it is the training you are looking for or the actual recruitment, you may want to take a walk to meet people and discover the opportunities.

Apart from official events, talk to your flight instructor, former groupmates or anyone else who is at least somehow connected to aviation. There is always someone who knows someone you'd very much want to have a word with.

And more networking...

You can also consider joining some pilot associations, such as SEPLA in Spain, the strength of which lies in the unity of its members. It represents around 6,000 commercial pilots who work for airlines based in Spain. One of SEPLA's main objectives is „Participate in the training and preparation of airline pilots, as well as in the development of programs and study plans that give access to the profession.“

It might be a good idea also to check

some Facebook groups. For example, Pilot Job Search, Airline Pilot Interview Questions & Answers, etc. You will most surely find a lot of helpful information there and collect some good contacts!

Nobody can give you a 100% guarantee that you're sure to get a job right after your pilot training and first airline job interview. But remember that aviation is a

career where you should not be focused on the next 12 months or so but on the next 40 years. So, the investment you are making will generously pay off in the future. If you promise yourself to stay committed and concentrate on intense and continuous studying and then finding that excellent job at an airline, you'll be the one to reap the rewards.

## Air India chairman performs major management shakeup



**B**ig changes in the Indian flag carrier's top brass.

Air India Chairman Natarajan Chandrasekaran has reportedly made significant changes in the airline's top management. Several new names have been appointed to top positions, while some have stepped down from the board. This is quite possibly the biggest change in the Indian national carrier since it was privatized and handed over to The Tata Group earlier this year.

Exactly a month ago, N Chandrasekaran was appointed as the Chairman of Air India. In addition, Mr. Chandrasekaran also serves as Chairman of Tata Sons, the main investment company of the Group. Even before officially taking over as head of the airline, he began reviewing the carrier's fundamentals, signaling his dedication to the project. Therefore, major changes like this reshuffle were a long time coming. Let's unpack what we know in this article.

#### The details

Several board members have stepped down and reappointed to managerial positions. For instance, Vinod Hejmadi, previously Director of Finance, has been made the Chief Financial Officer. Former Director (Commercial), Meenakshi Mallik is now an advisor to the Chairman for Commercial and Technology (only until a new CEO takes over), while former Director of Personnel Amrita Sharan will advise on HR-related matters. Lastly, Capt. R.S. Sandhu, who was Director of Operations, is appointed as the Chief of Operations.

The carrier's Chairman, N Chandrasekaran, has made big changes in

the top management.

Air India veterans have been made to step down from the board in favor of big names from The Tata Group. Nipun Agarwal will take up the post of Chief Commercial Officer and Accountable Manager, and Satya Ramaswamy will take over as Chief Digital and Technology Officer. Suresh Dutt Tripathi is the new Chief Human Resources Officer, and Rajesh Dogra will head Customer Experience and Ground Handling.

The new board appointees have a long and diverse history within the Tata family of companies. Nipun has served as a Senior Vice President of Tata Sons for just over five years, while Mr. Ramaswamy held the Vice President position in the Digital Enterprise Unit at Tata Consultancy Services (TCS). Meanwhile, Tripathi is the VP of Human Resources at Tata Steel, and Dogra, another TCS veteran, headed India's Passport program under contract from the Ministry of External Affairs.

#### Final piece of the management puzzle still missing

Now that the flag carrier's management structure has been reorganized, the Chairman can finally focus on getting AI a new CEO. Around two months ago, Chandrasekaran appointed Ilker Ayci as Air India's new CEO and MD. Ayci is the former Chairman of Turkish Airlines and is responsible for leading the carrier to its current success. However, he declined the role just two weeks later, leaving the top chair at AI empty.

#### Looking ahead

Ever since AI went into private hands, industry experts and loyal passengers have been hopeful of a major turnaround in the carrier. Of course, the changes and results we want take time, so it's not exactly fair to judge the new owners just yet. But so far, the Tata Group seems to be taking all the right steps. Over the next few months, it will be interesting to see how these changes play out for the future of AI and Indian aviation.

## CDA's tourist police plan fails to materialise

The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has failed to raise the Metropolitan Tourist Police in accordance with the civic agency's board decision made in March last year.

The CDA board had approved the formation of the tourist police to guide and protect citizens in recreational areas, including parks.

Later, the CDA had stated that instead of the tourist police it was going to raise a watch and ward force which besides helping tourists will have a regulatory check on unauthorised construction. However, neither the tourist police nor the watch and ward force has so far been established.

The CDA board meeting held in March 2021 had stated: 'It was discussed during the meeting that initiative for establishment of Metropolitan Police be taken in collaboration with the ICT and Islamabad Police. The concept is to focus on guiding and helping citizens at public places, particularly at parks and other tourist spots.

The metropolitan police will also perform duties and functions such as to educate the citizens about environment friendly practices, guide and inform tourists about places of interest in Islamabad and to coordinate via wireless and telephone with all allied rescue departments.

It will also patrol on bikes and cycles to infuse a sense of security in people visiting the capital. After deliberation, the board decided to establish tourist police.

The board also approved the utilisation of half of the existing strength of the police posts, including an inspector of police already available on sanctioned strength of the CDA for the tourist police. The board stated that the capital police will be requested to fill all the sanctioned posts of the police in the CDA in addition to transferring more police employees, including one DSP/ASP, to the civic agency, read minutes of the board meeting.

Following the board meeting, the CDA also formed a three-member committee to finalise a road map for raising the force.

Parks in Islamabad have seen several incidents of robberies and even a rape case was reported from a park a few years ago, so the CDA officials believed the police will help the civic agency in providing a safe and secure environment to visitors and local citizens.

In the past, the CDA had also announced to have a special police and even a separate police station but that plan could not be materialised.

Sources in the CDA said when the formation of the tourist police was being discussed, the federal government directed the civic agency to form a watch and ward force.

'Last year, we decided to set up a watch and ward force instead of the tourist police but that too could not be raised,' said an official of the CDA.

When contacted, CDA's spokesperson Syed Asif Raza said a committee had been working on the issue. 'We are working on both the proposals the board's decision and the watch and ward force,' he said. -Kashif Abbasi.

## GB tourist police get 20 patrol cars

The Gilgit-Baltistan government on Thursday 24 March handed over 20 patrol cars to the region's tourist police to provide better information and facilities to the visitors.

A ceremony for the purpose was held at the Police Training College here, where GB Chief Minister Khalid Khurshid Khan showed up as the chief guest.

The other participants included chief secretary Rashid Mahmood, Inspector General of Police Mohammad Saeed Wazir, DIG (operations) Waqaruddin Saeed, AIG Tanveerul Hasan, tourist police head Ishaq Hussain, senior relevant officials, and police constables.

The chief minister said his government was making efforts to make the region's police an ideal law-enforcement force in the country.

'We have introduced reforms in the police and other departments in a short span of time,' he said.

Mr Khalid said the government had created 1,000 posts in the GB police, would establish the counter-terrorism department, and would install closed-circuit television cameras in the region.

IGP Saeed Wazir said it was a historical step of his government to create a specialised force for visitors to the region.

He said the GB tourist police were gaining national and international recognition promoting a positive image of the region.

## Wahab promises to develop waterfall at Kidney Hill Park in two months

Administrator Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that an artificial waterfall would be developed at Kidney Hill Park and work on it would be completed within two months.

'Lights towers have also been installed for lighting in the park. Soon, Kidney Hill Park will be the best place for the citizens of Karachi,' he said while speaking to the media after laying the foundation stone of the Benazir Bhutto Waterfall.

He also inaugurated the Fauzia Wahab Garden at Kidney Hill Park.

The administrator, who is also the provincial government's spokesman and chief minister's adviser on law, said that special design of the Benazir Bhutto Waterfall had been prepared. It would be 200 feet long and 25ft high, he said.

Speaking about the garden named after his mother, he said: 'More than 200 fruit trees have been planted in the Fauzia Wahab Garden in Kidney Hill Park. I will personally pay for the garden.'

'The beauty and greenery of the trees gives a pleasant feeling to the visitors. Kidney Hill Park will be an excellent oxygen tank for Karachi due to the abundance of trees. Away from environmental pollution, people can come here and enjoy.'

He said that four modern light towers had been installed in different parts of the park with 24 lights in one tower.

The administrator said that more such light towers would be installed so that visitors to the park could move around easily even at night.

He said that the park had walking trails and each one would be named after various mountains, rivers, lakes, trees, fruits, forests, national parks and deserts of Pakistan.

'KMC's parks department deserves congratulations for completing all these tasks in the best possible way and in the shortest possible time,' he added.

He said that a tank had also been constructed in the park to store water and plants and trees would be watered by treating sewage.

## PCS LOGISTICS (PVT) LTD. GROUP

### - Time is money, we save you both

We are a global freight forwarding group and a supply chain solutions provider, in Pakistan with a team that is considered one of the best in the business by its customers and professional partners throughout Pakistan. our belief is our people, with more than 100 experienced people, we are committed to provide flexible custom-built offerings that will delight our patron.



**UNION CARGO (PRIVATE) LIMITED**  
**TOTAL SOLUTIONS FOR ALL YOUR LOGISTICAL NEEDS**

**Head Office - KARACHI:** 248-A, Block 6 PECHS Off Shahra-e-Faisal Karachi Pakistan  
 TEL: +92 21 34387761-2 , EMAIL: [info@pcslogistics.net](mailto:info@pcslogistics.net) ; [admin@uclpakistan.com](mailto:admin@uclpakistan.com)

**Lahore:** 100-C, 2nd Floor, Commercial Area, Cavalry Ground, Lahore Cantt,  
 Pakistan

Tel: +92 42 36619772 , Email: [yasir@pcslogistics.net](mailto:yasir@pcslogistics.net) ; [yasir@uclpakistan.com](mailto:yasir@uclpakistan.com),

**SIALKOT:** Off # 14 First Floor Cantonment Plaza Cantt Sialkot 51310 Pakistan

Tel: +92 52 4604597, Email: [aliraza@pcslogistics.net](mailto:aliraza@pcslogistics.net) ; [aliraza@uclpakistan.com](mailto:aliraza@uclpakistan.com)

**FAISALABAD:** P-49 2nd Floor, Chenab Market Susan, Road Faisalabad Pakistan

Tel +92 41 8554607, Email: [nauman@pcslogistics.net](mailto:nauman@pcslogistics.net) ; [nauman@uclpakistan.com](mailto:nauman@uclpakistan.com)

**ISLAMABAD:** Office no 1, First Floor, Crown Plaza, Civic Center, Sector 1 Airport  
 Housing Society, Rawalpindi, Punjab 46000

# PRIME CARGO INTERNATIONAL

'Providing Comprehensive & Complete logistical solution'



UAN : (92-52) 111-531-531

Fax : (92-52) 3552620

Email: [info@primecargo.biz](mailto:info@primecargo.biz)

Web : [www.primercargo.biz](http://www.primercargo.biz)



BRANCHES: KARACHI - LAHORE - FAISALABAD - ISLAMABAD - PESHAWAR



**VISION LOGISTICS (Pvt) Ltd.**, is one of the Leading International Freight Forwarders in Pakistan. Our valued customers has proven our ability to accomplish every project with consistent quality services, total logistics solutions, at lowest possible cost within time delivery.

**Our Core Values are:**

- Integrity
- Team Work
- Customer's Satisfaction
- innovation
- Social Responsibility

**We Take Care:**

- Airfreight & Ocean Freight Services
- Consolidation
- Train Freight Services
- Project Handling
- Overseas projects
- Door to Door Cargo Delivery
- Customs Brokerage

**Improve Your Revenues:**

- Our Comprehensive Cargo Services reduce your Import, Export shipment's cost and increase your revenues.

**Contact us at ....**



## VISION LOGISTICS (PVT) LTD

**International Freight Forwarders & Shipping Consultant**

**HEAD OFFICE:** Suite #.14, 2nd Floor, Central Plaza, 3 Civic Centre, New Garden Town Lahore – Pakistan.  
**Ph:** 0092 42 35851475, 35851476, 35841511, **email:** info@visionlogistics.net, **web :** www.visionlogistics.net



## Transit trade with Kabul under TAD allowed

Pakistan and Afghanistan have implemented movement of transit and bilateral trade through Temporary Admission Documents (TAD) for commercial vehicles.

The Pakistan Embassy in Kabul and the consulate generals in Jalalabad and Kandahar will issue TAD for Afghan vehicles. The Afghan Embassy in Islamabad and consulate generals in Peshawar and Quetta will issue the entry documents for Pakistani vehicles.

The move, aimed at improving regional connectivity with the Central Asian States, envisages the provision of TAD to transporters from both sides.

As part of the agreement, both countries will allow free movement of each other's trucks in their territories and cross-stuffing of goods at border points.

Early this month, senior officials of



*A truck loaded with goods is crossing into Afghanistan at the Torkham border.*

Pakistan and Afghanistan met at the Torkham border to discuss the smooth flow of trade and pedestrians, largely as part of a scheme aimed at enhancing bilateral ties with the landlocked country.

Since Aug 15, 2021, when the Taliban took over and declared their rule over Afghanistan, Islamabad has offered Kabul — among other humanitarian assistance — waivers of duty and taxes on fresh and

dry fruits, vegetables and several other products.

During the last meeting, both sides agreed that the competent authority of one contracting party would issue a TAD against a fee to the vehicles registered and licensed in the territory of the other contracting party for international carriage of goods.

The two sides also agreed that TAD would be valid for six months and multiple journeys, while its fee was fixed at \$100.

The transport operators can carry transit goods and bilateral trade goods, but sabotage is not allowed and any truck found transporting goods between two destinations inside the territory of the contracting party will be blacklisted.

The Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation in Afghanistan and the Federal Board of Revenue in Pakistan are the competent authorities to issue TAD.

## Trilateral talks on trans-Afghan rail project

Senior officials of Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan will meet in Tashkent next days for a trilateral meeting to discuss a potential railway project aimed at laying a railway track linking Termez, Mazar-i-Sharif, Kabul and Peshawar to promote trade in the region.

Minister of State and chairman of the Board of Investment (BoI) Azfar Ahsan has left Islamabad for Tashkent to participate in the trilateral meeting.

In addition to the trilateral meeting, Mr Ahsan will also participate in the Tashkent International Investment Forum which will be held from March 24 to 26.

The Uzbekistan president is taking special interest in the laying of the railway track with Pakistan via Afghanistan for its future trade and business activities. Uzbekistan, being a landlocked country, has been dependent on Iran's trade routes for its imports and exports and the sanctions on Iran have made it difficult for Uzbekistan to continue using the same route.

The proposed railway connectivity has also been discussed at various international forums, including the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

During his visit to Pakistan early this month, Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev reaffirmed the important role of the railway project linking the three countries for the future of the region.

Pakistan and Uzbekistan have agreed to evolve a joint 'roadmap' which includes measures to develop a feasibility study for



*STATE Minister and BoI chairman Azfar Ahsan.*

the project and start construction work on both sides.

The Trans-Afghan Railway project is stated to be the most economical and shortest route connecting Central Asia to Pakistan's ports of Karachi, Gwadar and Port Qasim.

The two countries have already signed the bilateral Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) and the enforcement of the Transit Trade Agreement. These agreements are the sign of the beginning of a new era in bilateral trade relations and will serve to increase mutual trade by utilising existing opportunities.

The Tashkent International Investment Forum is being convened under the theme of "Realising New Growth Agenda" and expects to bring over 200 leaders from the government, business, civil society and academia to discuss and shape regional as well as industry agendas.

The BoI chairman, who will be the keynote speaker at the inaugural session of the forum, will also meet Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev on the sidelines of the forum and will interact with potential investors from many countries as head of delegation from Pakistan for business-to-business (B2B) meetings.

An official of BoI says the visit of Mr Ahsan is being of paramount importance for Pakistan on diplomatic and economic front as it comes at a time when strategic ties between Uzbekistan and Pakistan are moving in an upward trajectory.

The BoI chairman envisages that the visit will culminate into fruitful economic cooperation between the three countries and will further strengthen diplomatic and strategic ties.

The forum aims to explore areas of trilateral cooperation among Uzbekistan, Pakistan and Afghanistan and revolves around discussing the investment potential of Central Asia, transformations in trade flows in Central Asia, digitalisation of transport systems, attracting investments in tourism sector, production modernisation and new agricultural markets.

Mr Ahsan, during his visit, will also hold a meeting with Uzbek Minister of Transport I. Makhkamov and the head of the Afghan delegation in Termez. The discussions will centre on the available conditions of cargo transportation in Pakistan and proposals for increasing the volume of traffic between the three countries will be discussed from Pakistan's perspective.



- \* AIR FREIGHT
- \* OCEAN FREIGHT
- \* ROAD FREIGHT
- \* WAREHOUSING
- \* CUSTOMS BROKERAGE
- \* AFGHAN TRANSIT



SFI House , Shahabpura Ugoki Road , Sialkot - Pakistan .

Tel:- 0092 52 3242104-6 , Email:- info@sfi.com.pk , Web:- www.sfi.com.pk

OFFICES:- SIALKOT / LAHORE / ISLAMABAD / PESHAWAR / KARACHI / DUBAI-UAE

## China says willing to extend CPEC to Afghanistan

Beijing welcomes Afghanistan's active participation in the Belt and Road Initiative, a global infrastructure plan proposed by China, and is willing to push for extending the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to Afghanistan, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Thursday 24 March as he made a surprise visit to Kabul.

Wang met acting Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi to discuss political and economic ties, including starting work in the mining sector and Afghanistan's possible role in China's Belt and Road infrastructure initiative, according to a statement from an Afghan foreign ministry spokesman.

China was willing to promote the extension of CPEC to Afghanistan, making the latter a bridge for regional connectivity, Wang said on Thursday 24 March.

He also said China hoped Afghanistan would fulfil its commitment of not allowing any external forces to use its territory as a tool to oppose neighbours, or harm the security of other nations.

Wang visited Kabul on Thursday 24 March, a spokesman for Afghanistan's foreign ministry said, the highest-level visit by a Chinese official since the Taliban took power last year and a day after many in the global community were angered by the group's closure of girls' high schools.

China is among just a handful of countries, including Pakistan and Qatar, that has sent a minister to Afghanistan since the Taliban took over the country in August.

Foreign governments, including Beijing, have held back on formally recognising the Taliban administration, with many saying the Taliban need to prove their commitment to human rights, counter-terrorism and inclusive governance.

The visit came after widespread global condemnation of the Taliban administration a day earlier, when it unexpectedly ordered girls home from high school, an abrupt U-turn on policy after having said earlier in the week school would be open to all students.

China will host a meeting of regional foreign ministers later this month, and the statement said Muttaqi would also participate in the meeting.

Earlier in September, Pakistan also discussed Taliban-led Afghanistan joining the multibillion-dollar CPEC infrastructure project.

“Regional connectivity is an important element of our discussion with Afghan leadership and our way forward for our economic interaction with Afghanistan,” said Mansoor Ahmad Khan, Pakistan's envoy to Kabul, in an



*Acting Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi greets Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the airport on Thursday 24 March. The minister is the highest ranking Chinese official to visit Kabul since the Taliban takeover.*

interview with Reuters at the time.

“This important project — China-Pakistan Economic Corridor ... provides good opportunities, good potential for providing infrastructure and energy

connectivity between Afghanistan and Pakistan ... (and) also connecting South Asia to the Central Asian region.”

Mr Khan said that discussions had been held with the Taliban-led administration on this and other ways to develop the country's economy.

“I think there has been deep interest in terms of developing economic connectivity of Afghanistan with Pakistan through CPEC and with other neighbouring countries including Iran, China, Central Asian countries.”

Under CPEC, Beijing has pledged over \$60 billion for infrastructure projects in Pakistan, much of it in the form of loans.

CPEC is a central part of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which was launched by President Xi Jinping in 2013 with an aim to harness China's strengths in financing and infrastructure construction to “build a broad community of shared interests” throughout Asia, Africa and Latin America.

## Closed since 2019, Khunjerab to reopen for trade

After remaining closed for more than two and a half years, a key land border crossing between Pakistan and China at Khunjerab is being reopened for trade activities from April 1.

Khunjerab Pass was closed in November 2019 to contain the transmission of the coronavirus between the two countries.

The pass was temporarily opened in July and September 2020 and again in November 2021, only to facilitate the transportation of the containers loaded with goods that had been stranded in China.

During the temporary opening of the border, stranded containers from China were unloaded at Khunjerab Top instead of the port at Sost.

A notice issued by the district administration of Kashgar of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region said that according to an agreement signed by China with the government of Pakistan on May 22, 2013, the Khunjerab Pass will be officially upgraded on April 1, 2022.

According to officials, Chinese authorities have shared a letter with Pakistan regarding the reopening of the pass from April 1.

It is also mentioned in the letter that measures would be in place to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industries capital office in-charge Qurban Ali told *media* the prolonged closure of Khunjerab Pass had caused immense financial hardships to the local business community.

GB traders have been demanding regular opening of trade through Khunjerab Pass with strict SOPs.

However, he said it is not yet clear whether trade is being opened on a regular basis or would just be limited to dropping containers at the Pakistan side.

Mr Ali said the region's business community was dependent on trade with China, as there was no other industry there.

He demanded that Chinese authorities should relax visa conditions and allow border pass facility for Gilgit-Baltistan traders to travel to China.

Port authorities on the Chinese side have been instructed to take all necessary coronavirus preventive measures before the start of the arrival of goods from Pakistan.

Similarly, Pakistani border authorities have also been instructed to ensure the containment of the disease.

Under the protocol agreement signed between the two countries, trade and travel activities through Khunjerab pass continue from April to November.

Gilgit Baltistan is considered the gateway of CPEC, and locals say it is important to open regular trade through Khunjerab Pass to ensure the success of the One Belt One Road project.



*In this photograph taken on September 29, 2015, a car carrying Chinese nationals crosses the Pak-China Khunjerab Pass, the world's highest paved border crossing at 4,600 metres above sea level.*



## Textile exports jump over 25pc to \$14.3bn

**T**extile and clothing exports grew 25.43 per cent year-on-year to \$14.24 billion in the first nine months of this fiscal year, mainly on the back of a massive depreciation in the rupee's value and a steady rise in global demand.

The year-on-year growth in March was recorded at 19.9pc, data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) showed on Saturday 16 April.

The government has already unveiled textile and apparel policy last month with various measures to promote production as well as quality of the textile and clothing. In the budget 2021-22, the government drastically reduced duty and taxes on the imports of several hundred raw materials to bring down the input cost of exportable products.

Liquidity issues were also resolved to a considerable extent by a timely release of refunds, customs rebates and the payment of cash subsidies.

Data showed that ready-made garment exports jumped 26.24pc in value and 33.93pc in quantity during July-March, while the exports of knitwear edged up 34.12pc in value but dipped 4.84pc in quantity. Bedwear exports grew 19.33pc in value and 15.01pc in quantity.

Towel exports were up by 18.42pc in value and 5.01pc in quantity, whereas those of cotton cloth rose by 26.51pc in value and 8.91pc in quantity.

Among primary commodities, cotton yarn exports dipped 25.97pc and those of yarn made from material other than cotton increased by 104.5pc. The exports of made-up articles excluding towels rose by 10.84pc, while those of tents, canvas and tarpaulin dipped by 7.87pc during the period under review. The export of art, silk and synthetic textile increased by 27.63pc during the months under review.

The import of textile machinery jumped 64.68pc in July-March year-on-year to \$621.68m, reflecting expansion or modernisation in the textile industry.

For bridging the shortfall in the domestic sector, the industry imported raw cotton in July-March value of which posted an increase of 16.80pc, while the import value of synthetic fibre posted a growth of 27.51pc, followed by the import of synthetic and artificial silk yarn 30.10pc during the months under review.

The import of worn clothing recorded a growth of 66.47pc in the first nine months of the current fiscal year from a

year ago.

During the nine-month period, the country's overall exports posted a year-on-year growth of around 24.98pc to reach \$23.35bn from \$18.68bn in the same period last year.

## Pakistani freight train likely to reach Zahedan

**U**nder tight security provided by the Pakistan Railways (PR) police, the 10th Pakistan international goods train carrying a huge quantity of sulfur, salt, rice and other items has moved from Peshawar for Zahedan (Iran), making the freight train operations successful.

Prior to this, nine trains have successfully completed their trips from Pakistan to Iran during the last two months, according to the official sources.

"The Zahedan-bound train is on the way and is likely to enter territory of Iran in the late hours of Monday 21 March. The train carries a huge quantity of high quality sulfur and rice loaded from Peshawar and Gujranwala, respectively," an official source in the Pakistan Railways explained while talking to media.

"The train, like the ITI (Islamabad-Tehran-Turkey) goods' train, is also travelling under tight security of the railways police," he added.

Pakistan has broad gauge rail network having 5.6 feet width up to Zahedan (Iran).

Therefore, the goods carried by the Pakistani trains are unloaded at Zahedan and then transhipped to trucks or the trains compatible to run on the standard gauge rail track having 4 feet and 8.5 inches width laid further (from Zahedan).

It is also called international, uniformed normal Stephenson as well as the European gauge. It is the most widely used rail gauge across the world.

But the broad gauge rail track is being used in Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Chile and the Bay Area of San Francisco (the US).

The Pakistan Railways (PR) is also working on a proposal for laying the country's first standard gauge rail track from Quetta to Taftan in a bid to make infrastructure compatible with international standards and to transport high-value goods to European and Central Asian countries within the shortest time.

## Fourth ITI train departs for Turkey



*THIS file photo shows the first Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul freight train at Margalla Railway Station in Islamabad during the inauguration ceremony on Dec 22, 2021.*

**T**he fourth Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul (ITI) freight train carrying various high-value products in six containers has departed from Pakistan for Turkey.

On the other hand, nine trains carrying rice have reached to Iran via Taftan so far since the resumption of the international freight train operation on December 21 last year.

"The fourth ITI train having composition of three 40-foot long containers first reached at Rohri/Sukkar. Another train having goods in three containers reached from Karachi that were attached with the ITI train," an official source in Pakistan Railways told media on Saturday 19 March. "The train is likely to reach Istanbul via Tehran (Istanbul) by next week," the official, requesting anonymity, added.

Talking about the goods being exported to Turkey from Pakistan via ITI rail network, he said the products included a huge quantity of pink salt which is not only used in Turkey but also in other European countries.

He said earlier to this, the third train had reached Istanbul from Islamabad last month via Lahore, Khanewal, Bahawalpur, Sukkur, Spensand, Sibi, Nushki, Taftan (Pakistan) and Zahedan and Tehran (Iran) despite encountering heavy snowfall on its way. The ITI train operation were resumed successfully on Dec 21, 2021, after being latent for nearly a decade," he added.

The first ITI train had reached Turkey in first week of January followed by another that reached the final destination in last week of the same month. Under an arrangement, before reaching destination, the goods loaded on the train are supposed to be shifted to other wagons compatible with the Iranian and Turkish rail/gauge system.

## Gwadar Port to be utilised for Afghan transit trade



*THE Gwadar Port as seen in this file photo. It was inaugurated on Nov 13, 2016. It is located at the mouth of the Persian Gulf, just outside the Straits of Hormuz, near the key shipping routes in and out of the gulf.*

The Pak-Afghan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (PACCI) and Gwadar Chamber of Commerce & Industry (GCCCI) on Friday 18 March agreed to utilise Gwadar Port for Afghan transit trade. The chambers also agreed to take measures for boosting bilateral trade.

A delegation of PACCI and Karachi business community led by the chamber's president Javed Barwani and Zubair Motiwala visited Gwadar. GCCCI President Nagman Abdul and former president of the chamber Naveed Kalnati were also present in the meeting.

In a meeting held at the office of Gwadar Development Authority (GDA), Captain Gul of Gwadar Port Authority and GDA's Abdul Razaq Baloch briefed the delegates about the utilisation of Gwadar Port and the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The business leaders expressed their interest in promoting trade via Gwadar Port.

Former Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Junaid Makda and other business leaders were also among the delegates.

The meeting agreed that in the coming days PACCI, importers and exporters from the two countries and Afghan transit trade would utilise Gwadar Port. It was decided that steps in this regard would be taken in consultation with the concerned authorities so that Gwadar Port becomes a trade and economic hub between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

It was observed that mega development projects initiated under CPEC would ensure Gwadar's place as the future economic hub of Pakistan.

In April 2020, as the Covid-19 pandemic spread, Pakistan had allowed import of bulk shipments of food items through Gwadar port for transit to Afghanistan to help Kabul maintain food supply.

## Tourism boom likely in Kaghan valley as Mansehra-Naran-Jalkhad Road reopens



*A Machine clears the MNJ road in Mansehra on Sunday 17 April.*

The Kaghan Development Authority (KDA) reopened the Mansehra-Naran-Jalkhad (MNJ) Road to all sorts of traffic up to Batakundi area on Sunday 17 April, which will revive and boost the Covid-hit tourism industry in Kaghan valley this summer. 'If there is no calamity and weather goes well we expect a tourism boom in the valley during this season, as we have cleared the MNJ road to traffic till Batakundi one month ahead of its scheduled time,' KDA inspector Moazzam Khan told this correspondent.

The tourism industry was shut and traffic between Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan suspended in October last year following closure of the MNJ road when Kaghan valley received a heavy snowfall.

The tourism industry of not only Kaghan valley, but of the entire Khyber Pakhtunkhwa also had suffered adversely because of the Covid-related restrictions and closure of the hospitality industry in the province in 2020 and 2021.

The work on reopening of the MNJ road beyond Batakundi is well in progress and traffic between Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan would resume as rest of the portion of MNJ road has been cleared up to Babusar Top,' Mr Khan said.

He said that tourism season in Kaghan valley, which usually resumed in mid-May in previous years, had taken off with the clearance of the main artery up to Naran, the commercial centre of the valley, earlier this month.

Seth Matiullah, the president of hoteliers association in Kaghan valley, said that thousands of employees related to the tourism industry were laid off in the

valley because of the Covid-19 prevalence in the country.

This time, we are going to carry on our business activities in the entire season and expect the influx of visitors on Eidul Fitr and Eidul Azha as well. We have not seen such an opportunity during the last one decade,' he said.

## UAE cargo ship sinks off Iran; all but one crew rescued



*A handout picture shows the Emirati cargo ship sinking nearly 50km from the port of Asaluyeh, in southern Iran.*

An Emirati cargo ship sank in Gulf waters off Iran, triggering a search and rescue operation in heavy seas on Thursday 17 March which recovered all but one of its 30 crew, Iranian media reported.

"All but one of the 30 crew members have been rescued," the crisis management director for Bushehr province on Iran's Gulf coast told state news agency IRNA.

He said the search was continuing for the final missing crew member with two rescue vessels combing the waters.

State media reported that the vessel — a car transporter — had capsized in heavy winds off the Iranian port of Asalouyeh.

"An Emirati car transporter ship sank nearly 50 kilometres (30 miles) from the port of Asalouyeh," a local maritime protection official told IRNA.

"Because of the unfavourable weather and high winds" the ship sank before three rescue vessels could reach its location, the official said, adding that winds were gusting at more than 70 kilometres per hour.

There was no official word on the ship's origin or destination or the nationalities of its crew. But MarineTraffic, an online tracking service, identified the ship as the "Al Salmy 6" travelling from Dubai to Umm Qasr.

# Falcon Gold

Experience our genuine  
Arabian hospitality



طيران الخليج  
GULF AIR

## The hands deserve the books

By: Zeenat Iqbal

Child Labour is a crime against humanity. At this juncture I am reminded of a very moving story about one of the world's greatest humanitarians Abraham Lincoln. The time, at which this episode took place, Lincoln was a candidate for a congress seat. And on that day, he had an important election speech to deliver. But he also had a far greater task to perform. A noble cause to fight for.

He cancelled his election speech and entered the jam-packed court, which was already in session. Unnoticed, he sat down in the last row. The case being ended, the District Attorney rose and moved the trial of John Wilson for murder. There was a stir through the courtroom. In the doorway appeared the Sheriff, leading a childish figure, a boy of ten, dressed in poor homemade clothes. He was pale and desperately frightened. The judge faced the criminal, paused pityingly and steadied himself. "Have you a lawyer?" He asked. The lad shook his unkempt yellow head. "No, I dunno anybody. I ain't got- Money- to pay".

The boy was in tears, his widowed mother was sobbing near him. "Do you wish the court to assign you a counsel?" In the stillness a boot scraped the floor. The man in the back seat rose, "May it please your honour" he said. "I am a lawyer. I should be glad to act as a Counsel for the Defense". The Judge looked for a moment at the loose-hung, towering figure. "What is your name?" He asked. The man answered quietly "Abraham Lincoln". Lincoln, who gave his life to abolish slavery, had come that day to re-pay a debt.

Years back, when he was a struggling non-entity, the family of the then well to do little boy, then a baby, had given Lincoln solace and succor. Subsequently, the boy's father died and the family was in a miserable state of abject poverty. The boy, John had to work due to force of circumstances, in a farm of one heartless man who was Shaughnessy by name. He was a cruel tormentor. One day, he started beating the boy so mercilessly that the desperate defenseless boy struck his tormentor's head with a pitchfork. The man died after some time. The boy was charged for murder. This was the story. It was commonly said that the boy was doomed; No lawyer, even a smart one could get him off after some seemingly convincing evidence. But in the courtroom that day was no ordinary man. It was the great Lincoln, the unique humanist, who had come, jeopardizing his future career by canceling his election speech, for a great cause- even greater than his own magnificence.

"Gentlemen of the jury," began Abraham Lincoln. I am going to try this case in a manner not customary in courts. I shall not call witnesses; the little prisoner over there is all the witness I want. I shall not argue. You know that at an age when this boy's hands should have held schoolbooks or a fishing rod, they held the man's tool that was his undoing; you know how a grown man goaded the child till in desperation he used the tool at hand. All I ask is that you deal with the little fellow, as you would have other men deal in such a case with little fellow's of your own at home. Before the verdict, for a second, perhaps, no one breathed in that packed mass. 'Not guilty' was the verdict.

It was a momentous Victory for a great cause. The cause of tormented and exploited 'Johns' of America.

My story is an inspiration from the former. It is about the 'Asims' of Pakistan. A familiar figure in the homes of Pakistan. The not so lucky ones in the houses. I differentiate because cold callous concrete houses consist of ruthlessness.

For one such house Asim worked. His mother was a widow and she washed dishes and clothes for her 'Begum Sahiba' who had suggested this couple for Asim's employment. Asim had formerly tried his hand as a motor mechanic, but as circumstances would have it his boss had closed his workshop because of lack of funds.

After getting the job, Asim worked for Amina and Aslam where he was required to do all the dirty and hard jobs. To clean the bathrooms, to sweep outdoors in the harsh summer sun of Karachi. On the face of it everything seemed fine. His masters bullied him sometimes. They would new clothes to wear, although he

tore his own clothes doing the dirty work. Maybe, it was because poor Asim had not experienced the luxury of life. He could not tell that he was being dealt with severely.

Amina was a frustrated woman. Aslam had two wives and she hated sharing him with his other wife. Maybe this was the reason for her being so cruel.

One ill-fated day, Amina entered the house and heard a noise in the kitchen. A glass had slipped from Asim's hands and was in splinters.

In a rage, she ignited a matchstick and placed it on Asim's hands. Singed he ran out, followed by Amina who seemed in a frenzy. Luckily, for him, she was heavy and could not move as fast as he.

In his mother's embrace he told his story, to his mother's mistress who listened patiently. She could not even think that Amina could do this to Asim. She was determined to amend the wrong done to him.

She went to Amina's house, but Amina completely denied that she had been cruel. She knew Amina was scared of being blamed publicly. So Asim's mother's mistress threatened Amina to compensate Asim for her ill-doings or she would go to the Police.

Amina was asked to pay a handsome amount to Asim for a life-time in lieu of her attempt to burn Asim's hand, which escaped several burns because of him not loosing his senses and wrapping up his hand tightly so that no air was left to blow the flame.

Asim's mother's won the money and with that money Asim joined school with zeal to become something, and look after his mother.



Visitors shop at the art and crafts exhibition organized the Dechi Foundation and the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry at the Expo Centre. It showcased works by hundreds of artisans, entrepreneurs, business and cottage industry.

## Baisakhi festivities at Gurdwara Punja Sahib

**W**earing colourful dresses and turbans, Sikh and Hindu pilgrims were seen offering religious rituals at Gurdwara Punja Sahib in Hassanabdal on Wednesday 13 April.

Pilgrims from across the globe, including over 2,000 from India, arrived at the gurdwara in Hassanabdal on special trains to celebrate the festival. Strict security measures have been taken by authorities concerned for the protection of these pilgrims.

This is the 323rd ceremony being held to celebrate the birth of the Sikh religion. Pilgrims visit the gurdwara to renew their faith and exercise harmony and brotherhood, enshrined in their religion and the teachings of Guru Granth Sahib.

The Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) and the Pakistan Gurdwara Committee have invested in renovating and illuminating the main building in the city. Similarly, the local administration has arranged lodging facilities for pilgrims in nearby schools that were vacated.

Most of the pilgrims (from within Pakistan) arrived from Peshawar, Swat, Tando Adam, Larkana, Sukkur, Badin, Umerkot, Karachi and Lahore.

Baisakhi celebrations in Pakistan have a special sign in cence as the country is the birthplace of founder of the Sikh religion, Baba Guru Nanak. Pilgrims, carrying flowers and offerings in their hands, proceed towards gurdwaras and temples before dawn. This event is observed every year on the Erst day of Balsakh, the fifth month of the Bikrami calendar (April 12).

In 1921, it was decided by elders of the Sikh religion that the festival will be celebrated on the Erst day of the Sanskrit month of Baisakh in memory of the day of the first Baisakh in the year 1699 when the 10th guru of the Sikh religion awarded the 'Punj Kaaf' slot and symbol to Guru Gobind.

Ravinder Singh Khalsa, a representative of the largest Indian Sikh group Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), told journalists that the pilgrims always bring a message of peace, friendship and harmony to Pakistan and receive a friendly response from the people here.

Pakistan is the land of Sikh Gurus, so Sikhs love this land and want to promote Sikh-Muslim friendship,' he said, adding there should be more contact between the people of Pakistan and India.

Delhi Gurdwara Management Committee Chief Sardar Sukhbir Singh expressed his gratitude to the government and people for their love and hospitality towards Sikh pilgrims. 'We feel like we



*Pilgrims go about their routine at Gurdwara Punja Sahib Hassanabdal as Baisakhi festival celebrations began recently. Over 2,000 sikh from India are taking part in the festivities.*

have come to our second home, he said, adding the culture, language and way of life in Punjab is the same in India and Pakistan.

Sikhs think of Punjabis on the other side of the border as their brothers, he added.

Another pilgrim from Amritsar Sardar Gurmeet Singh said, 'Our worship places are well maintained, and that is the reason that we feel secure among our brothers.

ETPB Deputy Secretary Imran Gondal said Pakistan Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee with collaboration with ETPB made special arrangements for the boarding and lodging of the pilgrims.

He said the pilgrims had been housed in various rooms of the gurdwara and nearby schools, where free food was being provided to them, as well as lockers for safekeeping of their documents and valuables during their stay.

Meanwhile, one of the pilgrims died of cardiac arrest during his journey towards Hassanabdal while he was on train. According to sources, the deceased was identified as Nashabar Singh.

Officials of ETPB said arrangements were made through consultation of the Indian embassy in Islamabad for repatriation of the body of the deceased Sikh pilgrim through Wagah Border.

### **Nine special trains for Sikh pilgrims**

In a bid to facilitate a number of Sikh pilgrims arriving in Lahore from India via Wagah, the Pakistan Railways (PR)



*Sikh devotees who came from India to attend the Baisakhi festival wave from their train compartment at Lahore Railway station recently.*

decided to run nine special trains.

According to the railway, three trains run between Wagah (Lahore) and Hasanabdal on April 12, followed by three trains on April 14 from Hasanabdal to Nankana Sahib. Similarly, on April 17, three trains run between Nankana Sahib and Lahore Railway Station.

Meanwhile, the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) says as many as 2,500 Sikh pilgrims entered Pakistan on foot via the Wagah border to attend the Vaisakhi festival. Some pilgrims also reached Pakistan from the UK and Canada too.

At Wagah, the ETPB officers and Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee office bearers welcomed the pilgrims.

The main Vesakhi festival ceremony was held on April 14 at Gurdwara Panja Sahib (Hasanabdal). Pilgrims returned to India and other countries on April 21 after completing the 10-day Vesakhi festival trip.



## TAQ continues to move forward



For over 45 years The TAQ Organization has served the exporters and importers of the country with world-class transportation and logistics services. TAQ continues to move forward to give greater value to customers. Let us be your service provider and form a winning team to tap the opportunities that lie ahead in this region.

International Freight Forwarding • Wholesale Freight Management  
 Supply Chain Logistics • Contract Logistics  
 Industrial Projects Handling • Custom Brokerage Management  
 Transit Trade Services • Packing & Moving  
 Door to Door Service

**We are a different organization in Pakistan**

E-mail: [info@tlpk.com](mailto:info@tlpk.com) URL: [www.taq.com.pk](http://www.taq.com.pk)

Karachi: (021) 34541301~7, Lahore: (042) 36363300~7, Sialkot: (052) 3554301~4, Rawalpindi / Islamabad: (051) 5766153~4,  
 Faisalabad: (041) 8548718, Peshawar: (091) 5606473, Multan: (061) 4510465

## Moot calls for quality research on life of Qalandar



FOLK singers perform at the outset of the literary conference in Sehwan recently.

Speakers at a literary conference held in Sehwan have called for research on the life of Qalandar Lal Shahbaz and the historic importance of Sehwan.

There was still much room for quality research work on Qalandar and Sehwan, they regretted while addressing the event held under the aegis of the Sindh culture department the other night. They proposed use of modern methods and means to conduct research for the purpose, which, they said, would yield positive results.

Presiding over the conference, Dr Anwar Figar Hakro appreciated the papers presented by different scholars on the occasion. He called for more research on the history of Sehwan Sharif.

He said that quality work left Sehwan with the result that the desired results could not be achieved. He said that Sehwan had an important history.

He said researchers had proved that the geography of those areas was very old and spiritual orders there were also quite older ones. The culture department should assist the researchers, he added.

Pointing out that mysticism's history traced back to Sindh, he said teaching of spiritualism started from Sindh. He said Rigveda might be a sacred scripture and revealed to some angle, but nothing could be said with certainty about it due to missing links of history.

He said that it was indeed a pride that mysticism started from Karachi. Research was indeed needed on spiritual personalities of the pre-and-post Islamic eras, he added.

Taj Joyo said Lakki Shah Saddar, Jalaluddin Rumi and others were contemporaries of Qalandar, which was indeed a blessing.

Disagreeing with the view that Qalandar stayed briefly in Sindh, he said his stay could be verified from the number of his devotees in the province. He said a

comprehensive research was needed on Qalandar Lal Shahbaz.

A teacher of Karachi University, Prof Sher Mehranvi, discussed Qalandar's era in his paper, saying that economic, political and social conditions were not good at that time.

He said that according to one research, Qalandar had arrived in Sindh when he was nonagenarian.

He reached there after performing pilgrimage to sacred places and travelling through different countries, he said, adding that he was known as "Sindhri ka Shahbaz".

Akhtar Dargahi said Lal Shahbaz was a revolutionary mystic and he was lost in spiritual trance and the colours of nature.

Dr Ramzan Bamri said the poetry of Lal Shahbaz was of spiritualism, reflecting the divine love. His message was of knowledge. He urged people to follow his message to promote peace. He said Qalandar's dhamal was evident of the "state of spirituality".

Dr Sakina Samoon said Sehwan had served as seat of power under different dynasties and arrival of Qalandar there was a blessing. She said that his shrine was a source of light in Sehwan.

Khair Mohammad Buriro said Qalandar's message clearly evinced the point of oneness. He promoted the message of God. He said he (Qalandar) was a learned man and followed divine teachings to achieve His love.

Calling for research on different aspects of the life of Lal Shahbaz Qalandar, Dr Makhmoor Bukhari said the knowledge should be compiled for better understanding of people about the role he played.

He said history had a proof that Qalandar belonged to Marwand, an area in Azerbaijan. That point should form basis for research on him, he said.



A Mesmerising dance performance is put up during one of the events at the Sindh Literature Festival.

Nazar Hayat Sehwan, Agha Zafar and others said Qalandar was a poet, but research on him was still needed direly.

They said that whenever tyranny ruled the roost, God sent people to eliminate the evil for the welfare of the mankind. He said that Qalandar was one such personality.

Artists including Fateh Ali Khan, Ameer Ali Khan, Javed Abbasi, Shahina Ali, Tufail Sanjrani, Taj Mastani and others performed on the occasion.

## US envoy finds Moenjodaro beautifully preserved



US CG Mark Stroh smiles gleefully as he poses with a Rs20 note carrying a picture of Moenjodaro.

The US Consul General in Karachi Mark Stroh visited Moenjodaro amid tight security on Tuesday 29 March and expressed his amazement at finding "remarkable structures of the world heritage site beautifully preserved and maintained" by Sindh government.

He told journalists after he was taken round stupa, great bath, D.K. area and museum that Moenjodaro was a true treasure of Pakistan's rich cultural heritage.

"I'll encourage everyone to come and spend some time here to learn more about the incredible ancient Indus civilisation and history of Sindh," he remarked.

The guest wrote in the visitors' book: "My visit to Moenjodaro fulfilled a goal and a dream. I had to visit it since coming to Pakistan for the first time in 2011. Such a remarkable site amazingly preserved and maintained."

Moenjodaro curator Ihsan Abbasi presented traditional gifts of Sindhi cap and Ajrak to the consul general, who later visited Larkana Press Club along with his entourage and met local journalists. The office-bearers of the press club welcomed the guest and presented him traditional gifts.

## Dubai world fair closes in blaze of fireworks

Dubai shuttered Expo 2020 with a colourful closing ceremony punctuated by fireworks on Thursday 31 March, leaving a multi-billion dollar mini-city in the desert and heightened expectations for future hosts.

Six months after the delayed opening of the \$7 billion, purpose-built site, Christina Aguilera, Nora Jones and cellist Yo-Yo Ma performed at the LCD-lit Al Wasl Dome, Expo's centrepiece, as pyrotechnics lit up the sprawling site.

Millions of people have flocked to Expo's 192 country pavilions in its final days, pushing visit numbers over 23 million not far off the 25 million targeted, despite the ongoing pandemic and making it tough to find a taxi elsewhere in the city.

In 30 degrees Celsius (86 Fahrenheit) heat, long queues have formed at the most popular attractions, including the falcon-themed United Arab Emirates pavilion and the Saudi Arabia building, a slanted slab that appears to hover in the air.



*Dancers perform during the closing ceremony of Expo 2020 in Dubai on Thursday 31 March.*

"It's been a huge experience, it's been really, really great," said Abbas Masud, 66, a retired banker originally from Pakistan.

"I've done about 172 countries. I wanted to do all 192 but I don't think I will be able to because it's the last day. I feel a bit sad." Expo, housed on a circular site twice the size of Monaco, has been a point of pride for Dubai's monarchical rulers and one of a number of projects aimed at grabbing world attention.

Dubai, the commercial heart of the oil-rich United Arab Emirates, is

famously home to the world's tallest building, the 830-metre (2,723 feet) Burj Khalifa.

In February, it opened a Museum of the Future in the shape of a silver ellipse decorated with Arabic calligraphy that promotions insisted was "the most beautiful building on earth".

Expo, which started with the 1851 Great Exhibition in London and has since showcased innovations such as the telephone and microwave, now moves to Osaka in Japan for the 2025 edition on a man-made island.

"It's clear that we have set a new bar here it's something I believe (Osaka) will look to aspire to," said Dimitri Kerkentzes, secretary-general of the Bureau International des Expositions, according to UAE's The National newspaper.

## MoU's signed for investment in KP tourism zones

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority on Sunday 27 March signed memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with two companies to make investment in the integrated tourism zones (ITZs), which would boost tourism in the province.

The MoUs were signed by Investment Tourism general manager Umair Khattak, AH Group chief executive Abdul Haseeb and a representative of Signature Group Investments during the ongoing Property Expo, says a statement issued here.

It said that the AH Group evinced keen interest in investment in the ITZs, while the Signature Group Investments would establish five-star hotels in Ganol and Mankial to facilitate tourists at these tourist places.

Speaking on the occasion, Umair Khattak said that the provincial government was taking various steps to attract investors to boost tourism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said that KP had vast potential for investment in various businesses, economic zones, tourism zones, mines, minerals and other sectors. He termed the ITZs project as the best opportunity for the domestic as well as foreign investors to invest in the sector.

He said the government had created a favourable environment to attract more businesspeople and investors to the province.

## Egypt unveils five ancient tombs in Saqqara necropolis



*A statuette and other artifacts are pictured inside one of the five ancient Pharaonic tombs recently discovered at the Saqqara archaeological site.*

Egypt unveiled on Saturday 19 March five ancient Pharaonic tombs at the Saqqara archaeological site south of Cairo, the latest in a series of landmark discoveries in the area.

Saqqara is a vast necropolis of the ancient Egyptian capital Memphis, a Unesco World Heritage Site home to more than a dozen pyramids, animal burial sites and ancient Coptic Christian monasteries.

Egyptian archaeologists discovered the five tombs northeast of the pyramid of King Merenre I, who ruled Egypt around 2270 BC.

According to Mostafa Waziri, the head of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities, the five tombs all of which are in good condition belonged to senior royal officials.

The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities said one of the tombs belonged to a top official named Iry. A limestone sarcophagus and colourful decorations were found in the tomb.

The remaining tombs belonged to other members of the royal court, including a "steward of the royal house" and a priestess who was "responsible for the king's beautification".

In January 2021, Egypt unveiled ancient treasures found at Saqqara, including more than 50 wooden sarcophagi dating back to the New Kingdom (16th to 11th centuries BC) a discovery famed Egyptologist Zahi Hawass said "rewrites history".

The Egyptian authorities hope to inaugurate the new Grand Egyptian Museum near the Giza plateau later this year, after its opening was repeatedly delayed.

It is hoped that the new museum, in addition to various archaeological discoveries in recent years, will help revive the country's vital tourism industry.

The sector has been battered by successive blows, including a 2011 uprising, the coronavirus pandemic, and now a halt of Russian and Ukrainian tourists, who account for a large portion of visitors to the country.



## Always on top

Governance, management, and administration in the central, mainstream or urban areas of Pakistan is a subject often discussed in popular literature, but what happens in the remote areas of the country is sparsely covered. Information about these areas becomes the centre of attention only when someone who has held important, top positions chooses to write about it.

That's why it is appreciable that Shakil Durrani, a civil servant who has been elevated to some very senior administrative positions, has shared his experiences of the far-flung areas of Pakistan through his book *Frontier Stations*.

One can call it the inside story by a civil servant, a memoir, an autobiography, or a book about the Pakistani administrative services. Well-written, well-edited and well-structured, *Frontier Stations* is divided into five parts.

Part One is a recollection of the author's memories of his early education, school and college days, some apples of his eye and then starting his career in the Civil Services. It also talks about his transient tenures as a chief secretary of Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Sindh.

One chapter in this section is devoted to tales from the frontier. The author tells an intriguing story of the Afridi brothers, a pair of brave and resilient frontiersmen who won prestigious military gallantry awards, but from opposing countries one received the Iron Cross from the Germans in March 1915; a month later the other brother was awarded the Victoria Cross by the British. There is also a detailed unpacking of the Pashtun code of Pashtunwali and Durrani gives fair space to both the good and bad of it.

The tales in this chapter tell us about a contested and difficult terrain, where governance has long been an uphill task because of the region's history of being a borderland largely informed by its geography. But we cannot absolve any instances of mismanagement by simply rendering it a geopolitical issue.

The author has pointed out the lack of imagination, will and sincerity of purpose in governing well, and discusses in detail the difficulties and barriers that collapsed the writ and authority of the state in the former Federally Administered Tribal Areas (Fata) and why the state faced difficulties in restoring it.

The former princely states of Chitral, Swat, Dir and the Malakand Agency, and erstwhile tribal areas that have had a forbidden past and an uncertain future, are discussed in part two, titled 'Romance of the Frontier'. This section takes us to the past of tribal areas, from early visitors to modern visitors and dignitaries, the tribesmen and their motivations, the tribal institutions and what makes these areas as



*The Trophy Hunting Programme was designed to reduce illegal hunting of endangered wildlife and has led to an increase in markhor populations in the north of Pakistan*

complex as the proverbial riddle wrapped up in mystery inside an enigma.

Why these areas were considered a buffer zone and how they were governed through legal means such as the Frontier Crimes Regulations (FCR) which the author calls a time-honoured and fair customary code, but unfortunately much maligned by the people who do not understand its spirit are the subject of analysis here.

The FCR is effective because its spirit is diametrically opposed to the philosophy of retribution in the criminal court system as practised in the more settled areas. The formation of special forces such as the Frontier Corps and the celebrated New Forward Policy of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto are explained as visionary policies. Durrani details post-9/11 events and their impact on the region, and what caused the merger of seven tribal agencies in KP is also explained.

In Part Three, expressing his admiration for the services, values, honesty and integrity of some civil servants in the past, the author laments the falling standards of present times. The chapters in this section witness the disfigurement of leadership, lack of good governance in practice and rampant corruption and incompetence. Poor service delivery and lack of reforms in police and the courts of law have encouraged the jirga system and alternate dispute resolution mechanisms which, in turn, have weakened the writ of the state.

What makes some issues critical and of utmost importance, while others are termed less important? It depends on how we assign meaning to them. Sometimes we trivialise a complex phenomenon because of our own inadequate knowledge and information about it. Such is the case with concerns about climate change and wildlife.

Part Four, titled 'Critical Issues', draws the reader's attention towards the endangered wildlife of remote Pakistan. Illegal hunting and a reckless attitude of the people towards conservation has endangered the mahseer fish and the markhor goat. Durrani recounts that he

initiated the Trophy Hunting Programme in 1993, whereby culling of wildlife would be regulated. This would increase animal populations as well as earn Pakistan millions in revenue, and also generate a respectable source of employment for the locals.

Since the author has also served as chairman of the Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda), he shares his experience, knowledge and understanding about the water and power issues and, being a keen observer, gives insight how to manage the power sector.

After water and power issues, the most known crisis is of railways. No national leader except for Gen Pervez Musharraf has tried to stem the rot pervading in railways. The degradation of the environment is another issue of utmost importance, yet one about which nobody bothers. There is a dire need for land-use planning, even in Islamabad for example, where the master plan regulations are often flouted by both the state and influential people. It appears that unless effective land-use planning is adopted, the entire country will ultimately become one large slum.

Part five is about power brokers and the egos of military rulers and self-serving politicians. Durrani retrospects that many violent events such as the riots of May 12, 2007 in Karachi could have been forestalled and a peaceful way out could have been chosen, had the authorities wanted. This section ends with a wish for dynamic and dedicated leadership which can ensure that the country moves ahead in all spheres of life.

While discussing his journey as a civil servant, the author narrates the intricacies involved, noting that to perform one's professional duties under tremendous political pressure is like living in a glass house. Durrani writes that he holds the record for not completing tenure at any of the posts he has held "competent" authorities always found a way to have him removed because of his differences with them.

In his words, he discovered that competent authority was, for the most part, usually incompetent. This is a bitter fact about the life of civil servants; they have to either accommodate certain interests or face the consequences of being upright and dead honest.

One might be tempted to call this book the story of an elite exception, but it is popular history as well. When engaging in critical analysis of information, popular histories very often do not dwell on why past processes evolved as they did. Instead, explanations based on a single causal influence are offered. It is for the academics to take this book as a seminal work to be used to make sense of later developments in Pakistan's administrative services.

The reviewer hails from Azad Jammu & Kashmir and is a lecturer at the National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad.

a new concept in logistics a new concept in logistics a new concept in logistics a new concept in logistics



**Karachi Cargo Services (Pvt.) Ltd.**



Softlines 0321-2477724



**HEAD OFFICE**  
Fabeha Castle, 168, Block-B, S.M.C.H.S., Karachi, Pakistan.  
Tel: +92-21-34393051-54, 34534411-12  
Fax: +92-21-34554350  
E-mail: headoffice@karachicargo.com

Lahore Office: +92 423 631 3191-2  
Sialkot Office: +92 52 325 7310-2  
Islamabad Office: +92 51 595 2326-7  
Faisalabad Office: +92 41 8739584-6  
Canada Office: +1 (604) 523 1001

[www.karachicargo.com](http://www.karachicargo.com)

## Tourism to be given industry status: SAPM

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Tourism Azam Jamil said on Sunday 20 March that tourism would be given the status of an industry, which would be managed by the private sector and the government would play the role of a facilitator and regulator.

Addressing a dinner reception given by the Pakistan Economic Conference (PEC) in collaboration with the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI), he said the government has finally decided to devolve the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) to provinces. He said all PTDC hotels, motels and other assets would be transferred to provinces under the condition that they would hand over the same to the private sector within a period of two months.

He said the government was not meant to run businesses but play the role of facilitator. He said 33 to 35 motels were lying closed for the last 10 years, as the job had been entrusted to irrelevant persons. He said the PTDC would be restructured. A national-level e-portal on tourism was ready, which would be launched by Prime Minister Imran Khan soon.

He said that a one-stop website had been developed which would have all related information about tourism sites and their managements. The government has identified the potential tourist attractions in which local and national investors could provide required facilities, he added.

He said a concept of village tourism had been introduced, which would also play a major role in promoting the country's cultural diversity. It was a World Bank-funded project, which would attract foreign tourists to visit scenic valleys of northern areas. Similarly, a ski resort would also be developed in Chitral, which would be a unique attraction for domestic

and foreign tourists, he added.

Stressing the importance of a road communication system, he said that it was very strange that a 300km stretch of Silk Road had no bathroom, which was basic and fundamental requirement of any tourist. The government is working for standardising hotels in addition to other allied services, he added.

He said qualified professionals were required to manage the hospitality industry and in this connection, schools were being established in different parts of the country.

Mr Jamil also gave a comprehensive presentation about the potential of tourism in Pakistan with steps being taken by the government to engage the private sector.

Provincial Minister for Culture and Industries Khayal Ahmad Kastro also spoke on the occasion and said that for the first time in the history of the province, the Punjab Culture Day was observed on March 14.

He said being the minister for colonies, he retrieved 200,000 acres of state land, encroached upon by land-grabbers. The value of the land was around Rs450 billion, he added.

He paid tribute to PM Khan for organising a foreign ministers' conference of Islamic countries and said that his strategy played a pivotal role in the revival of the industrial sector in Pakistan.

Deputy Commissioner of Faisalabad Ali Shehzad also spoke on the occasion, while former president of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Mian Mohammad Idrees and FCCI President Atif Munir Sheikh along with PEC organiser Azhar Chaudhry presented FCCI shields to Mr Jamil.

Wearing their cultural dresses, members of the business community along with their families from across the country participated in the dinner.

A traditional chador was presented to FCCI President Sheikh.



*The Sherdils fly in formation during an aerial demonstration at the Pakistan Day parade; children dressed in traditional attire wave flags from the float of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province; and women from various branches of the armed forces march as part of the military parade.*



*Pope Francis leads the Easter Mass at St Peter's Square on Sunday 17 April. Easter is one of the principal festivals in Christianity. It marks the Resurrection of Jesus Christ three days after crucifixion. For many churches, Easter is a joyful end to the Lenten season of fasting and penitence.*



*Artists perform during a ceremony in connection with Nowruz at PNCA.*



*Devotees gather around a bonfire to light earthen lamps at the shrine of Sufi saint Madho Lal Hussain whose Urs celebrations began.*

# HOTEL TAJ PALACE



RECEPTION

Reception desk offering in house services too.



DINING HALL

Oriental and continental meals served.



BAR. B.Q.

Out door Bar. B.Q. daily.



MUSIC CORNER

Light music on request.



LAUNDRY

In-house service for guests.



RENT A CAR

Automobiles available on request.



BED ROOMS

Reservation 3 types rooms, Cat A, B + Master suite.



COFFEE SHOP

Around the clock for guests and visitors



PARTY HALL

Halls Available for Parties Wedding, Seminars + Exhibition



BUSINESS CENTRE

Communication facilities fax, phone, E-mail + Internet



SWIMMING POOL

Open around the year for guests and club members.



Sialkot is a city of export. City serving as a backbone in earning foreign exchange for the country. The skillful and master mind people here are experts in producing the excellence in craftsmanship. Thousands of customers visit sialkot every year, but unfortunately till few years back, this city did not have a single hotel providing the luxury and comfort according to the status of the honourable business executives and dignitaries visiting from around the globe, thus had to stay in Lahore and come to Sialkot daily by our sub standard roads which often put them off coming here.

We feel honoured to be the pioneers of hotel meeting high standards of today living our hotel offers five star facilities such as luxurious rooms, Executive floor for business travellers, Business centre, Non-Smoking area on request, Swimming pool, Coffee Shop, Restaurant and spacious car parking.

AT TAJ WE MAKE YOU FEEL COMFORT.

## HOTEL TAJ PALACE

COURT ROAD, SIALKOT - PAKISTAN

Tel: (92-52) 4274831-2, 4265048, 4270034 Fax: 4265305

E-mail: [info@taj.com.pk](mailto:info@taj.com.pk)



**ECU**  
**WORLDWIDE**  
*Geography Simplified*



300+ Offices

520+ Destinations

2300+ Direct Trade Lanes

Reaching Out In All Dimensions



**ECU WORLDWIDE (PVT) LTD.**

[www.ecuworldwide.com.pk](http://www.ecuworldwide.com.pk)

# **METRO CAB**

## **URGENT SERVICE**

### **Pick & Drop**

### **24 HOURS CALL CENTER**

Islamabad - 051-111-222-787 Lahore - 042-111-222-787

Faisalabad - 041-111-222-787 Hyderabad - 022-111-222-787

Karachi - 021-111-222-787

**Reliable & Trustworthy**



**U A N # 111 - 222 - 787**

**Very Attractive terms for corporat Clients:**

**Contact Cell # 0314-2377771**

**E-mail: [director@metrocab.com.pk](mailto:director@metrocab.com.pk)**



## Partnership for Quality Services



## Destinations

Dubai

Sharjah

Bahrain

Doha

Muscat

Jeddah

Dammam

Riyadh

London

Paris

Barcelona

Kuwait

Milan

**SIALKOT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LIMITED (SIAL)**



📍 Sambrial Sialkot-Pakistan

☎ 92-52-6633001-4 / 92-52-6633023-4 ✉ info@sial.com.pk

🌐 www.sial.com.pk



**DAMASCUS**

**SHARJAH**

**TAHRAN**

**ERBIL**

**BEIRUT**

**KUWAIT**

**BAGHDAD**

**MUSCAT**

**NAJAF**

**KARACHI**

**ABU DHABI**

**KN Aviation GSA  
For Pakistan**

**For Reservation :08000- CHAM (2426)**