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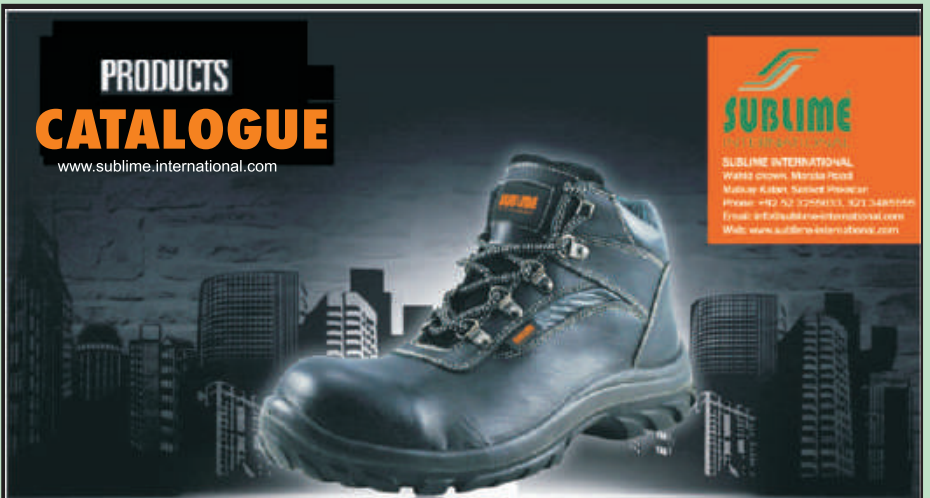
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Mr. Bilal-ur-Rehman Chairman PIFFA welcomes the Chief Guest Vice Admiral (R) Iftikhar Ahmed Rao Advisor to the Prime Minister on Maritime Affairs at PIFFA Gala Night 2023 hosted in Karachi



Furqan Abdul Qadir Zonal Chairman Sindh, HOAP presents a souvenir to Mr. Aneeq Ahmed Federal Minister for Religious Affairs at a Hajj workshop held recently in Karachi



Ms. Kelli Curren, an Irish lady lost her baggage at Sialkot International Airport, she was contacted and delivered her. She appreciated honesty of the airport staff and photographed with her friends, staff and Mr Amjad Toor, CEO SIAL on the occasion.



Photo shows Mr. Qaiser Abbas Khan Dy. General Manager Daewoo Pakistan Express Buss Service receives Pakistan's Most prestigious Award 17th Consumers Choice Award 2023 for Daewoo FastEx (Courier & Logistics) from Consumers Association of Pakistan.

CAA asks airmen to report signal interruptions to air traffic controller

The Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) has issued notices to airmen of all aircraft, asking them to report to the air traffic controller (ATC) about any disturbances in GPS signals after signal interruptions were reported by aircraft.

The notices were issued to airlines, Pakistan Airline Pilots Association, IATA and others on September 22 and will remain valid till December 21.

It had been observed that aircraft were facing disturbances in getting GPS signals between Lahore and Karachi flight region. The aircraft were also having difficulties getting GPS signals between Lahore and Karachi flight information region (FIR).

The notices said occasional GPS signal interruptions had been reported around Lahore in a 100-nautical-mile radius, around the Lahore area in the sector south of Lahore, and also in some portions of Karachi FIR.

There were also complaints about not getting GPS signals around Rahimyar Khan airport.

Notices issued after reports about aircraft facing disturbances in getting GPS signals between Lahore and Karachi

“All pilots should promptly report to the Air Traffic Control (ATC) about such interruptions with appropriate details.”

It said that in the event, take necessary measures for safe and efficient continuation of navigation, and in case of navigational difficulty, notify ATC for assistance.

Meanwhile, the CAA said that Pakistan Airspace was fully covered with state-of-the-art radar systems for the provision of air traffic services to all aircraft, including transit, landing and taking off.

A spokesman for the CAA said that all equipment provided by the CAA were ground-based for which VOR (VHF omnidirectional range) was a navigation aid that provides azimuth information for high and low-altitude routes and airport approaches.

On the other hand, another ground-based equipment called ILS (instrument landing system) is a precision runway approach aid to provide pilots with vertical and horizontal guidance during the landing.

As far as GPS (global positioning

system) is concerned, it's a USA-owned utility that provides users with positioning, navigation and timing (PNT) services. GPS is a network of satellites and currently 31 GPS satellites are orbiting around the earth, providing users with

accurate information on position, velocity, and time anywhere in the world.

There may be a reason for a space weather event (ionospheric disturbance) that may impact GNSS (global navigation satellite system) performance, possibly leading to the loss of GNSS signals and/or degradation of timing and positioning performance. This ionospheric activity has no link to any ground-based equipment, said the spokesman.

Rs17bn loan helps restore flag carrier's operations

The cash-strapped Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has managed to get a bank loan, after which its administrative affairs are said to be running smoothly.

“We have managed to get a Rs17 billion loan, after which salaries of employees have been paid and the flight operation is running smoothly,” a PIA spokesman said when contacted by media on Saturday 16 Sep.

In a statement released on Friday,

spokesperson Abdullah Hafeez Khan had claimed that the airline was releasing funds and fulfilling its national and international obligations.

According to reports, payments will also be made to fuel companies and spare parts of the aircraft for immediate repair will also be purchased. Not only the salaries of the officers and employees for the current month were released but also the payments of the leased aircraft had been started, sources said.

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'For-sale' PIA hit by worst-ever fuel crisis

Once a profitable entity and the pride of a nation, the national flag carrier's fortunes plummeted to an all-time low on Sunday 22 Oct, when its operations ground to a halt yet again, due to a lack of fuel.

While Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), suffering losses to the tune of Rs750 billion, is no stranger to recurring crises, the current situation is probably the most dire in recent years as 77 flights were cancelled on Sunday 22 Oct after Pakistan State Oil (PSO) cut the carrier's fuel supply.

This was the second time in less than seven days that the two state entities have come face to face with each other. PSO claims mounting unpaid dues as the reason for not providing fuel to PIA aircraft.

The national carrier had 81 flights 52 international and 29 on domestic routes scheduled for take-off on Sunday 22 Oct.

However, all but four international flights were cancelled, according to a spokesperson.

The airline confirmed that domestic and international flights have been cancelled following the suspension of fuel supply by the PSO. Flights from Lahore to Toronto and Kuala Lumpur, and from Islamabad to Beijing and Istanbul took off on Sunday 22 Oct, the spokesperson said.

In a late-night development, the spokesman said flight operation was partially restored, and flights to Jeddah departed from Karachi, Islamabad, Lahore and Multan.

He added that another flight also departed from Islamabad for Riyadh.

The PIA's top management was trying to contact the PSO to get the fuel supply restored, said the spokesperson.

Late on Sunday night, the airline announced that 61 flights were scheduled for Monday 23 Oct. Of them, 42 will fly on international routes while 19 on domestic.

The spokesperson has expressed the hope that the scheduled evening flights on Monday 23 Oct. would operate as soon as a credit line was made available to pay for the fuel.

The crisis has emerged at a time when the caretaker government is looking to expedite the process of relieving the burden of the bleeding entity.

Last month, a meeting of the Privatisation Commission agreed on a clear timeline for the privatisation of PIA. While no further details were given about the timeline, it was understood that the government wanted to sell off the loss-

making state institution as soon as possible.

Situation 'never this bad' The widespread flight cancellation left thousands of passengers in distress while PIA employees, who have been witnessing the airline's crumbling into the abyss, conceded the 'situation was never this bad' The airline was unable to give the travellers a tentative time of departure as they awaited instructions from the top management.

Some travellers went back home, while others opted to stay at the airport, hoping to fly to their destinations.

The airline has been trying to accommodate the passengers on alternative flights, the spokesperson said, while apologising for the inconvenience caused due to flight cancellations.

A senior pilot stuck in Lahore due to the cancellation of his flight said he had never seen the airline in such dire straits.

There is only one flight scheduled from Lahore to Karachi 23 Oct, the pilot told media while requesting anonymity.

Planned conspiracy' PIA's Senior Staff Association General Secretary Safdar Anjum has alleged that the airline is being destroyed 'under a planned conspiracy'.

In a series of posts on social media platform X, Mr Anjum blamed the 'incompetent CEO and his team' for the current crisis.

In August, Air Vice Marshal Muhammad Amir Hayat was appointed PIA's CEO for one year after serving as the acting CEO since April 2022, following the retirement of his predecessor.

There is only one solution to PIA's problems,' Mr Anjum wrote in his post, as he demanded that the CEO and his team should be fired.

He claimed the executive was only brought 'for the purpose of destroying the airline'.

Talking to media, Mr Anjum said PIA is being destroyed and defamed intentionally to pave the way for its easy privatisation.

PIA is still earning revenue with only 16 aircraft, he said and blamed the former aviation minister for inflicting catastrophic damage on the airline with his statement in the National Assembly.

In June 2020, then-federal minister for aviation Ghulam Sarwar Khan claimed more than 30 per cent of the civilian pilots in the country held 'fake' licences. He added that 262 out of the 860 active pilots 'did not take the exam themselves' and had paid someone else to appear on their behalf.

The statement stirred huge controversy, prompting the European Union Air Safety Agency to suspend PIA's authorisation to operate in the bloc for six months. The action is yet to be revoked.

According to Mr Anjum, PIA's flights to profitable UK and Europe routes have been suspended for over three years.

Despite that, the airline has been earning well, he claimed, adding the only burden was bank loans, which could be repaid if management overcomes the financial crisis. If the CEO can't control the situation, he must resign, 'Mr. Anjum told media.

An aviation expert, however, asserted that PIA's predicament was solely the result of poor management that emerged as soon as people were hired on deputation by the airline.



Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar said that PIA's privatisation process needed to be expedited urgently so as to provide a reliable service to users and raise the standard of the national flag carrier to match the global standards.

Timeline for PIA privatisation agreed



A meeting of the Privatisation Commission on Tuesday 19 Sep. discussed privatisation of the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and agreed a clear timeline for the purpose.

The meeting, presided over by Minister for Privatisation Fawad Hasan Fawad, was held to meet the target set by the caretaker prime minister and the federal cabinet for PIA's privatisation.

The privatisation minister held detailed discussions with different stakeholders, including the PIA management and the aviation division focusing on restructuring of PIA leading to the privatisation process.

However, no details of the proposed timeline, were mentioned in the press release issued by the Privatisation Commission.

Earlier, Mr Fawad held a meeting with Finance Minister Dr Shamshad Akhtar and discussed important economic and fiscal matters and exchanged valuable insights and ideas on the privatisation agenda.

The Cabinet Committee on Privatisation (CCoP) at its meeting on September 6 had decided to form a technical committee for the resolution of bottlenecks in the way of privatisation and restructuring of PIA, and had asked the aviation division to work with the privatisation commission to present a detailed action plan to the CCoP with clear timeline framework in a sequence.

The PIA is fully dependent on the government, the finance ministry and credits from the financial institutions to meet its operational requirements.

The airline has recently negotiated fresh credit facilities from financial institutions under the government of Pakistan guarantee limit.

Airports to have modern scanners, walk-through gates

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has decided to install 29 modern baggage scanning machines and 20 walkthrough gates at major international airports of Pakistan as part of its measures to ensure world-class security.

A spokesman for the CAA said the state-of-the-art baggage scanning machines will be installed at Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad airports.

Installation of 29 modern baggage scanning machines will be completed by November or December this year, he said. In addition, more than 30 modern walk-through gates will also be installed at major airports of the country, he added.

For that purpose, he said, tenders would be issued for the purchase of walk-through gates equipped with modern technology as 20 such gates will be installed at the airports, while 10 would be available when needed.

On Aug 31, a state-of-the-art baggage scanning machine was installed at Jinnah International Airport in Karachi as part of a growing cooperation in aviation security between Pakistan and UK civil aviation authorities. It was inaugurated UK High Commissioner to Pakistan Jane Marriott at a ceremony.

CAA Director General Khaqan Murtaza, Director Security and Vigilance Shahid Qadir, senior officials of Jinnah

International Airport and ASF attended the ceremony.

Talking to the media, the British high commissioner expressed optimism about resumption of direct flights between Pakistan and the UK, stating that technical talks between the civil aviation authorities of both countries have been completed.

Ms Marriott said the modern security machine will expedite the baggage scanning process for passengers travelling to the UK and other Western countries.

On the occasion, Khaqan Murtaza hinted at positive outcomes from recently held talks with the European Commission in Brussels, indicating that good news regarding Pakistani airlines' flights to the UK and Europe may be expected soon.

He said a European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) team is expected to visit Pakistan in November this year, with promising results expected.

Retired Air Commodore Shahid Qadir, the CAA director of security and vigilance, highlighted that the 20 per cent extra security procedures previously applied to flights bound for the UK, the EU and other Western countries would no longer be necessary, saving time for everyone involved.

After Karachi, another state-of-the-art baggage scanning machine was also installed at Lahore's Allama Iqbal International Airport.



DG PCAA attends 58th DG CA conference in Dhaka

The Director General of the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA), Khaqan Murtaza, and his team had a busy and productive day at the 58th DGCA Conference in Dhaka, Bangladesh. They actively participated in a series of meetings and discussions with delegates from various countries and organizations. In a notable event, DG PCAA moderated a session on capacity building and implementation, which aimed to enhance the participants' knowledge and skills in these areas. This session provided a valuable platform for sharing experiences and best practices. Additionally, the PCAA delegates had a fruitful meeting with the Director of the ICAO Bureau of Capacity Development and Implementation, focusing on strengthening collaboration and cooperation between Pakistan and ICAO in these crucial areas. Furthermore, bilateral talks were held with Deputy Director ICAO, Dr. Manjeet Singh, who is leading the Combined Action Team (CAT) scheduled to visit Pakistan soon, as well as the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), who will also be visiting Pakistan next month. These meetings aimed to discuss the objectives and expectations of these upcoming visits, which are vital for the further development of the civil aviation and aviation industry in Pakistan. Moreover, Pakistan engaged in bilateral talks with delegates from the United Kingdom, Australia, and South Africa, focusing on various aspects of civil aviation, including safety, security, and regulatory frameworks. The aim of these discussions was to foster cooperation and knowledge sharing between the countries. Lastly, the PCAA team had an opportunity to interact with delegates from the Flight Safety Foundation (FSF), facilitating the exchange of ideas and experiences regarding flight safety and promoting a culture of safety in civil aviation.





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Batik Air launches Karachi - Kuala Lumpur route

Batik Air is excited to announce the launch of direct flights between Karachi and Kuala Lumpur commencing on 18 Nov. 2023. This sought-after route underscores Batik Air's steadfast dedication to expanding its worldwide accessibility, ensuring effortless connections for travellers across the globe.

Following the resounding success of its daily flights to Lahore, Batik Air is proud to mount new services between Karachi and Kuala Lumpur, commencing with three times weekly flights. The new route strengthens the airline's ties between the countries, fostering both business and leisure travel opportunities.

Group Strategy Director of Batik Air and Lion Group, Datuk Chandran Rama Muthy expressed his optimism for this vibrant route, stating that they are beginning this journey with immense enthusiasm, leveraging the achievements they've obtained from establishing its presence in Pakistan since March 2016.

"Much like our previous successful routes, we hold a strong belief in the prosperous growth of this Karachi connection, further enhancing the expansion of our network," he said.

Given the positive response to Batik Air's Lahore route, he believes that the airline's winning formula of excellent service, competitive fares, and efficient operations will translate into success on the Karachi-Kuala Lumpur route as well.

Embark on a journey to Malaysia, where vibrant cultures and breathtaking landscapes beckon Pakistani travellers. Experience the enchanting blend of old and new in Kuala Lumpur's soaring skyline and historical sites. Indulge in the culinary delights of diverse flavours, from spicy street food to exquisite dining and explore other captivating Malaysian destinations such as Penang, Langkawi, Kuching and Kota Kinabalu.

"Embrace the hospitality of our nation as you explore its diverse tapestry. We welcome you with open arms to embrace the true essence of Malaysia, Truly Asia in every captivating moment," said Chandran.

The Kuala Lumpur-Karachi route is an essential step in Batik Air's ongoing mission to enhance connectivity to key destinations. As Chandran pointed out, the airline views each new route as a chance to improve lives and foster closer connections amongst people. This expansion not only benefits travellers but

also contributes to bolstering the economic and cultural ties between Pakistan and Malaysia.

This flight is operated using the brand-new Boeing 737-800 aircraft, featuring 12 Business Class and 150

Economy Class seats, ensuring passengers enjoy maximum comfort during their journey. Batik Air also offers a selection of pre-purchased meals and additional baggage allowance at discounted rates. Meals and drinks are also available for sale on-board in all Batik Air flights.

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Emirates, Batik Air, sign codeshare partnership

Emirates and Batik Air Malaysia recently signed a codeshare agreement, allowing Emirates' customers to access five domestic Malaysian cities and three regional Southeast Asian points operated by Batik Air via Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA).

Emirates Senior Vice President Orhan Abbas said, "Malaysia is an important market in our Far East network and we're pleased to offer increased connectivity and more options for our customers to new and exciting destinations. Through this partnership, we'll further expand our network reach to more than 1,490 cities worldwide. We look forward to working closely with our partner Batik Air on offering even better choices and more convenient experiences for travellers."

Emirates will place its code on Batik Air-operated flights to Penang, Kuching, Kota Kinabalu, Langkawi, Johor Bahru, Denpasar, Jakarta and Singapore, offering customers a seamless travel experience as they connect to new destinations using a single ticket, and convenient baggage policy. Emirates' customers will also have the option to stopover in Kuala Lumpur before proceeding to their final destinations. The airline will further gain

access to eight additional destinations operated by Batik Air via Kuala Lumpur for interline transfers.

Group Strategic Director of Batik Air, Chandran Rama Muthy said this initiative not only amplifies Batik Air's network connectivity but also provides Emirates' travellers with the opportunity to explore captivating new destinations in Malaysia and Southeast Asia. "We are proud to be part of this strategic alliance, further expanding our footprint and offering flexibility and convenience to our valued passengers. This partnership underscores our commitment to excellence, and we look forward to welcoming travellers from around the world to experience the unique blend of Emirates' and Batik Air's services."

Emirates has been flying to Malaysia since 1996, and currently operates 21 weekly flights to Kuala Lumpur using a mix of Boeing 777 and Airbus A380 aircraft, serving passengers with its world-class products and services. The airline currently has 30 codeshare, 11 Intermodal and 118 interline partners, including a longstanding partnership with the Jakarta-based Lion Air Group and its subsidiaries Batik Air Indonesia and Batik Air Malaysia.



SalamAir's inaugural flight lands at Peshawar airport

A Salam Airs' inaugural flight landed at the Peshawar's Bacha Khan International Airport early on Monday 2 Oct.

The first flight of SalamAir from Muscat to Peshawar touched down at the airport at 3.13am.

The airline also plans to operate seven weekly flights to Karachi and three each to Multan and Sialkot.

A Civil Aviation Authority spokesman said the inaugural flight was given the traditional water salute by the airport's fire tenders as it taxied on the taxiway-B.

SalamAir's managing director Mohsin Albalushi and director operations Maaz Albalushi also arrived in Peshawar on the same flight.

Senior officials of SalamAir Group and Menzies-Royal Airport Services (M-RAS) were also present at the airport to greet the aircraft. A brief celebration was held to mark the occasion.

The carrier will operate twice-weekly flights from Muscat to Peshawar scheduled on Mondays 2 Oct. and Thursdays. The new route will provide convenient travel options for tourists and residents between the two countries.



Cake cutting ceremony held to welcome Salam Air flight.



Azerbaijan Airlines (AZAL) starts flights from Baku to Lahore, photo shows the cake cutting ceremony held to welcome flight at AIIA.

Garuda Indonesia Cargo appoints MS & F Aviators (Pvt) Ltd as CSA for Pakistan



Mr. Muhammad Sohail CEO MS & F Aviators (Pvt) Ltd. CSA Garuda Indonesia Cargo.

In a significant development for the aviation industry in Pakistan, Garuda Indonesia, the national flag carrier of Indonesia, has officially appointed M/S MS & F Aviators (Pvt) Ltd. as its Cargo Sales Agent (CSA) in Pakistan, effective from 1st August 2023. This strategic partnership is set to enhance cargo operations, connectivity, and trade relations between Pakistan and Indonesia.

Garuda Indonesia has long been a symbol of excellence in the world of aviation, boasting a formidable fleet of 93 aircraft, including flagship models such as the B-777s, B-787s and A-330s, alongside other wide-bodied aircraft. While it has an extensive global presence, the airline's operations in Pakistan have been rejuvenated with this collaboration.

One of the highlights of this partnership is the codeshare agreement between Garuda Indonesia and Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). This collaboration will facilitate the seamless transfer of cargo between Pakistan, Jeddah, and Jakarta. Garuda Indonesia will operate two daily flights using wide-bodied aircraft, offering an impressive 25 tons of cargo capacity on each flight, all while accommodating passengers' needs.

Mr. M Sohail, CEO of the CSA in Pakistan, expressed his enthusiasm for this new venture. He is no stranger to the world of aviation and freight forwarding, having served with Pakistan Cargo Services (Pvt) Ltd. as Director for nearly three decades, where he played a pivotal role in establishing its Karachi office. Additionally, Mr. Sohail has a notable three-year stint as CEO of Union Cargo

under his belt. His dedication and passion for the industry are now channeled into the establishment of PCS Logistics three years ago and, most recently, MS & F Aviators in Karachi.

In a key strategic move, Mr. Sohail has appointed Mr. Khalid Fazal as the Executive Director of MS & F Aviators (Pvt) Ltd. Mr. Fazal brings to the table more than four decades of experience in the aviation sector, having served with GSAs/CSAs of various renowned airlines. His wealth of knowledge and expertise is expected to be a driving force in the success of this partnership.

MS & F Aviators (Pvt) Ltd. now boasts a head office in Karachi, along with

branch offices in Lahore, Islamabad, and Sialkot. With this expansion of services and the combined experience and dedication of its leadership, the company is well-positioned to support and promote Garuda Indonesia's cargo operations in Pakistan.

The CSA of M/S MS & F Aviators (Pvt) Ltd. is committed to streamlining cargo services, facilitating trade, and further strengthening the aviation ties between Pakistan and Indonesia. As the only airline that offers direct air service to Surabaya in Indonesia, this partnership is set to open new avenues for trade and commerce, benefitting businesses and cargo shippers in both nations.



Cake cutting ceremony held at the Consulate General Republic of Indonesia Karachi. Photo shows HE June Kuncoro Hadiningrat Consul General, Mr. Saad Sohail (Director), Mr. Khalid Fazal (ED), Mr. A. Wahab Sohail (Director) MS & F Aviators (Pvt) Ltd..



Photo shows Mr. Abdul Wahab presenting a bouquet to the Consul General of Indonesia Karachi.

Qatar Airways selects starlink to enhance in-flight experience



Qatar Airways is now the largest airline to collaborate with Starlink and in the future, will roll out a complimentary high-speed, low-latency internet connectivity experience onboard specific aircraft and routes.

Starlink's service will be a further enhancement of Qatar Airways' 5-star onboard experience. Once the service is active, passengers will be able to enjoy ultra-fast Wi-Fi speeds of up to 350 Megabits per second which can be used for a variety of internet-based services such as video streaming their favourite entertainment and sports videos, gaming, enriched web-browsing and much more.

As a leading 5-star airline of the world, Qatar Airways remains committed to offering the best passenger experience onboard, and the agreement with Starlink will allow passengers to have a rich seamless Wi-Fi connectivity experience onboard with a simple one-click access. The high-speed and low-latency network is powered by the revolutionary Starlink satellite communications system – the world's largest satellite internet constellation engineered and operated by SpaceX. Qatar Airways and Starlink are currently in the pre-launch phase of the rollout strategy across Qatar Airways fleet.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, His Excellency Mr. Akbar Al Baker, said: "Qatar Airways is proud to announce its agreement with Starlink to provide seamless and complimentary Wi-Fi to its global passengers. This exciting collaboration is not only in line with our industry-leading approach to technological adoption, but also serves as an unmissable opportunity to connect Starlink to our global passengers. We look

forward to our passengers benefitting from this state-of-the-art addition to Qatar Airways' in-flight experience."

"Qatar Airways continues to lead the way prioritizing the passenger experience," said SpaceX's Vice President of Starlink Commercial Sales Jonathan Hofeller: "With Starlink set to support the entire Qatar Airways fleet, passengers travelling between over 160 destinations around the world will be able to stay connected with the most advance high-speed internet service from space. In fact, as soon as passengers step onboard the plane the internet works seamlessly throughout their flight from gate to gate, and all from the comfort of their seats."

Starlink delivers high-speed, low-latency internet to users all over the world Qatar Airways is the latest and largest airline to partner with Starlink. It is also being implemented by JSX, Hawaiian Airlines, airBaltic, and ZIPAIR.

Logistics startup to acquire BlueEx

Pakistani ecommerce logistics startup Rider, backed by YCombinator, is looking into acquiring BlueEx the only listed Express Courier Logistics Company in Pakistan, it told media on Thursday 5 Oct.

Venture funding in Pakistan plummeted to \$6.8 million during the third quarter of 2023, dropping 87.7 per cent year-on-year from the \$55 million during the corresponding period in the previous year, after a global funding crunch and troubling macroeconomic and political circumstances in the South Asian nation.

"We are carving out and acquiring the e-commerce logistics business which currently operates under the brand name BlueEx. This is not an acquisition of Universal Network System Limited as a whole," said Salman Allana, founder and CEO of Rider.

If the transaction goes through, this will be the first acquisition of a listed company by a startup, and the first major acquisition of a company listed on PSX's Growth Enterprise Market board.

Boeing delivers 106 airliners in 3rd Quarter of 2023



Boeing 777X Wingover

Seattle-based aerospace giant Boeing has delivered 106 commercial airliners in the 3rd Quarter of 2023 according to data released ahead of its 3rd Quarter results very soon.

The deliveries bring the total number of aircraft delivered by Boeing for the year to date up to 371.

The bulk of the deliveries was made of sing-aisle Boeing 737 airlines with 70 being delivered to airlines across the globe.

Deliveries of Boeing 737 Max variants have been slowed down due to problems with suppliers, particularly with Spirit Aerosystems which has suffered quality control failures on the 737s frame.



Boeing 737-10 on approach

Boeing has advised one of its biggest customers, Ryanair that it will only be able to deliver 14 of the planned 27 Max 8200s ahead of December 2023.

The Boeing 787 was the next largest amount for deliveries with 18 going to airlines in the 3rd Quarter however they are also now suffering delays due to a flaw found in June which affects the tail section of the airliners in production although Boeing says this is not a safety issue and does not affect aircraft already in service. Eight 777s and 8 767s were also delivered during this period.

EgyptAir schedules new China route



Star Alliance member EgyptAir is expanding its Asia-Pacific network in November with the launch of a fourth route to China.

Commencing on Nov. 16, three weekly flights will connect Cairo International Airport (CAI) and Shanghai Pudong International Airport (PVG). The outbound flights will run on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, returning the following day. EgyptAir plans to utilize Boeing 777-300 aircraft for the 5,198-mi. (4,517-nm) route.

Shanghai becomes the fourth Chinese city served by the carrier, alongside Beijing, Guangzhou and Hangzhou. By December, the airline's Asia-Pacific network will also include Dhaka, Bangladesh; Jakarta, Indonesia; Mumbai and New Delhi, India; and Tokyo Narita, bringing the total to nine destinations in the region.

The new service marks the restoration of nonstop connectivity between Egypt and Shanghai after a five-year hiatus. Previously, the now-defunct Cairo-based charter carrier Air Leisure operated weekly flights using Airbus A330-200 aircraft between Aswan International Airport and PVG, until suspending its operations in October 2018.

EgyptAir has been steadily growing its Asia-Pacific network in recent months, launching flights to Dhaka in May and resuming service Tokyo Narita in September.

A new route from CAI to Jakarta Soekarno-Hatta Airport (CGK) will begin at the end of October, operating three times per week aboard 787-9s. EgyptAir last served CGK for a limited time in 2014, and there have been no nonstop flights between Egypt and Indonesia since then.

Confirmation of the carrier's

expansion in the Chinese market comes days after Chinese President Xi Jinping met with Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly in Beijing. According to China's Foreign Affairs Ministry, the two leaders agreed to strengthen ties and work toward "common prosperity."

"China is ready to deepen synergy of development strategies with Egypt, encourage capable Chinese companies to invest and do business in Egypt, and welcome more high-quality Egyptian products to enter the Chinese market," a statement released by the ministry says.

President Xi also said China would work with Arab governments to bring "more stability" to the Middle East in the wake of the Israel-Hamas war.

Lufthansa's latest subsidiary "City Airlines" will begin flying next summer

Lufthansa Group's new subsidiary, City Airlines, will begin operations in the summer of 2024.

City Airlines is planning to expand its fleet to include up to 80 narrowbodies.

The recruitment drive for operational staff, including pilots and cabin crew, will start in November.

Lufthansa has announced its plans for City Airlines to commence operations in the summer of 2024. The German flag carrier's new subsidiary will primarily be based out of Munich, with its operations aiming to strengthen the Lufthansa Group's short-haul network. Now, it is getting ready to take the next steps towards its launch.

The countdown begins

As Simple Flying reported earlier this month, City Airlines has been in the works for a little while now. Having been founded in Munich in the summer of 2022, the German flag carrier officially revealed the new brand in March this year. With its Air Operator's Certificate coming three months later, things began moving quickly.

With this key piece of bureaucracy out of the way, the next big question was that of the carrier's start date. The answer to this question no longer remains unknown, as, earlier this morning, Lufthansa officially revealed that City Airlines will commence operations in the summer of 2024. This exciting piece of news has seen the carrier spring into life, with a recruitment drive planned for the near future.

Check out all the latest European aviation news here!

As pictured above, one of City Airlines' key operating hubs will be Germany's Munich Airport (MUC), with Frankfurt Airport (FRA) also playing an important role. The Lufthansa Group intends for City Airlines' flights to bolster its short-haul network, while also acting as

feeder services to connect to long-haul routes.

Time to grow

The launch of City Airlines represents a key part of Lufthansa's growth strategy, as the company believes the growth of its short-haul network will, in turn, feed into long-haul growth. Furthermore, it will strengthen its position in the market at the key hubs of Frankfurt and Munich. City Airlines MD Jens Fehlenger states that:

"With City Airlines, we want to create prospects for the coming decades and secure sustainable jobs in Germany. This is the only way for us to grow and sustainably strengthen the hubs in Munich and Frankfurt."

City Airlines presently has a single 1998-built Airbus A319 at its disposal. However, as noted in our previous coverage, the carrier has plans to expand its fleet to comprise as many as 80 narrowbodies of a similar or smaller size. According to Lufthansa, the aircraft types under consideration include models from the modern Airbus A220 and the Embraer E-Jet E2 families.

Searching for staff

Given the task at hand of getting an airline up and running, City Airlines is beginning its recruitment drive early. Indeed, Lufthansa states that the "recruitment of operational staff will begin in November 2023, with pilots and cabin crew members needed for the launch." The carrier is also welcoming applications from employees who want to switch over from another Lufthansa Group airline.

In terms of the onboard experience at the new carrier, its parent company has promised that "customers and passengers can look forward to a Lufthansa customer experience onboard City Airlines aircraft." In this regard, the German flag carrier's new subsidiary could be compared to British Airways' BA EuroFlyer startup.

Nigeria celebrates World ATC Day with all-female Air Traffic Control nationwide



As part of activities to mark the World Air Traffic Controllers Day celebrated globally on October 20th, Nigeria made history by having an all-female Air Traffic Control (ATC) Crew taking charge of all its control units nationwide including Area, Approach and Terminal Control.

The initiative was the brainchild of most of the senior female Controllers with the first female Controller in Nigeria, Mrs. Hauwa Danboyi leading the pack by taking it up to the management to get the approval. The event was muted with the aim of promoting inclusion and diversity in the ATC profession in Nigeria as well as to celebrate women working in the profession.

Mrs. Kate Nnanna-Ibemgbo, DGM, Air Traffic Management (ATM), and Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) said “We thought of a situation where we could come together and pool our individual strengths to have a collective strength and do what we know would project the core values of ATC in Nigeria, but to also show that in our profession there is actually a very big presence of inclusion. There is diversity, but at the same time there is inclusion. So, there is synergy between the male and the female counterparts.”

Speaking further on the motivation for an all-female ATC crew, she said; “As you can see, today it is an all-female crew across the nation simultaneously, that shows that unity in doing things together. We just thought it wise to come together and do something that would show the trajectory of how things happen in other climes.”

Sharing her thoughts on the milestone achievement, Mrs. Ekeada Doris, DGM, Technical Evaluation and Manpower Development, Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA) said, “This day makes me very proud because when I joined ATC in 1998, we were six (6), and now we are almost fifty (50). So, I am very proud that we have enough ladies to occupy all the positions all over the country today. It is not just in Lagos, Abuja, Port Harcourt, we have Calabar, and we have Enugu. So, ladies are in every station. It shows that what a man can do, a woman can also do.”

She further added “ATC is a male dominated profession and because of all the challenges involved and the stress. ATC is the most stressful job in the world. And as women we have our families, our children, we are mothers; for us to be able to do what the men are doing alongside all our other responsibilities, it is fantastic. For the upcoming generation, my message to them is that the sky is just the beginning. There is nothing you cannot accomplish. ATC is a proud and great profession.”

Mrs. Atinuke Stanley-Kafu, a First Officer with Air Peace spoke on the uniqueness of this important milestone. “It just means that times are changing and it is very inspiring for me. Even on normal days when one or two ladies are on the radio, it's very respectful to hear another woman on the other side doing her thing and doing it excellently well. And I think this is an opportunity for other women who are coming into the aviation industry to be inspired as I have been inspired by

other women who were there before me. This is an amazing day for all of us,” she enthused.

The celebrations ended on a high note with the ladies encouraging each other to gear up for bigger responsibilities with a commitment to keep inspiring the next generation of ladies and girls not just Aviation, but across all other professions.

Gulf Air expands into China with introduction of flights to Guangzhou and Shanghai



Gulf Air Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner.

Gulf Air, the Kingdom of Bahrain's national carrier, will be extending its operations into China in January 2024. In line with its calibrated growth strategy to strengthen its global network and connecting Bahrain with key global destinations under the national Economic Recovery Plan of Bahrain, this strategic move also represents a significant step forward for Gulf Air to bolster its Asia-Pacific presence and support connectivity under the One Belt One Road initiative of China.

Gulf Air's introduction of flights to Guangzhou and Shanghai will strengthen the bilateral trade and tourism relations of over 30 years.

The schedule has been built to ensure convenient connections between China and destinations served by Gulf Air in the Middle East and Europe, and between these destinations and China.

The flights will be operated with Boeing 787 Dreamliner and two cabins of service, a business class cabin featuring one of the most spacious premium seats and an economy class cabin with state-of-the-industry seats.

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Air Asia announces 2024 tourism boost with free* seats and travel discounts in Malaysia



AirAsia, the World's Best Low Cost Airline, has reinforced its commitment to further stimulate the Malaysian tourism industry in 2024 with its signature FREE* Seats initiative, aimed at making air travel accessible and affordable to all. Discover the best of Malaysia and fly to Penang, Langkawi, AlorSetar, Johor Bahru, Kuala Terengganu and more from RM25* all-in one-way and uncover Asean gems including Bali, Krabi, Phnom Penh, PhuQuoc, Bangkok and more from RM80* all-in one-way.

For those seeking to adventure out further, AirAsia X offers flights to Gold Coast, Busan, Taipei, Beijing and more from RM269* all-in one-way on Economy seats. Flights are available for booking starting today until 25 October 2023 with the travel period between 4 March 2024 and 12 February 2025.

Bo Lingam, Group CEO of AirAsia Aviation Group Limited said: "Earlier this year, we launched our first FREE* Seats campaign of the year with five million seats. Since then, we have flown more than 37 million travellers across the region from March until the first week of October.

"Today, we are proud to double the offering and hope to boost Malaysian tourism in 2024 just as we did this year. It truly feels like we have come full circle, and as we aim to have all of our 204 aircraft back by the end of this year, we will continue to robustly grow our network with new routes and reinstate routes across Asean and beyond."

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Travel with a peace of mind with 30 per cent off for Flight Delay Insurance*

Etihaad enhances Scandinavian connectivity in strategic codeshare deal with SAS



Etihad Airways and Scandinavian Airlines (SAS) have signed a strategic codeshare agreement, so customers of both airlines will enjoy enhanced connectivity to destinations across each other's networks. Guests can book on a single ticket and only have to check in once at the start of their flight, with their baggage checked through to their end destination.

Arik De, Etihad's Chief Revenue Officer said: "Our strategic bilateral agreement with SAS, coming after the start of our flights to Copenhagen, allows more seamless travel for our guests from Northern Europe to enjoy Abu Dhabi, and to connect with our growing global network, including our expanding destinations in the Indian Sub-Continent, East Asia, Middle East, and Africa.

"The tie-in gives our guests one-stop access across Scandinavia to destinations including Oslo, Stockholm, Helsinki,

minimum of two (2) hours from the originally scheduled departure time or any new departure time. Moreover, enjoy 30 per cent off seat selections for AirAsia X (D7) flights, as well as 10 per cent off for pre-booked inflight meals for all flights booked during the promo period.

Complement the travel experience with more affordable deals of up to 50 percent off for Flight and Hotel combo. In addition, enjoy up to 50 percent off any hotels worldwide and get RM3 OFF x 2 rides with a promo code MOVEMY when you book airasia ride on airasiaSuperapp, which will be renamed to airasia MOVE soon.

*Domestic: all-in one-way fare from MYR 25. International: all-in one-way fare from MYR 80. Includes airport taxes, MAVCOM fee, fuel surcharges and other applicable fees.

Underwritten by Tune Protect's Insurance Partners. Applicable for all AirAsia flights (AK, FD, QZ, Z2) except AirAsia X flights (D7 & XJ). T&C apply here.

Gothenburg, Bergen and Aarhus.

"This agreement is just the latest in our mission to strengthen Abu Dhabi's cultural and economic growth by welcoming more guests to our home enjoying enhanced travel benefits and greater treasured experiences."

SAS Executive, Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer Paul Verhagen, said: "We are happy for the opportunity to introduce a new codeshare agreement with Etihad Airways.

"This partnership expands the choices available to SAS customers for journeys to Abu Dhabi and beyond, with connections to India, the Seychelles, Sri Lanka and more. We will continue to enhance international connectivity and remain committed to our promise of providing seamless travel experiences to our customers."

This agreement strengthens Etihad's relationship with SAS, including partnering with SAS in the Etihad Guest frequent flyer programme. Etihad Guest members will earn miles when they fly with SAS and vice versa for EuroBonus members, and this facility is now being extended to all flights across both airline networks.

The codeshare is set to come into full service at the end of December 2023, when customers can book across Etihad's sales channels including Etihad.com and travel agents for travel from January.

PIFFA hosts Gala Night 2023 in Karachi



Mr. Bilal-ur-Rehman Chairman PIFFA presenting bouquet to the chief guest Vice Admiral Iftikhar Ahmed



The Chief Guest on the occasion presenting shield of appreciation to M. Abdul Kareem Peracha Chairman Indus Hospital



Mr. Bilal-ur-Rehman with Mr. Saleem Baxamoosa and Bilal Qureshi.



Mr. Feroze Jamall, Mr. Saifullah Khan, Mr. Khalid Mir and Mr. Amar.



Mr. Amjad Fakhri and others.



Mr. A. S. Azad, Mr. Tahir Malik, Mr. Izhar ul Haq Qamar, other guests and Mr. M. Asghar.



Mr. Junaid Hazar, Mr. Habib ullah, Mr. Shakeel Ahmed and Mr. Bilal-ur-Rehman.



Mr. Amjad Fakhri, Mr. Shujaat Ali, Mr. M. Sohail and Mr. Ilyas.



Mr. Majeed Peracha, Mr. A. Kareem Peracha, Mr. Asim Saeed Khan and Mr. M. A. Rajpar.



Mr. Babar Badat talking to the chief guest Vice Admiral Iftikhar Ahmed Rao, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Maritime Affairs Mr. Bilal-ur-Rehman, Chairman PIFFA (L) and Mr. Feroze Jamall Country Manager Pakistan IATA also seen in the picture



Photo shows (L-R) A guest, Mr. M. Ilyas, Mr. Asim Saeed Khan, Mr. Majid Peracha, Mr. Rana Tariq, Mr. Jamil Ahmed and Mr. Tauqir Malik.



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Emirates SkyCargo launches direct host-to-host connection with Kuehne + Nagel



Providing direct access to its market-leading products and services and extensive global network, Emirates SkyCargo is now available on Kuehne+Nagel's internal booking engine. This milestone marks the first time Emirates SkyCargo has made its services available via a freight forwarders owned portal, a strategy that further elevates the airline's world-class customer service experience.

Emirates SkyCargo advances its digital customer experience with CargoAi

Through this direct host-to-host connection, Emirates SkyCargo streamlines the booking journey for Kuehne+Nagel agents, providing access to the airline's schedules, rates and available capacity in real-time. The connection first launched in Switzerland and Austria and will open up to users in select countries across Europe, the Americas, Africa, Asia and Oceania by the end of the year.

Nabil Sultan, Divisional Senior Vice President, EmiratesSkyCargo, said: "This partnership is a testament to our long-standing digitalisation strategy, which aims to enhance our customer experience, streamline operations and drive greater efficiencies. By creating direct pathways for customers such as Kuehne+Nagel to connect with Emirates SkyCargo, we can optimize the booking process and reinforce our relationships across the logistics ecosystem."

Emirates Delivers launches in Kuwait

Initially, the service will be available for general cargo, with the possibility of adding other Emirates SkyCargo's class-leading product solutions in the near future.

Ethiopian Airlines to resume four weekly services to Madrid



African carrier, Ethiopian Airlines is resuming four weekly passenger services to Madrid, Spain's capital starting from December 9, 2023, according to the airline.

Ethiopian Airlines Group CEO Mr. MesfinTasew said the airline is "delighted to reinstate our Madrid flights" and that the "new services will continue to be vital in linking Africa with Spain's arts and financial center creating critical link to the socio-economic relationships between Madrid and more than 60 African cities where Ethiopian Airlines flies to."

Ethiopian Airlines suspended Madrid flights back in 2020 due to the pandemic. "Our services to Madrid will be operated by the modern Boeing B787-9 Dreamliner aircraft that furnishes ultra-comfort to our esteemed customers", says Tasew.

Ethiopian Airlines is the leading airline in Africa and offers connections to over 150 passenger and cargo destinations.

Ethihad Airways plans aggressive expansion

United Arab Emirates' Etihad Airways has been expanding its network since the end of the pandemic. The airline has extended its route map again by adding the new flight services to Osaka, Japan; Copenhagen, Denmark; and Dusseldorf, Germany.

In addition, a new service to St. Petersburg will be launched on Oct. 29,



An Etihad Airways A380 poses in front of a Singapore Airlines A380 at New York-JFK.

and flights to Indian cities Kozhikode and Thiruvananthapuram will be launched on Jan. 01.

In the meantime, the airline will ramp up its services to European cities in November, such as Madrid and Milan. By popular demand, the airline will also scale up flight operations to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and Colombo, Sri Lanka.

"The new flights are the next important steps as we enhance our network delivering greater connectivity for our guests, and serving their demand for more opportunities to visit Abu Dhabi," AntonoaldoNeves, Chief Executive Officer of the airline said.

Abu Dhabi-based airline launches the new route with an eye to attracting more visitors to the city. Earlier this year, Etihad and Emirates Airlines, its main rival, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to boost the country's tourism. Both airlines expand their interline agreement and provide travelers additional itinerary options when visiting the country. Etihad touts the new routes could play a vital role in supporting Abu Dhabi.

The airline has recently awarded as a Five-star Global Airline by the Airline Passenger Experience Association (APEX) for the third consecutive year.

Meanwhile, Neves has revealed the airline's strategy for expanding the network. The airline would suspend a route after falling short of making profit within three to six months, and it has leaned toward developing medium and long-haul flight in recent years.

In the meantime, Etihad aims to triple its passenger volume to 30 million and double its fleet to 150 aircraft by 2030. According to its website, the airline owns a fleet of 79 aircraft, ranging from the Boeing 787 Dreamliner to the Airbus A380.

High Hope For Chinese Market

Meanwhile, Etihad is set to introduce daily flights to Beijing and Shanghai soon. Flights between two countries has

recovered to 91% of pre-pandemic levels in mid-September.

"We hope to expand Etihad Airways' presence in China through China Eastern (Airlines)' network," Neves SAID. Etihad recently deepened codeshare agreement with China Eastern Airlines.

Earlier, the airline signed a MOU with China Southern Airlines as well. It came after the first flight between Abu Dhabi and Beijing Daxing Airport. Etihad has high hope for the Chinese market, expecting a strong recovery by next year and tripling its capacity from its current level within 18 months.

However, Etihad is facing a setback. As a result of the policy of Bangladesh, the flight to Dhaka will be suspended on Oct.29. Bangladesh requests the foreign airline needs to appoint a Bangladeshi-owned General Sales Agents. But the airline refuses to comply with the policy.

Air France-KLM and Sabre sign NDC distribution agreement

A leading software and technology provider that powers the global travel industry, recently announced completion of a strategic multi-year NDC distribution agreement as well as the renewal of their existing EDIFACT agreement. Collaboration between the partners has been extended with New Distribution Capability (NDC) enriched offers, which will be marketed and sold alongside EDIFACT content, through Sabre's global distribution system (GDS). The Air France-KLM NDC offers will be rolled out to Sabre-connected travel agencies in a phased approach next year.

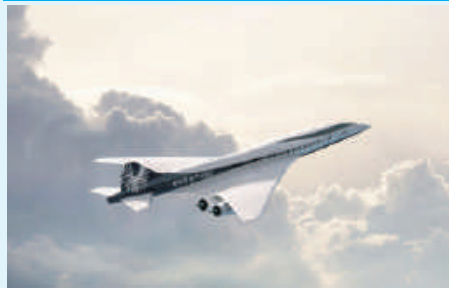
The agreement demonstrates Sabre's continued commitment to driving value and serving the diverse interests of the various stakeholders participating in the global travel marketplace. It helps agencies to efficiently shop and compare increasingly sophisticated offers, while their travelers will benefit from an enhanced experience with more choice and transparency. It also enables Air France and KLM to distribute their customized NDC offers, thanks to continuous pricing and tailor-made bundles, to the global network of Sabre-

connected agencies.

"Choosing the right travel technology partners with which to collaborate is essential. Hence, we are pleased to extend our cooperation with Sabre. This will support our travel agent partners to provide the Air France-KLM enriched and attractive NDC offer, giving the travelers a wider range of options to enhance their journey, from start to finish," said Angus Clarke, Chief Commercial Officer, Air France-KLM.

"Our partnership with Air France-

The future aviation firsts that may reshape and revolutionize the industry



Boom Supersonic

These days, when you step onto a plane for a flight to a destination hundreds of miles away, it's easy to forget how that was even made possible.

It certainly wasn't achieved overnight.

How many sleepless nights have there been to enable passengers to fly from A to B? And how many stories of dedication and graft to facilitate flight have been left untold?

Of course, every achievement and success in aviation started somewhere, a moment in aviation history where a dream was achieved that changed how we fly.

One of the most important aviation firsts was Otto Lilienthal's glider flight in 1891. It captured the imagination of the whole world and inspired the Wright brothers, and you don't need to be an aviation expert to know what they went on to achieve.

The first jet engine, the first airborne radio communications, the first pilot to break the sound barrier and the first transatlantic jet passenger service are just a few of the incredible endeavors that brought aviation to the point it's at today. But what are the aviation firsts of the future that could shake the foundations of flight and set the industry on a different course?

KLM reflects our commitment to modern travel retailing and a big step forward for our presence in Europe," added RoshanMendis, Chief Commercial Officer, Sabre Travel Solutions. "From the beginning, Sabre has been committed to go beyond NDC to help build a new travel ecosystem that is more efficient and personalized, meeting the dynamic needs of today's travelers. We are delighted to bring our customers EDIFACT and enhanced NDC content as we transition to a new world of Offers and Orders."

First emissions-free airline

According to Our World in Data, the airline industry is responsible for 2.5% of global emissions, so it's understandable that the sector is under increasing pressure to act.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, demand for air travel now shows no sign of slowing down, with airlines making record-breaking orders for new jets.

To combat the effects of global warming, in 2021 the International Air Transport Association (IATA) committed its airline members to achieve net zero carbon by the year 2050.

Despite the negative headlines, many carriers have responded by increasing their use of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), buying fuel-efficient aircraft or making significant investment in more sustainable power sources.

Airlines such as Air Canada, SAS and United Airlines have all signaled their intention to purchase hybrid-electric planes from Swedish startup Heart Aerospace.

We are very unlikely to see an established airline become a totally emissions-free carrier in the next few decades, but whichever is first to achieve it will no doubt make its name in the history of the industry.

First new supersonic passenger flight



Boom Supersonic

One of the most exciting areas of aviation development is the resurrection of the supersonic passenger jet.

It's now over 50 years since Concorde made supersonic travel from one place to another a possibility for the fee-paying public, and its demise can still stir emotions in many.

Technically the next company to operate supersonic flights in the coming years won't be the first, but it will certainly feel like a game-changer, especially with the advancement in technology since the days of Concorde.

Some of the main supersonic aircraft developers have claimed that journey times between London and New York could drop to three and a half hours, and from Melbourne to Los Angeles to just eight and a half hours.

Leading the field is undoubtedly Colorado-based company Boom, which claims it will be able to reduce international journey times by half.

The company even has the backing of major airlines, with both Japan Airlines and United Airlines pre-ordering multiple jets.

However, Boom may not have this field entirely to itself, with Spike Aerospace's Spike S-512 and Exosonic's supersonic jet also in contention to be the first to carry passengers. No doubt about it, though, as we move through the 2020s the anticipation around supersonic jets will only increase.

First eVTOL to carry passengers



Archer Aviation

On October 13, 2023, the Chinese electric vehicle take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft developer EHang announced that it had become the first company in the world to obtain type certification for its flying taxi, EH216-S.

It was an incredible achievement sure to be remembered forever, but many other eVTOL developers won't be too downhearted as they pursue certification with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and/or the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA).

EHang clearly has a great deal of support from the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC), but there still are many bumps in the road to navigate before passengers willingly get on board its eVTOL.

Other eVTOL developers will also take heart from the fact that EH216-S is a very different machine to those that are evolving at Wisk, Archer, Vertical Aerospace and many others.

So, the race is very much still on, and it's possible that, instead of certification, the true holy grail is becoming the first eVTOL aircraft developer to actually fly fee-paying customers.

First all-electric passenger carrying aircraft



Aviation

It's expected that the first all-electric commercial aircraft will launch before 2030.

Companies developing all-electric planes are already making huge strides, even predicting that they could gain type certification during 2024.

Experts predict that electric planes will have the potential to revolutionize regional travel, connecting locations that would otherwise prove impossible with expensive, fuel-driven planes.

Indeed, the orders are already flooding in as airlines realize the potential of all-electric flight.

Some of the aviation companies aiming to be the first to carry paying passengers on all-electric planes are Eviation (with its Alice jet), Heart Aerospace and Aura Aero.

First hydrogen-powered plane to operate commercially

If your ideal world is one that's free of gas-guzzling jumbo jets, then you need look no further than hydrogen-powered planes.

As long as it is produced using green-friendly methods, hydrogen represents a sustainable source of energy that could

power aviation forever.

Such is the potential for hydrogen-powered flight that future generations may well look back at our fossil fuel consumption with horror, and understandably so.

Leading the aviation evolution are ZeroAvia and Universal Hydrogen, both of which are already carrying out test flights using hydrogen power.

The two companies are developing hydrogen engines that can be used on existing regional turboprop aircraft such as the Havilland Canada Dash-8, and both are already receiving orders.

Airbus is also investing in this technology and plans to bring the world's first hydrogen-powered commercial aircraft to the market by 2035.

Airbus is testing hydrogen powered turboprops too. Significantly, the planemaker is also developing an aircraft that will use a jet engine, but powered with hydrogen instead of fuel.

Space tourism



Jeff Foust

Space tourism is very much alive and kicking, with both Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic and Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin already proving that it remains viable.

As yet, though, tourist trips into space have been fleeting visits with passengers experiencing weightlessness for mere minutes.

However, the potential for growth is huge, and there will be enormous interest in the first company that can provide a space journey in which passengers can travel further and for much longer. Obviously, Virgin Galactic and Blue Origin are the current favorites to achieve this, but don't discount Elon Musk, who has his own plans in the pipeline for the next generation of space tourists.

5 things to know about the 2023 Dubai Airshow + discount ticket

Returning for its 18th edition, the Dubai Airshow will be held from 13th – 17th November 2023 at the Dubai World Central (DWC), Dubai Airshow Site.

The biennial event held at the Al Maktoum International Airport to the south of Dubai is set to welcome more than 1,400 exhibitors across the five days that it takes place. Not only is the event a place for those in the industry to network, but it also serves as a hub of regional aviation announcements, as well as showing off 180+ aircraft.

Special Discount for Registration

Dubai Airshow has provided Sam Chui's viewers with 15% off on registration fees.

Ticket price \$99.75 (before discount)

Your ticket is valid for all 5-days of the event

Access all Conference sessions

Register now with 15% Discount Promo Code SAMCHUI15 (enter it on the payment page to activate your discount.)

Dubai Airshow is a professional trade show but aviation enthusiasts (over 16 years old) are welcome to attend and explore with a ticket.

More than 100,000 visitors are expected

The 2021 edition of the Dubai Airshow was the first major airshow to take place following the COVID-19 pandemic (the Farnborough Air Show was canceled in 2020, and the Paris Air Show was canceled in 2021). Despite the travel restrictions that were still in place in late 2021, the airshow welcomed 104,165 visitors. With COVID-19 largely a memory now, it wouldn't come as a surprise if even more visitors attended the 2023 Dubai Airshow.

Interestingly, the airshow provides a detailed breakdown of its 2021 visitors with a focus on the sectors of aviation and the regions of the world that they originated from

Sectors	Regions		
Business & General	40%	Middle East & North Africa	68%
Aviation	28%	Europe	10%
Defence & Military	20%	The Americas	7%
Space	12%	Rest of the world	15%

What to Expect at Dubai Airshow 2023?

- 180+ Aircraft
- 1400+ Exhibitors
- 390 Delegations
- 20 Country Pavilions
- 80+ Start-ups
- 9 Conference tracks
- 300+ Speakers
- 80+ hours of content
- \$74 billion worth of orders placed in 2021

The Dubai Airshow often sees plenty of new aviation orders placed across all sectors of the industry. However, the most prominent are those to do with commercial aviation. At the 2021 airshow, more than \$74 billion worth of orders were added to order books, while \$6.1+ billion worth of military contracts were signed. Airbus left the last show with 404 orders, while Boeing clocked 101 orders.

Some of the highlights were,

Indigo Partners ordered 255 Airbus aircraft worth \$33 billion
Akasa Air ordered \$8 billion worth of aircraft from Boeing

Jazeera Airways ordered \$3.3+ billion worth of aircraft from Airbus

Nigeria's Ibom Air ordered 10 Airbus A220s worth \$900 million

Air Tanzania ordered \$726 million worth of Airbus aircraft

Anybody can see the daily flying display

Event organizers construct a grandstand outside of the airshow perimeter where members of the public are able to watch the entire flying display.

Called "Skyview at the Dubai Airshow", the grandstand also offers live music and meet and greets with pilots and astronauts. It is free entrance for the public at a street site adjacent to the airshow site.

Further information about the Skyview can be found on the Dubai Airshow Skyview Website. The area is open from 13:00-17:30, Monday to Friday, with flying taking place from 14:00-17:00.

180+ aircraft on display at the show

The 2023 Dubai Airshow is set to have more than 180 aircraft on display across the week, and so far, it looks as though the lineup won't disappoint.

Over 180 aircraft are expected to show up at this year's show. This year, aircraft from a range of sectors are expected to attend the airshow, including passenger planes, military jets, private

jets, and everything in between.

Some of the highlights of the line-up this year include,

Saudia is expected to bring aircraft in its new "retro look" livery

Startup Beond Airlines will be showing off its all-business class Airbus A319

Emirates will be bringing a full lineup of commercial and training aircraft

Opening Times

13th Nov 23 – 10:00 – 17:30

14th Nov 23 – 10:00 – 17:30

15th Nov 23 – 10:00 – 17:30

16th Nov 23 – 10:00 – 17:30

17th Nov 23 – 10:00 – 17:30

Airlines Confirmed for Dubai Airshow

Emirates Etihad flydubai

Qatar Airways

SAUDIA

Riyadh Air

Gulf Air

Egypt Air

Wizz Air

More Than Just an Airshow

The Dubai Airshow has evolved into more than just an airshow. Four conferences are co-located at the airshow, covering topics from nine different tracks across the five days of the show. The four co-located conferences are called Aerospace 2050, Aviation Mobility, Vista, and the Airworthiness and Safety Conference.

The conferences are set to cover the following themes across the week,,

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Aerospace 2050	Business & General		Space		Business & General
Aviation Mobility	Aviation & Military	Defence & Military	Aviation & Military		Business & General
Vista	Business & General				
Airworthiness & Safety Conference	Aerospace & Safety				

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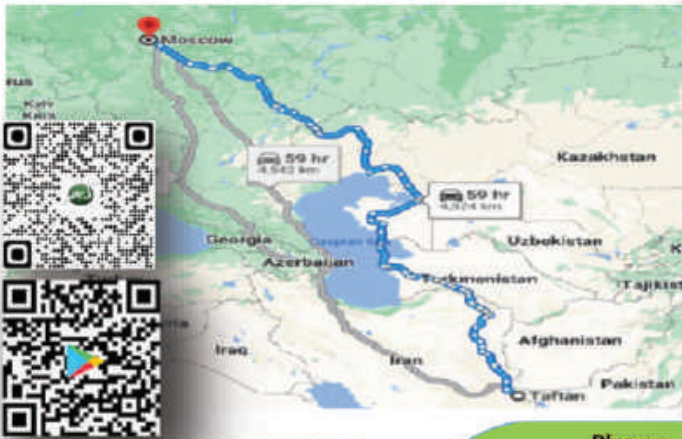
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Skycrapers in the sea - 'Det' Campaign

Prof. Safdar Sandal



“Dubai's Department of Economy and Tourism” (DET) has thrilled the family life in Pakistan by unveiling its latest campaign, given the interesting name “Chalo Dubai”. (come on; let's go to Dubai). The campaign is aimed at Pakistani tourist- travellers, accompanied by their children with the most attractive slogan that “Kids Go Free”. Beyond doubt it seems to be a great and a first-ever tourism attraction for any country and here it is meant for Pakistani families in special, which is a highly appreciable act. It is a great honour for the most enlightened people of Pakistan and an invitation unparalleled in the history of tourism. Desirous Pakistani families (and there are millions of them) who will be happy to avail off this opportunity offered by Dubai's 'DET'

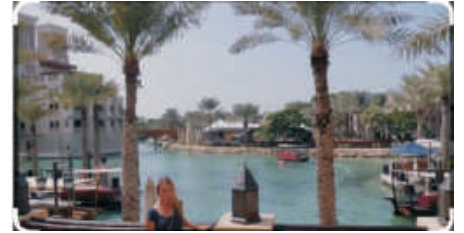
Department of Government-campaign which specially targets families with children. A unique touristic offer which deserves applause for 'DET' ; I am sure it will go a long way in fostering friendly contacts between people of the two countries. Naturally the children who are more curious, desirous and jubilant by nature, will feel more than happy and eager in compelling their parents to undertake this trip and parents cannot dare refuse and displease them. This is due to the rich cultural character of our Pakistani



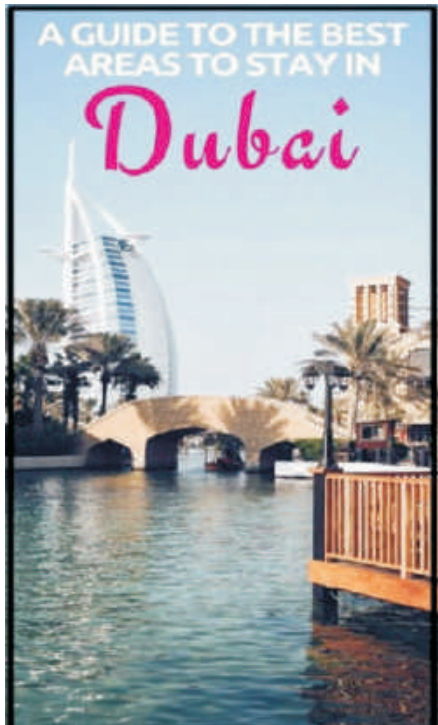
society. Unwilling parents will have to face difficulty after showing to their children, the following pictures of my article. To me too, these places seem to be in paradise imaginatively.

For the first time, the campaign video has been featuring Pakistani -actors speaking in Urdu and advertising the

campaign in a charming way. Very wisely estimated by the organizers that Dubai can be the most popular vacation point for Pakistan families, who will be more than happy for being offered a world-class accommodation and a variety of indoor and outdoor activities, full of entertainment during their whole stay. For the purpose, it is no less an honour too, that 'DET' has chosen Pakistani families as the best and ideal customer, because they are a jovial, friendly, civilized, a highly accommodating people. I say this because of my wide travelling experiences. Surely in the scribe's own



opinion, Pakistanis are one of the finest and festive people in the whole world. The campaign videos showcase Dubai city's unique experiences and highlight its affordability and family-friendly environment, making it an ideal holiday



destination beyond doubt, for the festive Pakistani visitors and especially so, when they are accompanied by their kids. 'The Kids Go Free' means a singular initiative alone, that allows families to explore Dubai's diverse attractions with numerous classic landmarks.

Coincidentally enough; back in 1979, a Punjabi film was produced in Pakistan which had the name 'Dubai Chalo' with Ali Ejaz (a humorist actor) as a desirous young man like every youth in Pakistan then, who wished to go to Dubai for work. The desire however scarcely materialized for all aspirants. But the dialogue of the film 'Dubai Chalo' (let us go to Dubai) became more popular among the joyful people of Pakistan. Punjabi films were very famous for their humour. I remember a great many people from Indian Punjab also used to come to Pakistan to see these Punjabi films. Very presumably the name "Chalo Dubai" for the current campaign organized by 'DET' is beautifully designed and derived from the said film "Dubai Chalo"; (let us pay a tribute to the producer of the film and Ali Ejaz, the humorist actor who played the main role).

The businessmen, mainly exporters of Sialkot and especially members of the 'Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry' had then decided to make an Airport in Sialkot by themselves on self-help basis, a maiden attempt because in Pakistan or in the known world, there has no other example of this type. 'Laissez fair' spirit as once practiced in France and England among the people of Sialkot is superb and after 10 to 12 year's hard struggle, an international airport was

erected with their own hard-earned money, invested in a 'Utopian' way, an activity which normally is performed by the State. But here it is the people of Sialkot who did it. Such an activity occurs once in a 'blue moon'. The idea to build an airport in Sialkot was conceived in the meeting of the 'Chamber' and as is rightly said, that the airport is the 'Brain Child of The SCCI' and the meetings to conceive such an idea do not take place every day, since a 'Blue Moon' comes only rarely in the skies. The idiom thus goes: 'Once in a blue moon'.



The Sialkot airport soon got operative with nearly a daily direct flight to and from Dubai. For the people of Sialkot and the whole surrounding region, it is a 'boon in disguise'. At present from Sialkot airport, we are having daily direct flights to Dubai and back, served by various Airlines.

Now the exhorting point of the story is: that 'Dubai's Department of Economy and Tourism' (DET) of UAE government has thrilled the blog by un **A shopping paradise**

The excursion called 'Kids Go Free' initiative allows families to explore Dubai's diverse attractions, including classic landmarks such as 'Dubai Fountain', 'Al-Burj Khalifa' and LEGOLAND Dubai Park, where there are numerous places which are located at

Dubai Parks and Resorts, as well as newer experiences like the 'Museum of the Future', AYA Universe, and the 'Sky Views Observatory', to name some. Moreover, children can take advantage of 'Complimentary Stays' by dining at a

range of beach properties, city hotels such as 'Atlantis', 'The Palm', 'Address Sky View', 'Sheraton Dubai Creek Hotel' and 'Towers' among many others attractions. Dubai offers excellent value-added options for families, found nowhere else. It is perhaps more than a 'Disney Land' close to us, with a three hours flying time.

Talking about the campaign, Bader Ali Habib, Head of South Asia, Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism, said: "Through this campaign, the first to be run in Urdu specifically to target the



Pakistani market, we want to showcase Dubai as the ultimate family vacation destination. Our 'Kids Go Free' initiative helps families to explore and experience Dubai's unparalleled offerings, making it more accessible and affordable than ever before. With growing demand for family-friendly experiences among Pakistani travellers, we aim to highlight Dubai's full range of attractions and activities for families, catering to a diverse range of preferences. We are confident that Dubai will exceed their expectations and provide them with unforgettable memories".

Dubai has been crowned undoubtedly as No.1 global destination in the 'Trip Advisor-Traveller's Choice Guide' and more information will come like told in my article in a rough shot **



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Pakistan, China commit to broaden CPEC horizons

Pakistan and China on Wednesday 18 Oct. agreed to expand the scope of the multibillion-dollar CPEC infrastructure project, which will now diversify to areas like industrial development, ICT, livelihood projects, mining and mineral exploration, and agriculture. Presently, the corridor is confined to road and rail connectivity and economic zones.

Both countries also signed an agreement on the strategic Main Line-1 (ML-1) rail project, the Ministry of Railways said.

Both sides also agreed to strengthen high-level dialogue and engagement besides deepening the political, economic, education, science and technology, cultural, and people-to-people relations.

The commitments came during Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar's meeting with the top Chinese leadership. Mr Kakar is in China to attend the 3rd Belt and Road Forum in Beijing.

According to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), bilateral ties were discussed in a meeting between Prime Minister Kakar and Chinese Premier Li Qiang on the sidelines of the conference.

The two leaders also witnessed the signing ceremony in which several memorandums of understanding (MoUs) and agreements were signed in the areas of commerce, communication and transport, including the Main Line-1 (ML-1) rail agreement, food security and research, media exchanges, space cooperation, urban sustainable development, capacity building, mineral development and industrial cooperation, climate change, vaccine development.

The United Energy Group of China and Pakistan Refinery Ltd signed an MoU for a \$1.5 billion investment to boost the refinery's production capacity. The agreement will help increase the PRL's petrol production capacity from 250,000 tonnes to 1.6 million tonnes and high-speed diesel from 600,000 tonnes to 2m tonnes.

ML-1

In Islamabad, Railways Secretary Syed Mazhar Ali Shah said in a statement that work on the ML-1 would kick off shortly. The rail project, whose cost has been revised downwards from \$9bn to \$6.7bn, will span 1,733 kilometres, connecting Peshawar to Karachi. Besides, the number of trains travelling to and from both cities could potentially

expand to 100.

The crucial agreement, signed in Beijing, would help transform Pakistan's entire transportation network, Mr Shah said. He hoped the rail project would propel Pakistan Railways' market share from 4pc to 20pc and create 20,000 jobs for technical experts.

'Shared prosperity'

During the meeting, Mr Kakar described the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as a project of immense significance for the world in terms of connectivity and shared prosperity.

As CPEC has crossed its 10-year mark, Mr Kakar hoped the project's next phase would uplift rural farmers, foster education, bolster small businesses, generate many jobs and alleviate poverty.

He said Pakistan's collaboration with China in the information technology sector and CPEC's green corridor would ensure modernisation, food security, and agricultural and environmental protection.

"This vision promotes cooperation, collective security, inclusive and sustainable development, and a balanced ecosystem as the only way to address global challenges," he said.

Prime Minister Kakar expressed confidence that Chinese investment in special economic zones (SEZs) would help diversify Pakistan's export basket and expand its industrial base.

Premier Li Qiang of China underlined the steady growth of bilateral cooperation and noted the positive momentum of CPEC projects. He hoped that leadership consensus would give a further boost to trade and economic relations between the two countries.

'Committed to working with China'

Earlier, in his address at the high-level event at the forum, Mr Kakar said Pakistan was committed to working with China and other regional partners in achieving the ideals of an open global economy and promoting connectivity on a trans-continental scale.

"With shared responsibility and by

embracing the vision of working together, we can create a brighter, peaceful, and sustainable future for ourselves and for our generations," he was quoted as saying.

Mr Kakar said Pakistan endorsed China's global connectivity vision and looked forward to joining hands with other partners across borders and regions to materialise the projects.

"I am hopeful that together we can shape a world with the bonds that unite us together, rather than the forces that divide us," he said.

The prime minister said the world faced several challenges, including post-Covid effects, the divide between the developed and the impoverished, peace, and food security.

CPEC had played a crucial role in generating new economic opportunities in Pakistan, he said and endorsed the Chinese proposal for developing CPEC as a corridor of growth, innovation, livelihood, green economy, openness, and inclusiveness.

PM Kakar underlined the need for a united global response to address complex transnational challenges faced by humankind and to prevent backsliding on the gains achieved under the UN Sustainable Development Goals and 2030 Agenda.

He emphasised the need for the urgency of addressing infrastructure gaps in the developing world by investing in transportation, energy, and the digital economy.

In Pakistan, he said CPEC's 50 projects worth \$25bn investment helped create modern highways, seaports, airports, and rapid mass transit systems.

The government of Pakistan, he said, had taken steps to make the country a trade hub by connecting Gwadar with the landlocked countries, thus opening new vistas to the west and beyond.



South China Sea: Journalists onboard a Philippines Coast Guard ship take photos of a Chinese Coast Guard vessel, during a resupply mission for troops stationed at a grounded Philippines ship, in the disputed water way on Friday. The Philippines intentionally grounded the warship in 1999 as part of its sovereignty claim. Several sailors live on board the ship and Manila sends out regular missions to provide them with supplies.

China committed to CPEC, regional peace, Xi assures Kakar

Pakistan and China on Thursday 19 Oct. reiterated their resolve to further cement their partnership for a shared future and benefit of their peoples, with caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar saying Islamabad would not allow anything to undermine the strategic partnership with Beijing.

Both sides renewed this pledge during a delegation-level meeting between caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar and Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Great Hall.

According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), President Xi said China was ready to carry forward the traditional friendship and deepen the bilateral partnership with Pakistan. He also assured that China was committed to the CPEC and peace in the region.

PM Kakar called the bilateral partnership "made in heaven", saying Pakistan "blindly trusted China" and that the country would not "allow anything to undermine the bilateral strategic partnership".

In his opening remarks, he said Pakistan firmly supported the 'One-China Policy' and added Islamabad would not budge on its relationship with China. He said eight proposals President Xi had put forth at the forum "were actually a roadmap for not just physical connectivity but also an important stabilising factor in international order". He said the Belt and Road Initiative was a "pragmatic" and "practical" answer to the global challenges.

'Multi-faceted ties'

Following his meeting with Mr Xi, PM Kakar tweeted that "various dimensions of the multi-faceted Pakistan-China relationship" were discussed at the meeting.

"...I underscored that Pakistan would continue working with China to promote regional connectivity and economic development and to make Gwadar as a connectivity hub and for the socio-economic development of Pakistan."

He said President Xi reassured that China would continue supporting Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity and development, and would continue

supporting Islamabad in harnessing its geo-economic potential. "I also extended an invitation to President Xi to visit Pakistan at his earliest convenience, which he graciously accepted," he added.

Meeting with Chinese entrepreneurs PM Kakar also encouraged China's corporate executives to explore the vast investment potential of Pakistan.

The caretaker prime minister said this in a meeting with a number of Chinese corporate executives on the sidelines of the Third Belt and Road Forum here.

The CEOs and executives of Chinese enterprises included Minmetals, MCC, China Communication Construction Company, China Road and Bridge Corporation, Amer International Group, Power China, China Energy and China Gezhouba Group.

Sharing Pakistan's vision for sustainable and inclusive development, he outlined Pakistan's investor-friendly policies, including the establishment of the Special Investment Facilitation Council, which will act as a one-window platform to facilitate foreign investment.

He encouraged China's corporate executives to explore the vast investment potential of Pakistan, especially in ICT, agriculture, renewable energy, textile, digital economy and, mining and minerals sectors.

Later, the caretaker premier visited Urumqi..

Gwadar port will be functional soon: Domki

The Gwadar port will be operational soon and its commissioning will give a fillip to business and trade activities, Balochistan's caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Domki said on Tuesday 26 Sep.

Talking to journalists during his visit to Gwadar, he said the port was already being used for Afghan transit trade thanks to its strategic location.

The chief minister said a below-average rainfall this year had accentuated the problem of drinking water in Gwadar.

"The administration and the public are consuming drinking water with extreme care," he said.

About power supply from Iran, Mr Domki said the arrangement malfunctions only for two months. "It works smoothly the rest of the year," Mr Domki added.

The chief minister later chaired a meeting to review the pace of work on development projects. He visited the GDA hospital and the Fisheries Department.

Referring to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, Mr Domki said work was in full swing on all projects so that they could spur economic activities.



Slovenian pilots sit in an electric aircraft powered by liquid hydrogen before a flight, recently..

Pak Suzuki ventures into export market

Pak Suzuki Motor Company Ltd (PSMCL) chief executive Hiroshi Kawamura has said the company is working on the export of their cars which have been upgraded to many WP-29 standards besides work is also going on hybrid variants.

Addressing the second round of interaction meetings with the auto part makers under the banner of PSMCL, he said economic issues were transitory and the company is committed to providing affordable vehicles to Pakistani customers.

According to a press release issued by the Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts and Accessories Manufacturers (PAAPAM), there was a total consensus in the meeting to promote localisation and go global.

Mr Kawamura underlined the need to join their efforts together and take stock of the escalating crisis collectively for the automotive industry. He remarked that they firmly believed that nothing could be achieved without the local partners.

PAAPAM Senior Vice Chairman Usman Aslam Malik diagnosed the non-availability of primary raw materials, lack of technology, and low level of localisation as the core issues.

While stressing the need to attain an economy of scale to develop affordability for the common person, he said. "We must contemplate why we are still below 0.3 million in production of vehicles," he added.

He placed a thought-provoking question before the fraternity that the frequent introduction of variants was also a great barrier to localisation. Even the economies much more robust than Pakistan did not have such frequency of variants.

He urged the local assemblers to share their non-localised list of vendors with PAAPAM to promote localisation. Mr Usman also emphasised exploring the export-after-market for engine and transmission parts, which had a high replaceability rate.

He assured its complete support to OEMs for exporting parts through a global

supply chain for a dealership-based replacement parts network. The recently introduced Export Facilitation Scheme, replacing the old cumbersome DTRE by the Government, opened up many new cost-cutting venues for the global supply chain regarding duties and tax exemption. It's up to us to respond to these moves to get regional competitiveness.

Stocks rise as GSP+ extension lifts sentiment

PAKISTAN STOCK EXCHANGE									
THE TOP FLYERS					ACTIVITY				
WINNERS	LOSERS	LEADERS	ACTIVITY	WINNERS	LOSERS	LEADERS	ACTIVITY	WINNERS	LOSERS
Wapda Power	28.00	Wahid Steel	41.00	Wahid Steel	38.5	Wahid Steel	38.5	Wahid Steel	38.5
Wahid Steel	38.20	Pakistan Engineering	26.00	Pakistan Engineering	26.5	Pakistan Engineering	26.5	Pakistan Engineering	26.5
Pakistan Engineering	34.77	Wahid Steel	22.94	Wahid Steel	22.94	Wahid Steel	22.94	Wahid Steel	22.94
Pakistan Engineering	27.28	Wahid Steel	22.27	Wahid Steel	22.27	Wahid Steel	22.27	Wahid Steel	22.27
Wahid Steel	23.00	Wahid Steel	18.00	Wahid Steel	18.00	Wahid Steel	18.00	Wahid Steel	18.00

Share prices rose on the Pakistan Stock Exchange recently despite a selloff in the early hours of trading.

Topline Securities Ltd said the KSE-100 index slid into the red zone in the early part of the session but buying interest resumed in the last hour, letting the benchmark close on the higher side.

The sell-off in the initial hours could be attributed to an uptick in international oil prices against the backdrop of the Middle East crisis, which has turned into a full-blown war between Israel and Hamas.

Arif Habib Corporation analyst Ahsan Mehanti said the stock market closed on a bullish note amid the ongoing rupee recovery and an expected surge in exports following the four-year extension in the country's GSP+ status.

As a result, the KSE-100 index settled at 47,721.80 points, up 228.23 points or 0.48 per cent from the preceding session.

The overall trading volume decreased 5.1pc to 233.6 million shares. The traded value decreased 1.5pc on a day-on-day basis to Rs7bn.

Stocks contributing significantly to the traded volume included K-Electric Ltd (38.5m shares), WorldCall Telecom Ltd (25.2m shares), Pakistan International

Airlines Corporation Ltd (12.3m shares), Pak Elektron Ltd (8.7m shares) and Telecard Ltd (8.4m shares).

Companies registering the biggest increases in their share prices in absolute terms were Sapphire Fibres Ltd (Rs38.95), Siemens Pakistan Engineering Ltd (Rs35.25), Philip Morris Pakistan Ltd (Rs30.77), Pakistan Hotels Developers Ltd (Rs27.68) and Bata Pakistan Ltd (Rs25).

Companies that recorded the biggest declines in their share prices in absolute terms were Mehmood Textile Mills Ltd (Rs41.25), Pakistan Engineering Company Ltd (Rs26.96), JDW Sugar Mills Ltd (Rs22.64), Khyber Tobacco Company Ltd (Rs22.37) and Colgate-Palmolive Pakistan Ltd (Rs16.05).

Foreign investors were net sellers as they offloaded shares worth \$1.16m.

GSP+ status extended for four years

The European Parliament on Thursday 5 Oct. unanimously voted to extend the current generalised system of preferences (GSP) for another four years until 2027 for developing countries, including Pakistan, to enjoy duty-free or minimum duty on exports to the European market.

The parliament voted with 561 in favour, five against and two in abstention to extend the current rules on the GSP schemes, including GSP+, after talks with the EU Council on the new rules were paused in June, an official statement issued by the EU Parliament said.

In September this year, the INTA Committee, a trade body of the EU Parliament, approved the extension of GSP schemes for 60 developing countries+.

Caretaker Commerce Minister Gohar Ejaz told media that the decision will ensure that Pakistani exporters can keep selling their goods to the EU market with certainty. He said the EU is a major market for Pakistani exporters, adding that all schemes under GSP were extended for four years.

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CM Sindh calls for working towards sustainable tourism

Caretaker Chief Minister retired Justice Maqbool Baqar on Wednesday 27 Sep. said that the province was blessed with abundant wind and solar energy resources and the provincial government was actively promoting green investments in renewable energy to power sustainable tourism infrastructure.

Speaking at a programme organised by the culture and tourism department to celebrate World Tourism Day at Mohatta Palace, he said: "This will reduce our carbon footprint and create jobs in the clean energy sector."

He urged all stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society and citizens, to join hands in the journey towards sustainable tourism.

Addressing the participants, Governor Kamran Tessori also underlined the need to promote tourism in the province and the country.

Speaking on the occasion, US Deputy Consul General Jimmy Mauldin

said World Tourism Day was celebrated every year on Sept 27.

"It's a very unique opportunity to raise awareness on tourism's actual and potential contribution to sustainable development," he added.

The US diplomat said that the theme for celebration — tourism and green investment — also aligned with one of the United States' key objectives of advancing the US-Pakistan green alliance framework.

"Under this framework, we are working with Pakistan to address shared climate and environmental challenges," he added.

For example, he said, the United States was supporting the government of Pakistan's efforts to utilise renewable resources for generating 60 per cent of electricity by the year 2030.

Tourism Minister Arshad Wali Muhammad said that they should not only appreciate the wonders that the world offers, but also dive deep into the rich

tapestry of heritage and culture that Sindh brought to the global image.

Mr Wali said the province's historic architecture, from the majestic Ranikot Fort to the elegantly detailed Shah Jahan Mosque, stood as a testament to its vibrant past.

The minister said that destinations like Sindh, rich in culture and heritage, were not just visited, but deeply experienced.

**The Impact of
World Tourism
Day 27 Sep. 2023**

World Tourism Day has had a significant impact on the tourism industry since its inception in 1980. By raising awareness about the importance of tourism and its impact on the global economy, cultural exchange, and environmental sustainability, World Tourism Day has played a key role in promoting tourism as a force for good.

Message by Arshad Wali Muhammad -Minister for Tourism, Environment and Climate Change Govt of Sindh

As we celebrate World Tourism Day 27 Sep. 2023 I am filled with pride and optimism for the future of tourism in Sindh. This year's theme, "Tourism and Green investment," resonates deeply with our vision for sustainable and responsible tourism.

Despite the challenges we've faced, including the floods last year, the spirit of Sindh's tourism remains unbroken. Our historical and cultural treasures continue to attract visitors from around the world.

Today, we recommit ourselves to reviving and enhancing our tourism sites, making them more accessible for local and international tourists. We understand the importance of preserving our environment for future generations, and "green investment" is at the core of our strategy.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all those who have contributed to our tourism sector - from local communities

to international explorers of Sindh. Your support is invaluable.

Let's work together to ensure that Sindh's heritage, brighter on the global stage. Together, we will strengthen Sindh's presence as a must-visit destination.

Happy World Tourism Day!



Senate panel turns down Saudi proposal to reduce Haj operators

The Senate Standing Committee on Religious Affairs rejected on Monday 25 Sep. a proposal from Saudi authorities to reduce the number of Haj operators from 905 to 46, starting this year.

The committee was informed about a recent letter from Saudi Arabia, which suggested the reduction in the number of Haj operators for Pakistan.

Briefing the meeting, the caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed stated that Saudi Arabia intends to provide improved facilities to pilgrims, and in this regard, a letter has been sent to all Muslim countries.

However, after discussions, Senate Committee Chairman Senator Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri recommended that an exception should be made for Haj operators for the year 2024.

Plans QR-coded suitcases, special scarves for women pilgrims in Haj 2024

He suggested that the proposed number of operators by the Saudi government should be increased to 100.

The committee was briefed on the ministry's preparations for the 2024 Haj.

During the discussion of the Road to Makkah Project, Mr Ahmed mentioned that the ministry is in negotiations with the Saudi government to expand the Road to Makkah Project, which is currently available at Islamabad airport, to Karachi and Lahore.

He further commented that the expansion is intended to accommodate more Hajis through the project.

The caretaker minister also stated that the ministry aims to introduce suitcases with QR codes and specially designed scarves for females in 2024, making it easier to identify Haj pilgrims from Pakistan.

The Senate body received a briefing from the ministry regarding the recent Haj in 2023. Officials reported that the Haj quota for 2023 was 179,210, with an equal division between the government and private sectors.

Officials informed the committee that 21,244 complaints related to food,

accommodation and transportation were received during the 2023 Haj, and all of these issues were resolved.

Senator Haideri directed that training sessions should also be arranged for Hajis to instill a sense of discipline and

cleanliness among the pilgrims.

The meeting was attended by Senators Gurdeep Singh, Maulvi Faiz Muhammad, Anwar Lal Dean, Prof Sajid Mir, Naseebullah Bazai, Hafiz Abdul Karim, and Haji Hidayatullah Khan.

Over 500 tourism projects recorded in Asia-Pacific region between 2018-2022: report

The World Tourism Organisation (WTO) of the United Nations has said 517 tourism foreign direct investment projects were recorded in the Asia-Pacific region between 2018 and 2022, representing \$65.1 billion capital investment and creating more than 105,600 jobs.

World Tourism Day being celebrated on Wednesday 27 Sep. says following a decline in 2020 and 2021, the number of announced projects in the region increased marginally by 2.4pc to 42 projects in 2022.

Job creation in the region peaked in 2018, with more than 49,000 jobs created and fell to its lowest in 2021, when approximately 4,300 jobs were created through tourism FDI. The number of jobs created from tourism-related investments increased by 6pc from 2021 to 2022.

China attracted the highest number of tourism FDI projects between 2018 and 2022, receiving 79 announced projects - 15pc of the total market share in the region. China peaked for tourism FDI in 2019, with 30 announced projects, yet inbound project numbers have steadily declined since then.

India attracted three times more tourism FDI projects in 2022 than it did in 2021, and ranked as the top destination country in the region last year.

Foreign investors announced a total of 2,415 foreign direct investment (FDI) projects in the tourism cluster between 2018 and 2022. These projects involved a total capital investment of \$175.5 billion and created an estimated 388,000 jobs.

While international travel continues to rebound from the coronavirus pandemic, the number of greenfield foreign direct investment (FDI) projects in the tourism cluster started its tentative recovery in 2022 after posting declines in both 2020 and 2021.

FDI project numbers and job creation in the tourism cluster grew by 23pc from 286 investments in 2021 to 352 in 2022. Job creation in tourism FDI over the period also increased by 23pc to an estimated 36,400 in 2022.

As one of the areas of FDI most affected by the coronavirus pandemic,

tourism has taken a long time to recover from the initial shock of 2020 - when the sector experienced a 59pc year-on-year decrease in the number of projects, dropping to 312. Capital investment in the sector also experienced a 70pc decrease, with estimated capital investment dropping from \$60.9 billion to \$18.2 billion.

The US was the largest recipient of tourism FDI between 2018 and 2022 with 198 projects, followed by the UK (160), Spain (133) and Germany (133). The top 10 countries for tourism FDI attraction accounted for nearly half (47pc) of all announced tourism projects globally between 2018 and 2022.

Capital investment in the sector totalled \$175.5 billion between 2018 and 2022 with Spain being the leading recipient (\$19.4 billion), followed by China (\$11.5 billion) and the Philippines (\$11.1 billion). Job creation in tourism FDI was highest in Mexico between 2018 and 2022 with an estimated 31,000 jobs created in the sector, followed by China (22,130) and Spain (20,590).

The hotel and tourism sector accounted for almost two-thirds of all projects in the tourism cluster between 2018 and 2022. Foreign direct investment (FDI) project numbers increased by 25pc from 2021 to 2022. However, capital investment in the hotel and tourism sector declined from \$48.9 billion in 2018 to \$7.8 billion in 2022.

Between 2018 and 2022, accommodation remained the largest sub-sector of tourism FDI globally, accounting for more than half (51pc) of all FDI projects. More than 70pc of capital investment (\$126.8 billion) and job creation (270,000) in the tourism cluster was generated by the accommodation sub-sector during the same period.

Software and IT services were the second-largest sector for tourism FDI projects between 2018 and 2022. Its share of global FDI tourism projects grew from 10pc in 2018 to 16pc in 2020, 22pc in 2021 and 28pc in 2022, indicating the sector's resilience and its ongoing shift towards digitisation.



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Amadeus signs PSS deal with Vietnam Airlines



Amadeus signed an agreement with Vietnam Airlines to take advantage of its enhanced passenger service system (PSS) technology. The contract builds on an existing distribution partnership between the two organisations and will see the airline overhaul its digital solutions. The agreement aligns with Vietnam Airlines' long-term strategic goals to improve operational efficiency and become a digital airline by 2025.

Following the signing, the Vietnamese flag-carrier will deploy the Amadeus Altéa PSS solution, equipping it with advanced travel technology. Vietnam Airlines will join a community of over 200 airlines using Amadeus PSS technology worldwide, positively shaping its operations and passenger experiences.

Additionally, the carrier will deploy Altéa NDC, helping it to distribute rich content and fares through NDC connectivity across channels therefore creating tailored offers for passengers by using digital merchandising.

According to figures from the International Air Transport Association (IATA), Vietnam is the fifth fastest growing aviation market in the world, with 150 million passengers expected annually by 2035. Currently welcoming 40 percent of domestic passengers, and expanding rapidly internationally, Vietnam Airlines is well-positioned to capitalize on this anticipated growth.

Javier Laforgue, Executive Vice President, Travel Unit & Managing Director, Asia Pacific, Amadeus said: "We are very excited to partner with Vietnam Airlines, embarking with it on its transformation journey. Amadeus offers airline new technologies, and we are confident that our PSS, digital, offer, order and data driven solutions will help Vietnam Airlines to achieve its business objectives."

Pakistan to digitise Haj operations by 2024

The Ministry of Information Technology and the Ministry of Religious Affairs on Wednesday 27 Sep. finalised the mechanism to digitise the Haj operation from next year.

The decision was taken at a meeting of a special committee, which was co-chaired by caretaker IT minister Dr Umar Saif and caretaker minister for religious affairs Aneeq Ahmed. The committee was constituted on the prime minister's directives.

At the meeting, Mr Ahmed highlighted the need to upgrade the existing system related to Haj operations, and stressed for adopting technology in day-to-day affairs. He said it would not only help the authorities to respond to any complaint but help the system to obtain genuine feedback from the pilgrims.

The meeting was briefed by officials concerned about the system used so far in Haj operations. The participants of the meeting noted that digitisation of the Haj operation would help the pilgrims obtain information regarding relevant developments and even allow the authorities to address the complaints at the earliest.

Mr Saif said that as per the directives of the PM, a smartphone application and web portal would be developed while the whole Haj operation would be digitised to have independent reviews from the pilgrims.

The phone application for the Haj pilgrims would be built on similar lines as the leading platforms in dealing with housing and hospitality businesses.

The application will help the pilgrims to give their feedback digitally regarding Haj operations and facilities.

Mr Saif directed the National Information Technology Board (NITB) to upgrade the existing system of Haj operations, in coordination with the relevant officers of the Ministry of Religious Affairs to monitor the system.

Later in another development the Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong called on Mr Saif at his office and discussed how Pakistan can benefit from Chinese technology.

They also discussed how China could

help Pakistan move forward in emerging domains of electric vehicles and batteries, chip manufacturing and telecom infrastructure.

They also talked about how Pakistani IT firms and start-ups could tap into the huge Chinese market and how Pakistani academia could collaborate with world-class varsities in China.

US announces steps to curtail visa wait time for Pakistanis

The United States mission to Pakistan announced on Tuesday 19 Sep. measures to bring down the wait time for visa appointments for Pakistanis, revealing that the demand for US visas is the highest it has ever been.

More than 10,000 Pakistani visa applicants originally scheduled for 2024 at the US Consulate-General in Karachi are now receiving notices that their appointments have been rescheduled in 2023, some as early as next week, the US Embassy in Islamabad says in a press release.

The US mission advised applicants that if they have a visa appointment in the next few months at the US Consulate-General in Karachi, they could check their e-mails and login to their accounts at US mission's website to confirm their expedited appointment time.

The second measure announced by the US mission is to create added flexibility for Pakistani travellers, visa applicants can rebook appointments at either the Consulate-General in Karachi or US Embassy in Islamabad — whichever works best for them. The mission hopes that this will allow applicants more freedom and flexibility to find a convenient date, time and location.

"We are processing more visa applications than ever before, as we have expedited thousands of non-immigrant visa appointments," the US Embassy said.

Another good news for Pakistani travellers to the United States is that starting on September 25, the US Consulate-General in Karachi will begin accepting new interview waiver applications for some applicants who have previously been issued US visas.

Applicants can check ustraveldocs.com/pk to determine whether they are eligible, print out a confirmation letter, and submit their application materials to a drop box without the need for an appointment.

PATA: International arrivals across the Asia Pacific grew in 2022 and strengthened significantly during the early periods of 2023

After a series of annual contractions in international visitor arrivals (IVAs) in recent years, calendar year 2022 saw 44 destinations across the Asia Pacific region end with a collective annual gain of almost 124.2 million foreign arrivals, to return a collective inbound count of nearly 265.5 million, according to a report released today by the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA). The 'Annual Tourism Monitor 2023' report, released today, shows that IVA numbers in 2022 were the strongest since 2019 and, as such, herald the much-awaited resurgence of the international travel and tourism sector for the Asia Pacific.

Infographic 1: Aggregate IVAs into/across Asia Pacific destinations, 2018-2022



There were wide differences at the three Asia Pacific destination region levels. The Pacific had the strongest growth rate in 2022 year-over-year, whereas Asia received both the largest number of arrivals and the greatest annual increase in absolute numbers from 2021.

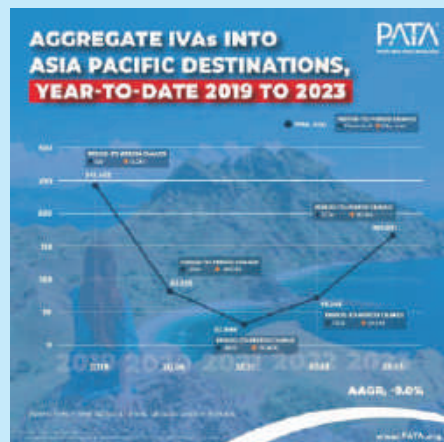


Infographic 2: IVAs into/across Asia Pacific destination regions, 2022

Even so, the number of IVAs into and across Asia in 2022 reached only 27% of 2019 levels. The Americas had the strongest recovery in that regard, with 69%, followed by the Pacific, with over 57%.

These are generally very positive results, but even more heartening are those for the early periods of 2019 to 2023, where the strengthening of international arrival numbers which began in the first periods of 2022, continued in early 2023.

Infographic 3: Aggregate IVAs into Asia Pacific destinations, year-to-date 2019 to 2023

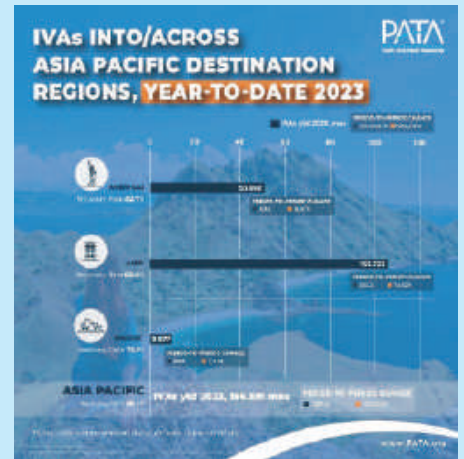


Every year-to-date figure is consistent for each of the 38 destinations with early period arrivals data and their respective months covered between 2019 and 2023. This data therefore gives a solid indication of how arrival numbers into and across Asia Pacific are trending over time.

The IVA growth that began in early 2022 has gained momentum in early 2023, with the addition of more than 93.3 million foreign arrivals, a volume increase of more than double compared to the previous period. This has boosted the recovery rate for early 2023 to more than 68% of the early 2019 IVA levels.

Infographic 4: IVAs into/across Asia Pacific destination regions, year-to-date 2023

Although Asia may have been slower in returning to growth up until 2022, the early 2023 figures show a very powerful return to dominance in the Asia Pacific mix of arrivals. Asia had the strongest

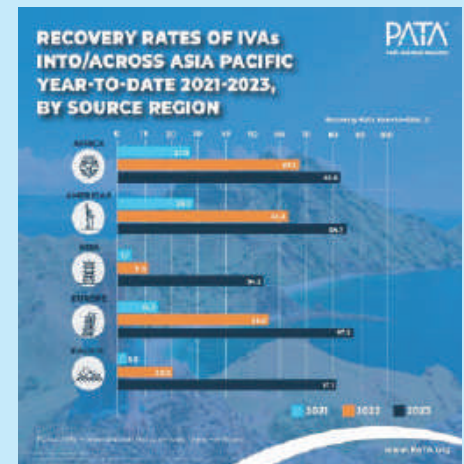


performance of the three destination regions against the metrics of IVAs year-to-date, period-to-period growth rate and period-to-period increase in absolute numbers of IVAs. Even the recovery rate for Asia, while still the lowest at 62.4%, is a 35 percentage point improvement over calendar year 2022 and is only six percentage points below the Asia Pacific average.

Of particular interest is the mix of source markets fuelling these recovery rates. Most source regions have achieved recovery rates above 80% in early 2023. The exception is Asia, which has improved its arrival numbers for the Asia Pacific to just a little over 52%.

Infographic 5: Recovery rates of IVAs into/across Asia Pacific year-to-date 2021-2023, by source region

That raises a critical issue because in 2019, Asia was the dominant supplier of international visitor arrivals to the Asia Pacific, accounting for nearly 63% of total



arrivals in the region. Therefore, any decline in those source markets poses an obvious challenge for the Asia Pacific as a whole.

Although Asia's recovery rate as a source region in early 2023 is relatively low, at just over 54%, it marks a dramatic improvement of almost 43 percentage points compared to early 2022. This demonstrates significant growth momentum, and the results for the full calendar year 2023 are eagerly awaited.

Among all the source markets in the Asia Pacific region, mainland China is understandably the most significant in terms of volume. In 2019, it accounted for almost 30% of the IVAs from Asia and 19% of the total aggregate visitor numbers to Asia Pacific destinations.

In early 2023, visitor numbers from mainland China saw a dramatic increase, surpassing 23 million. This marks the strongest early-period performance since early 2019. However, it still represents only 34% of the early 2019 level of arrivals. With the recent relaxation of restrictions and the reintroduction of group travel, a significant improvement can be expected by the end of calendar year 2023.

PATA Chairman Peter Semone, noted that "the overall growth in international visitor arrivals within the Asia Pacific is primarily fueled by Asia, serving as both a source and destination region, with mainland China playing a dominant role in visitor flows."

Mr. Semone added, "Visitor growth from China has been relatively subdued until now. However, with the relaxation of most pandemic-imposed restrictions, we can now expect rapid change. Experience shows us that when change occurs in China, it is both rapid and impactful. The question, however, is whether the destinations in Asia Pacific are prepared, as change involves not only an increase in visitor numbers but also evolving expectations and demands from these visitors."

Peter concluded that, "PATA forecasts of visitor demand indicate that, under the medium scenario, international visitor numbers by the end of 2023 are predicted to exceed 516 million, approaching 76% of the pre-pandemic levels of 2019. This is expected to further increase to 107% in 2024 and 116% in 2025. The wave is coming, and we must prepare ourselves to ensure that we have a better, stronger and more resilient tourism and travel industry."

Pakistani space tourist comes back down to Earth



Passengers aboard VSS Unity peer out the windows as they experience weightlessness during their suborbital flight, on Friday 6 Oct.

The first Pakistani woman into space on Friday 6 Oct. taking Namira Salim to the final frontier alongside two other travellers.

This was Virgin's fourth commercial spaceflight. British advertising executive Trevor Beattie and American astronomy educator Ron Rosano were the two other passengers.

Galactic 04 set off from Spaceport America in New Mexico, at 1540 GMT (8:10pm Pakistan time) when Virgin Galactic's VSS Unity space plane lifted off beneath the wings of its carrier craft, known as Virgin Mothership (VMS) Eve.

Eve carried Unity high into the New Mexico skies, ultimately releasing the space plane at roughly 1624 GMT at an altitude of around 45,000 feet (13,700 metres). Unity then fired up its onboard rocket motor, powering its way to suborbital space.

"Release, release, release! Virgin Spaceship (VSS) Unity has successfully released from our mothership Virgin Mother Ship (VNS) Eve and ignited the rocket motor," the company announced on its X account.

According to Virgin, the craft attained an apogee of 54.3 miles from the surface of the Earth, and hit a top speed of Mach 2.95 (nearly three times the speed of sound) during its short trip.

A photo released by the company showed passengers peering out the windows while floating around weightless.

The flight ended at 12:43pm EDT (1643 GMT), when Unity finally touched down at Spaceport America.

Commander Kelly Latimer and Pilot CJ Sturckow flew VSS Unity. Also aboard was Chief Astronaut Instructor Beth

Moses. Commander Nicola Pecile and pilot Jameel Janjua managed the cockpits of VMS Eve. Jameel Janjua is a Pakistani-Canadian.

Namira Salim is Virgin Galactic's Astronaut 019. She is a self-described world traveller, entrepreneur and artist with a diverse background in space engagement.

Before take-off, she wrote on her Twitter account that Virgin Galactic's founder Richard Branson had wished her a successful flight. "Proud to use the same Astronaut suite (sic) to suit up and ready my Spaceflight gear, as the one used by Richard Branson in July 2021," she added.

On Friday 6 Oct., Pakistan's ambassador to the US, Masood Khan, also congratulated Namira Salim on her feat, saying: "Because of you our nation flag fluttered in space today."

Iran issues visas to 80,000 Karachiites annually

Iranian Consul General in Karachi Hassan Nourian on Saturday 21 Oct. called on the caretaker CM and discussed with him issues pertaining to mutual interest.

The diplomat informed the CM that Iran issued around 80,000 visas every year only in Karachi.

He said that around 4,500 Iranian students were studying in India because it was easy to get educational visa from New Delhi.

However, he said, it was very difficult for Iranian students to get Pakistani visa due to which only over a dozen students were studying here.

Justice Baqar said that he would approach the federal government for liberalising the visa regime for Iranian students and also to allow them to open accounts in Pakistani banks.

The CM and Iranian diplomat strongly condemned the Israeli aggression in Gaza and West Bank.

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Pakistani couple makes history by summiting Nepal peak



AHMED Uzair and Anum Uzair snapped during their ascent.

Lahore-based Ahmed Uzair and Anum Uzair have become the first Pakistani couple to have summited the world's eighth-highest peak Manaslu — 8,163 metres tall — in Nepal on Sunday 24 Sep.

According to mountaineering company Seven Summit Treks, which spearheaded the climb, the husband-wife duo successfully climbed the peak on Sunday 24 Sep. along with three Sherpas.

Alpine Club of Pakistan Secretary Karrar Haidri told media that the duo "have created history" by becoming the first Pakistani couple to summit the peak.

"Pakistan feels incredibly proud of this outstanding accomplishment by Ahmed and Anum," he said.

Pakistani climber Shehroze Kashif, who himself summited Manaslu recently, also congratulated the couple.

Both Mr and Mrs Uzair are avid trekkers and explorers, with a remarkable climbing record that includes scaling Minglik Sar (6,050 metres) in Shimshal Valley of Hunza and the Hisper (5,246m) peak in Nagar.

The couple, who are parents of two children, have now become the first Pakistani couple to achieve the remarkable feat of conquering an 8,000-metre peak.

Mr Uzair practises law as a barrister, while Ms Anum is a forensic doctor. After successfully summiting their first eight-thousander, they have ambitious plans to conquer more peaks in future.

Mountaineers and members of civil society have extended their congratulations to the couple for their triumphant summit and prayed for their safe return.

On Thursday 21 Sep., Pakistani climbers Naila Kiani and Sirbaz Khan had successfully completed the ascent of Manaslu peak.

The two climbers had commenced their summit attempt on Wednesday 20

Sep. from camp 3.

Ms Kiani also became the first Pakistani woman to have conquered nine out of the 14 highest mountains in the world with her Manaslu summit.

Babusar Pass closed after unexpected snowfall



Babusar Top is covered in white after receiving an early snowfall.

Closed for traffic earlier than usual in the wake of snowfall, officials said on Saturday 14 Oct.

Diامر Deputy Commissioner Arif Ahmed told media that the route has been temporarily closed and can reopen only if the weather improves and snow clears.

The route is usually closed for vehicular traffic for eight months from November to June due to sub-zero temperatures and the traffic is diverted to the Karakoram Highway.

"It depends on the weather. The pass is usually closed in November after heavy snowfall and when it is freezing," Mr Ahmed said.

The closure of Babusar Pass comes after dozens of travellers, including tourists, were stranded following recent snowfall.

The stranded tourists were rescued and shifted to the Chilas city, the capital of

Gilgit-Baltistan's Diamer division.

The temperature at Babusar Top usually dips below minus 15 degrees Celsius at night and police patrolling becomes difficult in harsh winter.

The unavailability of security on the KP side from Babusar Top to Naran and slippery roads are other reasons behind the prolonged closure of the road.

The journey from Diamer to Mansehra takes seven hours through Babusar Pass; covering the same distance through the Karakoram Highway takes 14 hours.

Tourists visiting Gilgit-Baltistan prefer to travel through Babusar Pass to enjoy the weather and breathtaking sights.

Tribute paid to martyrs of 1965 war

The city district administration on Wednesday 6 Sep. organised a Defence Day ceremony to pay tribute to the martyrs of 1965 war between India and Pakistan.

The ceremony was marked by the unfurling of the Hilal Istiqlal Flag, one minute of silence, and a heartfelt tribute to the nation's martyrs.

The day began with a siren sounding across the city, a somber reminder of the sacrifices made by the brave men and women in defense of Pakistan. As the nation observed one minute's silence, it served as a moment of reflection and remembrance for those who laid down their lives for the country.

The ceremony featured stirring performances by the police band and school bands, who presented a beautiful salute to honor the occasion. Scouts and Civil Defence personnel raised powerful slogans of 'Allahu Akbar' alongside the parade, embodying the spirit of unity and patriotism.

The atmosphere was electrified as the police squad marched in precision, and the national anthem filled the air with a sense of national pride.

To mark the significance of the day, beautiful children presented flower bouquets to Commissioner Muhammad Ali Randhawa, in recognition of his role in the event.

Station Commander of Pakistan Army Brig Nadeem Khan and Station Commander of Navy Commodore Sajid Hussain participated in the main ceremony.

The commissioner had the honour of formally hoisting the flag on this significant occasion. The ceremony featured scouts and school children wearing military uniforms, symbolizing the spirit of sacrifice and service.

Fakhri Foundation: makes a difference in the society by facilitating education



Mr. Amjad Fakhri Chairman Fakhri Foundation

In a world filled with challenges and uncertainties, organizations that dedicate themselves to making a positive impact on society hold a special place.

One such organization is the Fakhri Foundation, which has effectively worked to uplift and transform the community.

The Fakhri Foundation, founded by Mr. Amjad Fakhri (CEO of SFI Logistics) with the motivation of close friends Mr. Sohail Noor Alam and Mr. Sohrab Khan, is not just a charitable organization; it is a force for positive change. The main tagline of the Fakhri Foundation is "Making a Difference Through Education! As the Fakhri Foundation is dedicated to nurturing the young generation's dreams and aspirations, by providing fees for deserving students, school uniforms, essential school supplies, and student career counseling workshops, we're empowering these future leaders to reach for the stars.

Recognizing that education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty and inequality, the foundation has been actively involved in establishing and supporting schools in underserved areas.

Together we can create a brighter future. Join us in shaping a brighter future.

Now after getting official registration, Management Committee formed includes Muhammad Kashif (General Secretary) Muhammad Ameen (Joint General Secretary), Nauman Fakhri (Finance Secretary) Mohsin Saleem (Media/Legal Matters), Muhammad Younas Mughal (Founder Member), Anjum Fakhri (Founder Member), Najum Fakhri (Founder Member) Saeed Ahmad Fakhri (Founder Member)

The Core Executive Members who



Mr. Amjad Fakhri along with others distributing the books and stationery to the students.

are driving forces behind our organization are Abid Habibullah, Adnan Ajmal, Mohsin Khiljee, Shoaib Rafique, Sohail Karim, Adeel Ishaq, Muhammad Aqeel, Doctor Shahid Atta, Badar Shahzad and Tahir Altaf. This remarkable individual of the Fakhri Foundation is committed to creating a world where every individual has the opportunity to thrive.

The Fakhri Foundation's commitment to helping society is a testament to the power of compassion, dedication, and collective effort. Through their initiatives in education, empowerment, and community development, they made a profound difference in the world. As we navigate the challenges of the modern era, organizations like the Fakhri Foundation serve as beacons of hope, reminding us that positive change is possible when individuals and communities come together with a shared vision of a better future.



Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry Annual General Meeting



The Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry, held its Annual General Meeting recently photo shows (from -R) Prof Safdar Sandal, Sheikh M. Yaqoob, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Ch., Dr. Aslam Dar, and Riazuddin Sheikh

Fakhri Foundation: makes a difference in society by facilitating education



Fakhri Foundation

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