

New FLYER[®]

INTERNATIONAL AVIATION & TOURISM

APRIL-2024



SAPS welcomes Azerbaijan Airlines at Karachi Airport





SEAGOLD (PRIVATE) LIMITED



PAKISTAN - BANGLADESH - DUBAI - MYANMAR - AFGHANISTAN

YOUR PARTNERS IN SUCCESS

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

HEAD OFFICE:

Suite # 418-421, 4th Floor, The Plaza, G-7, Clifton Block 9, KDA Scheme 5, Karachi, Pakistan.

TEL: (+92-21) 35205013, (+92 21) 35308691 - 3, (+92 21) 35810181 - 3

Built on Tradition. Powered by Innovation.



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



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

Weekly LCL Export Services from Pakistan

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

Weekly LCL Import Services to Pakistan

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

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

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

Shipco Transport Pakistan (Pvt) Ltd. - Karachi Office

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

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

www.shipco.com

Member of



New **behind FLYER**
International Aviation

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

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

Issue Monthly
 Price Rs. 500/=

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Art Director & Design Faisal Ahmed @ Faraz
 Mob: 0315-8267582

PRODUCTS CATALOGUE
 www.sublime.international.com

Your Safety is Our Priority!

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

SUBLIME
 SUBLINE INTERNATIONAL
 Wahid Chowk, Marola Road
 Malicay Kalan, Sialkot Pakistan
 Phone: +92 52 3255033, 321 3480555
 Email: info@sublime-international.com
 Web: www.sublime-international.com

Maccim's GROUP **it's all about CHAMPIONS AL HAMDOLILLAH** **CROWN KARACHI**
 SYMBOL OF QUALITY & COMMITMENT

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

Universal Brothers (Pvt) Ltd.
 Travel Agent & Tours Operator
 Umrah & Hajj Organizer
THE LEADER & TREND SETTER
 Maxims House, A-9, 1st floor, Hassan Homes, FL-3/8, Opposite Nehr-e-Khayyam,
 Block-5 Clifton, Karachi Pakistan, UAN No. (92-21) 111-106-786
 Email: info@maximsgroup.org GL No. 2014 HP No. 4143
 www.universalbrothers.com. www.facebook.com/universalbrothers

CONTENTS

New FLYER International
 Monthly Magazine of Aviation and Tourism
Vol 31 APRIL-2024 No. 07

Cabinet approves 11-member board of PIA holding company	06
Federal Minister for privatization showcases PIA opportunity	08
Road to Mecca Project	08
Heads of CAA and PSB changed	09
DG CAA holds 44th E-Kacheri	10
Mohenjo Daro airport may be made functional for flights	12
Remembering Mian Tariq Mahmud	13
PIA starts flights from Skardu to Dubai	13
Oman Air considers the benefits of only operating widebodies	15
How far can a Shahed-149 drone fly? A closer look at Iran's	16
Turkish delights as Airbus A350s push Melbourne Airport	17
How many flying hours do you need to become an airline pilot?	19
Air Asia, Hayleys, Fits Air among six vying for SriLankan	21
SAPS handles Azerbaijan Airlines	23
First flight from Azerbaijan lands at Karachi Airport	24
Investigation sought into 'Walton Airport'	28
Airbus delivered twice as many commercial aircraft than Boeing	30
Bewildering Mythology : Good Developments	31
Stocks hit record high as PIA steps closer to privatization	33
Depreciation fears prompt exporters to sell dollars	34
Accord on CPEC's second phase soon, says PM Shehbaz	36
Pakistani businessmen asked to explore Iraqi market	37
Baisakhi festivities celebration at Kartarpur	39
Pakistani climbers aiming to scale world's all 14 highest peaks	40
Tigress injures two as it escapes during transportation	41
KP chief minister urged to transform Gandhara into role model	43
Auditorium at Taxila museum to facilitate tourists visiting	43
Khunjerab Pass opens for travel, trade	43
Paris 2024 torch lit in Olympics birthplace, relay under way	45



06



39



45

TRAIN YOURSELF FOR AN AIRLINE CAREER WORLDWIDE

COURSES OFFERED

- AME (B1.1) [EASA Approved]
- Flight Operations Officer
- DGR CBTA (IATA & PCAA Approved)
- Air Cargo & Passenger Handling
- Aviation Security & Airside Safety
- Aircraft Loading / Off Loading
- Human Factors & SMS
- Air Ticketing
- A/C Weight & Balance
- Aviation Legislation
- Crew Resources Management (CRM)
- Perishable Cargo / ULD & LAR / TCR



SAPS AVIATION COLLEGE

SAPS Complex, Malir Avenue, adjacent to DHL, Jinnah Int'l Airport, Karachi.

Ph: 021-34571809 / 021-99248503 E: Training@sapsac.com.pk, Info@sapsac.com.pk Web: www.sapsac.com.pk

Cabinet approves 11-member board of PIA holding company

The federal cabinet has approved the board of PIA Holding Company, and former State Bank governor Tariq Bajwa has been appointed as its chairman.

The federal cabinet, through circulation on Tuesday, 26 March gave the nod to the 11-member board, according to sources.

The move is being hailed as a significant development in the national carrier's privatization process as its liabilities and assets will be transferred to the holding company, which will be registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan.

The board will include seven independent directors and four government officials.

The majority of the independent directors are heads of commercial banks, including Atif Aslam Bajwa and Shahzad Dada, the CEOs of Bank Alfalah and United Bank Limited, respectively. Government officers on the board included secretaries of aviation, finance, privatization and Planning Commission. PIA CEO Air Vice Marshal Amir Hayat has been appointed the company's first CEO.

In July 2023, PIA's board of directors approved a plan to restructure the airline by incorporating the new holding company to retain legacy loans, non-aviation assets and existing PIACL subsidiaries (PIA-IL, Skyrooms Limited, and Saber Travel Network), with the airline itself as its wholly owned subsidiary retaining aviation assets and relating liabilities.

In a separate development, a meeting chaired by the federal aviation minister has been told that investors from at least seven countries are interested in the transaction of

PIA's privatization.

According to a press release issued by the Ministry of Aviation, Khawaja Asif presided over a meeting on the outsourcing of airports and privatization of PIA on Tuesday, 26 March.

International Finance Corporation, a commercial arm of the World Bank that is leading the privatization process, claimed that investors in Germany, France, Netherlands, Qatar, the UAE, Malaysia and Turkiye have shown interest, while local groups are also interested in the transaction.

The minister instructed ministry officials to arrange an online meeting with Pakistani ambassadors in countries whose investors are interested in buying the airline. The officials have been directed to brief the ambassadors on aviation and request them to "actively interact" with the interested parties.

The meeting was attended by the secretaries of the aviation division and Privatization Commission, additional secretary of Foreign Office and other senior officers, the press release added.

He also advised connecting with local investors to enhance their awareness so that they can participate in the bidding process by developing consortiums.

Privatization Commission Secretary Usman Akhtar Bajwa updated the minister on the marketing plan and preliminary engagement with international investors, including those from the UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Turkiye, regarding the privatization of Pakistan International Airlines.

The minister also directed the officials to visit these countries and engage with potential investors.

Last hurdles to PIA privatization removed

The government, domestic banks and development finance institutions (DFIs) have successfully concluded PIA's commercial debt negotiations, removing the last hurdles in the way of privatization of the national flag carrier.

Under the arrangement, Pakistan International Airlines Company Ltd's (PIACL) commercial domestic debt will be moved to PIA Holding Company Ltd, established by the federal government as part of the former's legal restructuring.

According to a statement issued by PIACL on Friday, 29 March, the development paved the way for filing of a scheme of arrangement (SoA) for legal segregation of PIACL from the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP).

The federal cabinet approved the segregation plan on Feb 6 this year.

PIACL's privatization has been a priority agenda for the federal government, and the development represents one of the most complex restructuring exercise undertaken to prepare PIACL for privatization. This arrangement will help make a viable business case for private sector's investment in the national flag carrier.

According to the statement, domestic banks and DFIs demonstrated a firm commitment to the government's privatization initiative and extended their full cooperation in finalising the arrangement for PIACL's commercial domestic debt.

The term sheet covering mutually agreed commercial aspects of loan transfer was signed on Thursday, 28 March between PIACL, PIA Holding Company and lender banks.

In order to manage the affairs of PIA Holding Company diligently, a seven-member independent board comprising the former State Bank of Pakistan governor and prominent leaders from banking and other areas of expertise was notified by the federal government.

The board in its inaugural meeting endorsed the SoA delineating the pathway for privatization of the national flag carrier.

Following the approval of its draft by the boards of PIACL and PIA Holding Company, the SoA for PIACL restructuring was filed with the SECP on March 28.

Following these significant developments, expressions of interest from potential investors for the privatization of PIACL have been planned to be called in the coming days.



The establishment of the new entity is being hailed as a significant development as PIA's liabilities and assets will be transferred to the holding company.



5 WEEKLY FLIGHTS
KHI JED KHI

5 WEEKLY FLIGHTS
MUX JED MUX

1 DAILY FLIGHT
ISB JED ISB

5 WEEKLY FLIGHTS
LHE JED LHE

2 WEEKLY FLIGHTS
SKT JED SKT

2 WEEKLY FLIGHTS
LHE DMM LHE

2 WEEKLY FLIGHTS
ISB DMM ISB

3 WEEKLY FLIGHTS
LHE MCT LHE

2 WEEKLY FLIGHTS
SKT MCT SKT

2 WEEKLY FLIGHTS
ISB MCT ISB

BOOK NOW

☎ 021 111 247 742

🌐 airsial.com



Federal Minister for privatization showcases PIA opportunity to investors

Federal Minister for Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan has called PIA “an attractive opportunity” for local and international investors, especially after restructuring its liabilities.

Chairing a meeting of the Privatization Commission Board on Thursday 04 April, the minister hoped that Pakistani businessmen would show their interest in acquiring the national airline.

The Privatization Commission Board, in the two sessions held on April 2 and 4, approved the prequalification criteria and the committee for evaluating bids and interests submitted for PIA’s divestment.

The government appointed Ernst & Young, a global financial advisory firm, to prepare the plan for the loss-making firm, which completed its task during the caretaker setup.

The caretaker cabinet has approved Ernst & Young’s appointment for

the financial and administrative reorganisation of PIA.

The financial advisor and the committee would evaluate prequalification documents to determine whether interested buyers meet the prescribed standards and criteria, which include experience, financial stability, technical expertise, safety record, and other relevant factors.

To speed up the privatization process, the national airline has been bifurcated into two companies — the Pakistan International Airlines Corporation (PIAC) and PIA Holding.

The former would own flying operations, while the airline’s non-core assets and liabilities have been transferred to the latter. The Privatization Commission, through an advertisement in national and international newspapers on April 2, has already invited expressions of interest from investors willing to buy majority stakes in PIACL.

Board endorses PIA divestment strategy

The board of directors of the PIA Holding Company approved the scheme of arrangement outlining the steps involved in Pakistan International Airlines’ privatization during its inaugural meeting on Wednesday, 27 March.

Former State Bank of Pakistan governor Tariq Bajwa chaired the inaugural meeting. The 11-member board included seven independent and four government directors. The meeting was convened at the Secretary Aviation’s Office in Islamabad marking the official commencement of the company’s operations, a spokesman for PIA said.

The board endorsed the scheme of arrangement delineating the pathway for the privatization of the national flag carrier. This comprehensive scheme, already receiving the stamp of approval from both the federal cabinet and the PIACL Board, sets the stage for the next chapter of PIA.

Road to Mecca Project

A two-member delegation from Saudi Arabia paid a visit to Jinnah International Airport (JIAP) in Karachi. Accompanied by the Saudi Consulate General in Karachi, the purpose of their visit was to inspect the airport’s facilities and discuss the arrangements for the route to the Makkah project. Upon their arrival, the delegation was warmly welcomed by the Civil Aviation Authority’s acting Airport Manager (APM), as well as representatives from other agencies.

During their visit, APM provided the delegation with a comprehensive tour of the airport’s facilities. The delegation was shown

the path Hajj pilgrims would take starting from the main entrance and leading them to the immigration area. The delegation showed particular interest in the entry process for intending pilgrims and the allocation of immigration space.

Other key points discussed were related to allocation of immigration hall, private Hajj pilgrims, differentiating between government and private scheme pilgrims, among others. Furthermore, emphasis was placed on the importance of pilgrims arriving at least 5 hours prior to their flight, ensuring sufficient time for necessary procedures and preparations before their departure.



A group photo of CAA and other Airport officials taken with the Saudi delegation.

Heads of CAA and PSB changed

The Shehbaz Sharif government on Friday, 19 April, removed the heads of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB).

According to a notification of the Cabinet Secretariat Establishment Division, “with the approval of the federal government, retired Flt-Lt. Khaqan Murtaza, a BS-21 officer of Pakistan Administrative Service, presently posted as Director General of CAA is transferred and posted as Chairman of Employees Old Age Benefits Institution (EOBI) under Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Division in terms of section 8A(1) of the Employees Old Age Benefits Act 1976 and under section 10 of the Civil Servants Act 1973 with immediate effect and until further orders.” Mr Murtaza had assumed the DG CAA charge in Nov 2020.

According to source, the government is considering the name of retired Air Vice Marshal Sajid Habib for the slot of the DG CAA. The government has already announced outsourcing airports in Islamabad, Lahore, and Karachi in a bid to attract foreign direct investment and provide “world-class facilities” to passengers. The government is keen to implement its privatization policy in the CAA and other under-performing government units/departments.

On the other hand, the Director General Shoaib Khoso lost his job in a row between his department, Pakistan Sports Board (PSB), with its administrative ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC). The IPC ministry terminated the contract of Khoso on Friday and the Establishment Division issued a notification in this regard. The ED also assigned the additional charge of DG PSB to Zahoor Ahmed, a BS-21 officer of Secretariat Group presently working as additional secretary in the IPC ministry for a period of three months. Earlier this week, after the return of Khoso, PSB challenged the authority of secretary IPC and termed the postings, assigning look-after charge in the board by the ministry as contradictory to the Establishment Division’s rules.

In the letter sent to the Secretary IPC

on April 15, the Deputy Director General (Admin) of PSB Mansoor Ahmed Khan stated that while the DG PSB was on ex-Pakistan leave, the ministry assigned the charge to a junior officer of BS-19.

The letter termed this as against the Management Pay Scale Police approved by the Prime Minister that provides that “the current charge/additional charge of the position of Heads of Autonomous Bodies in MP-Scales only be granted to a civil or government servants of equivalent grade and that too with the approval of appointing authority which is the Prime Minister of Pakistan.”

It further said that the officer who had been assigned the look-after charge “requisitioned the services of various

officers on deputation basis for PSB which is purely an administrative matter which also involved financial implications. Such decision does not fall in the ambit of look-after charge range, therefore, is violative of clarification of the Establishment Division.”

Sarfraz Rasoo, an Assistant Engineer of the PSB on April 17 challenged the posting transfers made in the Board by the acting DG PSB and the Islamabad High Court (IHC) issued a stay order in this regard. The appointment of DG PSB was also subjudice before the IHC, however, the IPC ministry terminated his service contract “by paying one month’s salary in lieu of one month notice, with immediate effect.”

Bid to smuggle 16kg gold foiled at Multan airport



A Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) immigration team on Friday, 22 March foiled an attempt to smuggle the biggest ever quantity of gold in the history of the country from Pakistan to Dubai at Multan airport.

An FIA spokesperson said Muhammad Tanweer had got clearance to board flight number FZ-340 and even his luggage had also been loaded on the plane. However, when he presented his

passport to the FIA immigration for clearance, the officials questioned him about the reason for his frequent travels abroad but he failed to satisfy the team with his answers. At this, the officials offloaded his luggage. When they checked it thoroughly, they found 10 bricks of gold weighing 16kg in one of the bags. The spokesperson said Tanweer had concealed gold in secret parts of his bag. The suspect had been handed over to the FIA for further legal action.

DG CAA holds 44th E-Kacheri

44th E-Kacheri, hosted by DG CAA and his team, received a total of 67 comments/queries covering a wide range of topics that included corroded trolleys, expansion of Allama Iqbal International (AIIAP) Airport, alleged extortion and bribery at airports, HR-related issues, and UAE weather-induced flight cancellations among others. The DG urged participants to provide specific details such as date, time, airport concerned, location, or any additional information to facilitate quicker issue resolution.

Regarding Lahore's AIIAP, the DG informed that although measures have been taken to meet the growing number of passengers at Lahore's AIIAP, the fact is Lahore airport has reached its design capacity. The terminal building/infrastructure expansion work will commence soon to alleviate issues like passenger congestion during peak hours, he added.

Regarding the housekeeping issue the DG mentioned that the housekeeping service is outsourced to a reputable international company to ensure improved results. The service is under close monitoring, and if it does not meet expectations, it will be replaced. In response to an incident at Karachi Airport, the DG confirmed that ASF has taken action against the employee involved in the manhandling of a child, stating that PCAA is keenly following up the matter with the ASF.

When asked about the presence of non-passengers at airports, the DG acknowledged cultural reasons for this phenomenon and issued instruction to Airport Managers (APMs) to explore measures that could be implemented, citing the successful implementation of a one non-passenger policy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Addressing query about recent flight delays to/from the Middle East, the DG attributed the disruptions to record rains in the UAE, which caused flooding at airports and chaos in flight operations. The DG described the situation as unprecedented and the challenges faced unavoidable. The Director General promptly instructed APM Islamabad International Airport (IIAP) to investigate a complaint about money extortion in the parking lot, allegedly by police or police wardens. The DG mentioned that similar

complaints led to the removal of police from the vicinity of airport's exit and that action against beggars in the parking lot is regularly taken, with five or six individuals handed over to the police daily. He sought the Airport Manager's input on the issue as soon as possible. In response to another complaint, the DG emphasized that food prices at Islamabad airport must align with the price list, stating that any discrepancies are valid complaints and should be investigated.

Regarding a suggestion for a separate transit area at Islamabad International Airport as space is available, the DG acknowledged the potential for development but explained that long-term commercial concession contracts cannot be undertaken during the ongoing outsourcing process. He assured that significant improvements would follow the completion of the process.

When asked about Air Blue and Air Sial not operating flights to Quetta, the DG clarified that airlines make such decisions based on commercial viability assessments of routes. The Director General addressed the issue of extended immigration queues at Karachi's JIAP by stating that CAA has allocated over 20 counters to FIA. He explained, failure to adequately staff these counters will lead to lengthy queues. Additionally, he informed that this matter has been raised at the Prime Minister level and with FIA earlier.

He also mentioned that according to FIA once it addresses its staffing problems, the queues will significantly decrease, leading to an improved situation. Responding to a query, the DG stated that AirSial would only fly to the UAE once designated by the Emirates' authorities. Regarding an environment of enhanced security at airports, the DG highlighted that unfortunately ours is an area from where regular attempts are made to smuggle out narcotics, with passengers daily caught at our airports. A notable portion of individuals facing penalties in the Middle East happen to be of Pakistani origin, causing a sense of shame at the national level, he regretted.

He emphasized the importance of airports maintaining a high level of vigilance, stating that it is crucial as any lapse would prove detrimental to national prestige.

At the conclusion, the Director General emphasized commitment to resolving passenger complaints promptly. In order for effective resolution to occur, complainants must furnish specific details such as the date, time, and location of the incident, he stressed. While generalized complaints are acknowledged, practical assistance can only be offered when specific information is provided. He added that it is undeniable that there are flaws in the system, but these issues can only be addressed if detailed complaints are submitted at this platform.

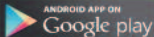
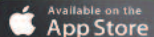


FLY ETHIOPIAN TO LONDON & MANCHESTER



Best Airline in Africa
for 6 Years in a Row

Book | Pay | Check-In Online

Get it on  Available on the 

www.ethiopianairlines.com

Ethiopian
የኢትዮጵያ
THE NEW SPIRIT OF AFRICA

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 

Mohenjo Daro airport may be made functional for flights, says minister

Sindh Minister for Culture and Tourism Syed Zulfikar Ali Shah has hinted at the restoration of flights at Mohenjo Daro airport and starting of the Peoples Bus Service for the site to facilitate visitors and tourists to the World Heritage site.

Talking to newsmen at the site where the officials briefed the minister about the efforts to save the site from rain and weather onslaughts, he said: “We are planning to install lights around the stupa so that tourists can enjoy the night scene of the old relics.”

He said he would talk to the federal minister for power to have high power transmission line’s extension from Mohenjo Daro airport to the site for uninterrupted power supply.

The minister disclosed that the department would erect barbed wires around the entire site to protect it from the animals’ approach and discouraging establishment of encroachment.

In reply to a question regarding establishing a resource centre and constructing model replica, he said it would be investigated why such schemes were left halfway. A one-kilometre battered road leading to Mohenjo Daro would also be repaired in consultation with the provincial highways department, he said.

Accompanied by PPP MPA from

Larkana Jamil Soomro, who is also political secretary to Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Syed Zulfikar Ali Shah said Sir Shahnawaz Bhutto Memorial Library would be digitalized, along with the addition of a new edition of books to facilitate readers and students preparing for the competitive examinations. He said directed the library managers to replace the furniture and ensure availability of drinking water there.

He said laptops and computers would be provided to the library, adding that all its sections would be upgraded and equipped with modern facilities. The minister thanked the party leadership for giving him this responsibility.

The critics of the PPP were surviving on political crutches, he said, adding that the party had served people in the past and that was why people had entrusted it with the fourth term in Sindh and “we are determined to serve the people”.

The minister also inaugurated a bookstall established by the culture department so that books published by the department would be made available for students and visitors.

Earlier, the minister visited Garhi Khuda Bakhsh Bhutto. He laid wreaths on the graves of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Benazir Bhutto, Begum Nusrat Bhutto, Mir Murtaza Bhutto and Mir Shahnawaz Bhutto and offered fateha. He also met with a group of foreign visitors at the Bhutto’s Mausoleum.

PIA flight from S. Arabia diverted to disembark VIPs’

A Pakistan International Airlines’ flight from Jeddah to Islamabad, carrying Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz back from their visit to Saudi Arabia, was diverted to Lahore airport on Monday, 08 April, the airline’s spokesperson confirmed



to media.

Sources said PK842, which was supposed to land in Islamabad at 10:30pm on Monday, 08 April night, was diverted to Allama Iqbal International Airport, Lahore and landed there at 9:25pm.

Sources said that the PM, CM and other VIPs were disembarked at Lahore, which caused inconvenience to hundreds of other Islamabad-bound passengers.

Official sources said the commercial flight from Jeddah to Islamabad was carrying 393 passengers, which included the official Pakistani delegation returning from Saudi Arabia, which included the PM, Punjab CM, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif and others, along with their family members.

Videos circulating on social media showed passengers expressing their anger, but they had no other option but to wait until the VIPs disembarked before continuing their journey to Islamabad.

After offloading about 79 passengers, the flight eventually took off for Islamabad and landed at the Islamabad International Airport at 11:17pm. When asked whether this was special treatment, the PIA spokesperson said “VIPs were treated like commercial passengers”.



A group of British tourists visits historic ruined city, one of UNESCO’s World Heritage Sites, recently.

Remembering Mian Tariq Mahmud Chairman 'The TAQ Organization'

With profound grief and a heavy heart we inform our readers that Mian Tariq Mahmud, the founder and Chairman of 'The TAQ Organization', passed away on January 3, 2024 in Lahore at the age of 78. Besides his close family members, relatives and friends his funeral prayers and burial rights were attended by a large number of colleagues from the TAQ Group's companies and the freight forwarding and logistics fraternity. He was buried the same day after Zuhr prayers in the DHA graveyard Lahore. A Khatam-e-QulShareef and condolence gathering was held the next day at his residence in DHA.

One of the pioneers of the freight forwarding and logistics industry of Pakistan, Mian Tariq was an internationally recognized person in his field. As a professional he had travelled extensively, attending workshops, seminars and conferences on freight forwarding organized by world bodies such as FIATA, ICHCA, IMMTA etc. As IMMTA Auditor he was the sole representative of this world



trade body at the WTO Conference in Cancun, Mexico. Among prominent international recognitions for Mian Tariq was the award of Diploma of Competence in Freight Forwarding presented to him by FIATA Zurich, of which he was the sole holder in Pakistan at present.

In recognition of his contributions in

uplifting the freight forwarding industry of Pakistan he was awarded Lifetime Achievement Award by Pakistan International Freight Forwarders Association through the Chief of Trade Facilitation Section of UNCTAD and Manager ABVT FIATA, both arriving from Zurich, Switzerland. He also had the distinction of receiving Lifetime Achievement Award from Lufthansa German Airlines for his undisputed professional competence at the international level and for his contribution in developing the freight forwarding industry in Pakistan from almost scratch to a position of considerable maturity.

At the helm of TAQ Group at present is a combination of young and experienced team of professionals to serve the trade and industry in Pakistan by making use of latest technology and tools. The mantle of leadership in TTO was passed on to the next generation team during the lifetime of the Chairman, led by his two foreign qualified sons. The group companies thus continue to move forward with the same consistency of growth and development as before.

World's airlines continue to navigate route disruption from Iran-Israel conflict



Once again, conflict between nation-states flared up dramatically in the Middle East. On the night of the 13th of April, the Islamic Republic of Iran fired hundreds of missiles and attack drones at the state of Israel. A conflict of this sort poses a very hazardous environment for airlines, leading airlines to route their flights around the conflict zone.

The tragic pro-Russian shutdown of MH17 by a Buk missile over Ukraine in

2014 and the Iranian shutdown of Ukraine International Airlines flight PS752 in 2020 demonstrate the danger of flying over active war zones involving air defense.

The successful interception of reportedly 99% of Iran's missiles and drones by the US, UK, France, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Israel was widely praised. However, it has still caused chaos in the aviation industry.



PIA starts flights from Skardu to Dubai

As summer approaches, tourists are heading towards the North. On the day of Eid, Skardu International Airport received three flights - one each from Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad, all operated by PIA.

The three Airbus 320 aircraft operated within a 15 to 20-minute interval of each other. Skardu International Airport is prepared to welcome international flights as well, starting from April 29, connecting Dubai and Skardu, also operating by PIA.



Garuda Indonesia Cargo - Pakistan

China, Hong Kong, Korea

- * Guangzhou **CAN**
- * Shanghai **PVG**
- * Hong Kong **HKG**
- * Incheon **ICN**

www.avinators.com

Sialkot Office

Mr. Muzamil Mushtaq
Sales Executive
sktops@avinators.com
Cell: 0300 0221223

Indonesia

- * Jakarta **CGK (JKT)**
- * Denpasar **DPS**
- * Surabaya **SUB**

Lahore Office

Mr. Usman Ali
Sales Executive
lheops@avinators.com
Cell: 0300 0221398

New Zealand

- * Auckland **AKL**

Australia

- * Melbourne **MEL**
- * Sydney **SYD**
- * Perth **PER**
- * Brisbane **BNE**

South East Asia

- * Bangkok **BKK**
- * Kuala Lumpur **KUL**
- * Singapore **SIN**

Japan (Tokyo)

- * Narita **NRT**
- * Haneda **HND**



www.avinators.com

Mr. Tariq Shad
Manager Cargo - Pakistan
tariqshad@avinators.com
Cell: 0300 2412018

Garuda Indonesia
CARGO

MS & F Avinators (Pvt.) Ltd.

Jadual dapat berubah sewaktu-waktu. Syarat & Ketentuan Berlaku

Oman Air considers the benefits of only operating widebodies



Oman Air has revealed its intention to narrow its fleet down to just one widebody aircraft type by the end of its complex and lengthy restructure, scheduled to be completed in 2027.

This comes following recent news that Oman Air will be downsizing its network and reshuffling its fleet in an attempt to cut losses and climb to financial independence from the government or sovereign.

Oman Air's Chairman, His Excellency Said Hamood Al Maawali, told the media that part of its transformation plan included fleet consolidation to a single aircraft type. He said:

"Going forward, as a policy, as an airline, what is good is widebodies. We should focus more on efficient widebody aircraft, but for the time being we are rightsizing and repositioning the company."

Recently, the airline abruptly withdrew its entire Airbus A330 fleet from service as part of its attempt to improve its financial situation. Thus far, the planes that have been retired include four A330-200s and six A330-300s. Al Maawali added:

"By 2027, Oman Air will be a healthy company and will be ready for growth. For now, we should focus on filling the seats and improving the yield for this period to make sure that there is good

financial sustainability for the aircraft and the airlines."

The carrier still has two A330-200s and three A330-300s in its fleet, all of which are being leased to Qatar Airways.

Oman Air recently reported that it had slashed its losses by about 36% in fiscal year 2023 (compared to the same period last year). In addition, the carrier highlighted that it had increased its revenues by 30%, with the load factor increasing by 9 percentage points.

Other achievements for FY 2023 include hitting the six million passenger mark and, more notably, cutting costs across areas that are deemed non-essential. This includes its sponsorship of Premier League football club Chelsea FC which it terminated.

"The banks are ready to lend to us again. We are moving in the right direction."

Other measures the airline has taken to reduce its costs include the downsizing of its network, which saw significant cuts, particularly affecting destinations in the Indian subcontinent including in Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Oman Air currently operates a fleet of more than 30 aircraft, comprising Boeing 737s, 787 Dreamliners, and the A330s, which are on lease to Qatar Airways. The airline holds orders for an additional five

737 MAX 8s and nine 787-9s.

It is unclear whether the Omani carrier intends to take on its outstanding orders, considering its plan to ultimately operate a single aircraft type. While unconfirmed, it is expected that Oman Air will turn exclusively to the 787, given its apparent distaste for the older, less-efficient A330s and its new focus on widebodies. It currently has two 787-8s and seven 787-9s in service.

Other measures the airline has taken to reduce its costs include the downsizing of its network, which saw significant cuts, particularly affecting destinations in the Indian subcontinent including in Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Oman Air currently operates a fleet of more than 30 aircraft, comprising Boeing 737s, 787 Dreamliners, and the A330s, which are on lease to Qatar Airways. The airline holds orders for an additional five 737 MAX 8s and nine 787-9s.

It is unclear whether the Omani carrier intends to take on its outstanding orders, considering its plan to ultimately operate a single aircraft type. While unconfirmed, it is expected that Oman Air will turn exclusively to the 787, given its apparent distaste for the older, less-efficient A330s and its new focus on widebodies. It currently has two 787-8s and seven 787-9s in service.

How far can a Shahed-149 drone fly? A closer look at Iran's unmanned aerial vehicles



Iran's Shahed-149 Drones have become infamous in the skies over Ukraine and the Middle East. But the 149 "Gaza" drone is not the only drone of Iran. We take a look at Iran's drone capabilities in the wake of not just Russia's use of Iranian drones like the Shahed-136 but also the April 13-14 attacks on Israel.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has faced strong rounds of sanctions since 1979, when one of the Islamic Republic of Iran's first acts was to storm the US Embassy in Tehran and take hostages. Iran is also blamed a state sponsor of terrorism since 1984 according to

the US State Department. As a consequence, Iran has much difficulty obtaining modern human flown warplanes – well, unless the Iraqis fly theirs over to Iran as Iraq did in the 1991 Persian Gulf War trying to protect the planes from allied air attack.

Hence Iran's decision to invest in developing a family of drones. Some of these drones take after the Predator and Reaper – long-range, long-endurance, unstealthy reconnaissance drones that can also conduct precision attacks.

One of the best examples is the \$7.5 million (USD) Shahed-129 pictured above.

The 129 packs four Sadid-345 small precision weapons that can be guided by a laser, infrared seeker, or visual seeker. This is an attempt at imitating the American Reaper drone, and the fact the 129 can be remote controlled for only a few hundred kilometers means that this is a tactical drone, but other Iranian drones have had strategic impact.

Then there's the Shahed-136. The 136, also known as the Geran-2 or Geranium-2, has been employed by Russia in mass attacks on Ukraine. The 136 can be launched in packs of five, is guided by the Russian global positioning system GLONASS and have mainly been sent against civilian targets.

The 136 is truly a suicide drone intended to be programmed, launched and forgotten but can go 900 km (559 mi). According to the below tweet, the cost is amazingly low.

Additionally, these drones have been intercepted and shot down over Ukrainian skies. Below is a photo from the President of Ukraine's office:

Ultimately, the Shahed-136 with its moped engine and low cost is the suicide drone of choice for Iran and its partner Russia. However, the 136 has inspired spin-offs.

But Iran's drone capability has grown to the point where a heavyweight drone has been produced. Iran's "Gaza" drone can go 2,500km (1,562 miles) and pack over 12 munitions.



Turkish delights as Airbus A350s push Melbourne Airport to new record

During 2023, the team at Melbourne Airport diligently reconstructed its pre-pandemic international network dot by dot and was the first Australian airport to recover international traffic to pre-pandemic levels. While the recovery was built mainly around enticing pre-COVID carriers to return, the cherry on the cake came when Turkish Airlines commenced flights on March 2 this year.

Melbourne Airport (MEL) released its March traffic figures, which showed that it had surpassed the 3 million passenger mark for the fourth time in the past six months. The report also highlighted that the addition of Turkish Airlines flights had lifted international passenger numbers to 923,065 travelers, surpassing the previous March record of 916,849 set in 2018.

Melbourne Airport handled 3.016 million passengers in March, 11% higher than the 2.711 million that passed through the airport in March 2023. International traffic grew 28% Year-on-Year (YoY) to 923,065, but domestic remains stubbornly below expectations, increasing just 5% to 2.093 million this year. This sluggish domestic demand is a pattern across Australia, particularly in Sydney and Melbourne, and the airport puts it down to airline capacity constraints and the higher airfares dampening demand.

Melbourne Airport CEO Lorie Argus



has often spoken about the softness of domestic demand but today highlighted the international market, noting that more competition and capacity help reduce airfares and allow more people to travel.

"It's clear from our international figures that Victorians want to travel, and they're prepared to do so in record numbers. While domestic travel remains constrained by reduced capacity and

subsequent higher airfares, it's unlikely we'll see a full recovery in the local market in the near future."

Melbourne Airport runs its financial



year from July to June, and on a year-to-date basis, it has handled 26.730 million passengers, of which 8.400 million traveled on international services and 18.330 million on domestic flights. For the same nine-month period in FY2022/23, the corresponding total was 22.790 million, with 5.935 million international and 16.855 million domestic passengers, with international growth a standout at 42% YoY.



Melbourne Airport operates 24/7, and the absence of a night curfew makes it an attractive proposition for overseas carriers, particularly long-haul operators who need their aircraft back in time for connecting flights. To cater to future growth and maintain operational efficiency, the airport has submitted plans for a parallel north-south third runway and is also working with airlines to increase terminal capacity in a timely and cost-effective way.

The new service from Turkish Airlines (Turkish) operates three times weekly from Istanbul with a transit stop in

Singapore, although once it has the appropriate aircraft, the airline plans to run the flight nonstop from Turkey to Australia. Turkish is currently using one of

its Airbus A350-900s on the route via Singapore, but once it has the A350-1000 XWB, it will fly nonstop, firstly to Melbourne and later add services to Sydney (SYD). (The picture above is from an introductory flight to Melbourne, which was flown by a Boeing 777-300ER)

Turkish is operating the route three times weekly, with the most recent rotation departing Istanbul Airport (IST) on Tuesday at 17:24. Flight TK168 was operated with a 2022 Airbus A350-900, registration TC-LGF and MSN 496, which took 9:54 hours to cover the first leg and landed in Singapore at 08:18 on Wednesday. The A350 departed Singapore Changi Airport at 10:41 for the shorter 7:08 trip to Melbourne, landing at 19:49, then leaving as flight TK169 for Istanbul via Singapore at 22:38.

Turkish Airlines lays claim to the title of the world's most connected airline, with flights to 364 destinations in 133 countries. In 2023, it carried 83.4 million passengers, a 16% increase compared to 2022 and surpassing its previous high of 75 million in 2018.

The full-service carrier has ambitious plans for the next decade, including more than doubling its annual passenger numbers to reach 170 million by 2023. To do that, it will need a fleet of more than 800 aircraft and with 440 planes at the end of 2023, there will be many new planes, crews and other personnel heading to Istanbul in the coming years.

Shipping & Logistics

Commerce Times



International Cargo Management

Int'l Invoce/Freight Forwarder/Consolidator

AOG SPECIALIST



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

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



BRANCH OFFICES
Lahore - Sialkot
Islamabad - Dubai

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

How many flying hours do you need to become an airline pilot?

Flight time largely determines the path to the airlines. Most countries and aviation authorities have similar requirements for the mandatory hours to earn a commercial or airline transport certificate. This article will examine three of the biggest global aviation markets and the hour's requirements for their professional pilots.

China

Chinese regulations more closely reflect European standards than those of the FAA. Pilots must be appropriately rated by the Civil Aviation Administration of China, or CAAC, to fly commercially in China. According to Smithsonian Magazine, most airline-oriented training programs span about 250 hours for initial training. This training covers basic flying, instrument skills, and multiengine flying.

After this, students go through preparatory courses geared towards learning the systems on the Airbus 320 or Boeing 737, depending on which plane they anticipate flying. Ten hours are spent in the simulator, and even more time is spent in the classroom. Chinese students also go through a short turbine transition (usually flown in a turboprop, such as a Beechcraft King Air).

After earning their high-performance rating, Chinese pilots go to the full-motion simulators to work on their airline transport certification. This training spans up to 18 simulator sessions, totaling about 70 hours of experience in the plane. Most full-motion, six-axis simulators have high enough fidelity to the feeling of flying a real aircraft that these hours can be logged as flight time. After simulator training, a pilot going through CAAC training has about 260 hours in planes and 70 in simulators. The last step of the process for Chinese airline candidates is to observe flights from the flight deck jumpseat. Most Chinese airlines require new pilots to observe around 250 hours of airline operations on their type of aircraft before they can fly paying passengers.

Europe

The European Union's rules rely on the guidance of EASA, the European Union Aviation Safety Agency. The minimum hours for earning a commercial pilot's certificate under EASA regulations vary depending on whether a pilot follows a modular course or trains in an integrated

flight and ground school program. Generally, an EASA commercial certificate takes about 200 hours of flight training.

Similarly to the Chinese requirements, EASA students first learn to fly in single-engine planes for their private pilot equivalent. Many then transition directly to commercial multiengine certificates before completing their instrument rating. Regardless of the training profile followed, EASA is well-known for having a demanding litany of theoretical tests. Any new airline pilot (or those seeking a license conversion from another authority) must pass 14 ground school tests and the ground training modules.

United States

The global standard for brand-new airline pilot's flight hours sits around 200-250. One of the starkest outliers to this figure is the United States. Since the legislation was passed by the US Congress in 2012, (most) US pilots need 1,500 flight hours before they are eligible for an ATP certificate to work at the airline level.

Pilots who learn to fly in the US operate under the guidelines of the Federal Aviation Regulations and are regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The most common pathway for US pilots is to earn their private, instrument, commercial, and flight instructor certificates in that order. Like the rest of the world, the civilian, non-academy regulations require 250 hours as the minimum threshold for a commercial certificate. The bridge between the commercial certificate and ATP changed in 2012.

Many pilots who want to gain the 1,250 hours between the commercial and ATP certificates pursue the instructor pathway. Instructing allows pilots to earn between 40 and 100 hours per month, depending on the type of instruction. Other standard time-building methods are aerial surveillance or photography missions, cargo flying, charter flying, pipeline patrol, or banner towing. Generally, instructing is the fastest way to build time, but it can be relatively demanding compared to the other options listed.

Secondary educational opportunities

Alternatively, prospective pilots who want to become pilots at a younger age can enroll in post-secondary degree programs that reduce the hour requirement for an

airline transport certificate. Some degree programs shrink the hour threshold to 1,250 total time, while others bring it down to 1,000. The type of program and credit hours spent in class determine how significant the deduction is.

Military pilots are also eligible for a reduced-hour ATP certificate. At 750 hours, pilots who have served in the Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, or Navy are eligible. Interestingly, some pilots qualify for the airlines in the US with a mere 250 hours of fixed-wing (airplane) time, 100 of which must be spent as the pilot in command. This stipulation is used primarily by helicopter pilots, who require a minimum of 500 hours in helicopters and another 250 in airplanes.

On its face, it might seem that military pilots receive a heavy discount on required ATP hours. However, the time spent preparing for flight on the ground with engines running does not count towards total flight time as in the civilian world. A Black Hawk pilot can only log 0.7 hours for a one-hour engine operation if they spend 18 minutes on the ground performing preflight checklists, which is standard. Civilian flight rules allow pilots to log every minute from when the engine starts until it's turned off, so the military time discount has a way of equaling out.

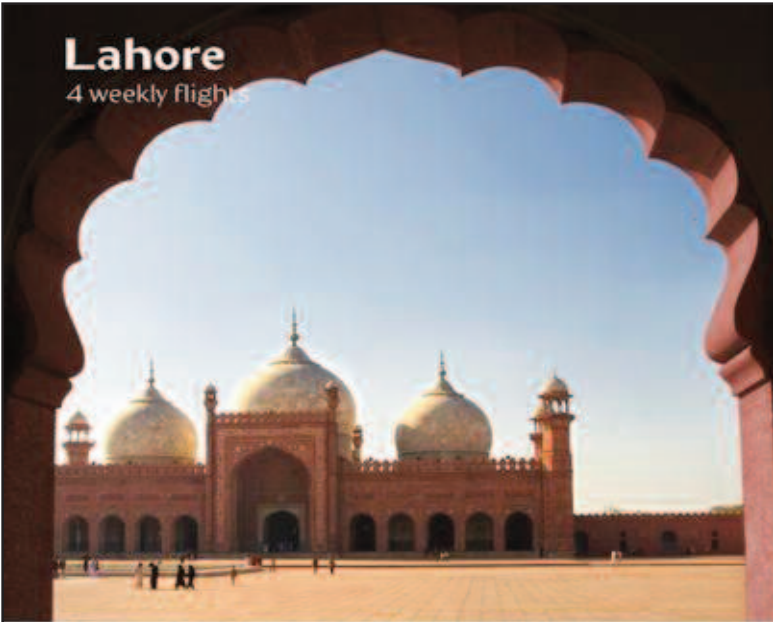
Two-fifty

250 hours is generally the global standard for commercial pilot certificates. Even in the US, the 250-hour requirement is reflected in the civilian commercial hours mandate and the military fixed-wing minimum. Many airlines have hired pilots at these hour minimums over the last few years as the industry recovered from COVID-19. However, the most recent hiring has trended toward more experienced pilots as most pilot vacancies have been filled.

Additionally, some airlines cannot hire as many pilots as initially planned due to Boeing's ongoing delivery issues. Regardless of the hiring landscape, many of the world's pilots train in the US aviation infrastructure because of the number of instructors available to build their 1,500-hour ATP flight time. This trend has been the same for many years and seems likely to continue so long as the US ATP certificate requires 1,500 hours.

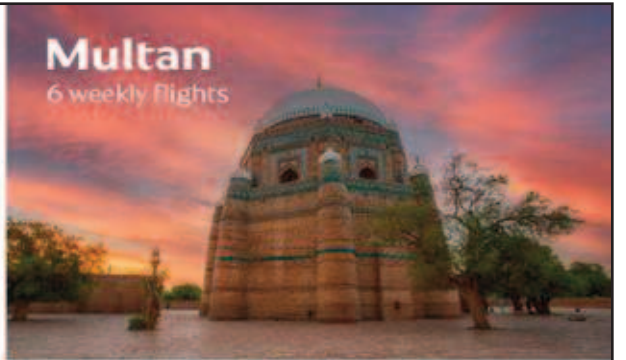
Lahore

4 weekly flights



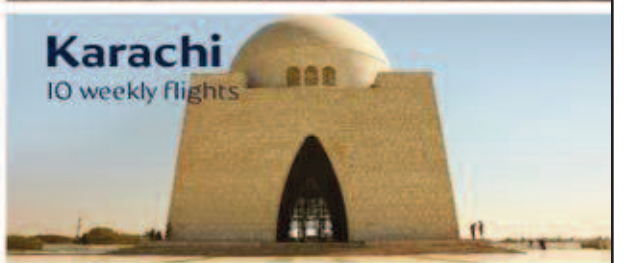
Multan

6 weekly flights



Karachi

10 weekly flights



Islamabad

3 weekly flights



Sialkot

5 weekly flights



Peshawar

4 weekly flights



Connecting your cargo to the world

Lahore: 042-36628502

Islamabad: 051-59055930

Multan: 061-4504770

Sialkot: 052-3552824

Karachi: 021-35364502

Peshawar: 091-5253724



FalconCargo



Air Asia, Hayleys, Fits Air among six vying for SriLankan Airlines



Malaysia's multinational budget carrier Air Asia, diversified blue chip HayleysPlc and Fits Air are among six parties vying for SriLankan Airlines.

These three and an equal number were announced as parties qualified to bid for the national carrier after Request for Qualification (RfQ) closed yesterday. The other three are Dharshaan Elite Investment Holding Ltd., Sherisha Technologies Ltd., and Treasure Republic Guardians Ltd.

Contrary to earlier claims by Aviation, Shipping and Ports Minister NimalSiripala de Silva the final list of RfQ respondents lacked major regional or international airlines.

AirAsia is the largest airline in Malaysia by fleet size and destinations. AirAsia operates scheduled domestic and international flights to more than 166 destinations spanning 25 countries.

Hayleys has extensive interests in aviation and travel business whilst FitsAir is the only low cost carrier in Sri Lanka owned by Aberdeen Holdings. It operates flights to Dubai, Chennai, the Maldives and Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The RfQs received were considered by the Opening Committee appointed by the Special Cabinet Appointed Negotiating Committee.

The SOE Restructuring Unit (SRU) said the RfQs will be evaluated as per the Special Guidelines on Divestiture of State-Owned Enterprises approved by the Cabinet of Ministers in July 2023.

International Finance Corporation, as transaction advisors for the divestiture of SriLankan Airlines Limited, will continue to

advise the Government.

The Government acting through the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilisation and National Policies on 31 October 2023 via international and local media, called for RfQ from potential investors for the acquisition of shares in SriLankan Airlines Ltd.

The original deadline for pre-qualification application was 5 April. However, it was extended to 22 April 2024. This was to facilitate the transfer of select Dollar and Rupee debt to the Treasury which was done in March 2024.

SRU last week said the divestiture of SriLankan Airlines is likely to be concluded by September. The Government in March announced the takeover of debt worth Rs. 100 billion of SriLankan Airlines sparing the \$ 175 million five year international bond.

The Cabinet of Ministers by its decision dated 4 March 2024 approved the transfer of the following liabilities of SriLankan Airlines to the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL):

1. \$ 105 million of Treasury guaranteed debt due to Bank of Ceylon
2. \$ 12.9 billion of Treasury guaranteed debt due to Bank of Ceylon
3. \$ 105 million of Treasury guaranteed debt due to People's Bank
4. Rs. 18.5 billion of Treasury guaranteed debt due to People's Bank

The SRU said consequent to the move (worth Rs. 100 billion), the only component of significant term borrowing that remains in the books of SriLankan Airlines relates to a \$ 175 million, 7%, five year international bond issued in 2019. This bond is also backed by a sovereign guarantee and is due

for settlement in June 2024.

"The Cabinet of Ministers has also decided that in the event of a ruling in favour of SriLankan Airlines with respect to the arbitration case filed by it against Airbus SE, steps will be taken to transfer proceeds arising from the same to the GoSL," the SRU added.

As at 31 March 2023, SriLankan had accumulated losses of Rs. 601.7 billion as against Rs. 529 billion a year ago.

As per the last audited accounts (FY23) released in October, SriLankan Airlines reported a group loss of Rs. 71.3 billion, down from Rs. 163.5 billion in FY22. However, excluding foreign exchange loss, the group posted an operating profit of Rs. 43.3 billion as against Rs. 1.6 billion in FY22. Exchange loss was Rs. 63.1 billion and the finance cost amounted to Rs. 51.5 billion.

Group revenue grew nearly three-fold to Rs. 369.4 billion with 23 aircrafts in its fleet. The cargo services segment, contributing approximately 14% to SriLankan Airline's income, generated a revenue of Rs. 51 billion in FY23.

The airline carried 11.8 million passengers in FY23 up from 5 million during COVID-hit FY22. Passenger load factor was 77.65% up from 49%. It has a route network of 126 destinations in 61 countries. The network of international destinations served by SLA has expanded from 37 destinations in 2019 to 39 in 2023. It has extensive landing rights in many Indian cities. Male, Chennai, London and Singapore are the largest destinations served, contributing to a combined 25% of the airline's seats.



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



SFI House , Shahabpura Ugoki Road , Sialkot - Pakistan .

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

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



SAPS handles Azerbaijan Airlines

Shaheen Airport Services (SAPS) is a project of Shaheen Foundation, a Welfare Organization of Pakistan Air Force and has the largest setup of providing complete Ground Handling Services at major Airports in Pakistan i.e Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Peshawar, Multan, Quetta, Skardu, Gwader, Faisalabad and Rahim Yar Khan International Airports. It was established in 1982 with the sole aim of providing Safe, Secure, Efficient, Cost Effective and Quality Services to Airlines operating to Pakistan.

In addition to Scheduled Airlines, SAPS also handles Charter / VVIP/Presidential flights and Non-Schedule Carriers operating both Freighters & Passenger Aircraft at Karachi, Islamabad, Lahore, Peshawar, Multan, Quetta, Faisalabad, Skardu, Gwader & Rahim Yar Khan and at remote Airfields i.e. Nawabshah, Chandana, Mohenjo Daro, Kadanwari etc on need basis. SAPS has a rich experience of over 42 years and Customer Satisfaction is our Paramount Policy. Besides over-flight and landing clearances, SAPS provides Ground Handling Services as per IATA Airport Handling Standards, with full Security measures. Our services include Passenger / Baggage handling, Flight Operations / Dispatch, Load / ULD control, Ramp / Cabin Cleaning, Cargo / Mail handling, Scanning, etc. SAPS, also makes arrangement for Refueling, Catering & Aircraft Maintenance, when required.

In less than 03 years, 12 Scheduled Airlines Business came to SAPS for Ground Handling. Besides numerous Non-Scheduled businesses also came to SAPS. SAPS looks after entire flight operations very sincerely and renders best Ground Handling Services in a very professional manner, this is achieved by our SAPS team hard work and dedicated which includes Director Aviation SF / Executive Director SAPS, Head of Commercial, all GMs, all DGMs and their staff. Their loyalty with SAPS and utmost selfless efforts are very appreciable and encouraging.

Recently, on 19th April, 2024, Azerbaijan Airline from Baku to Karachi was welcomed and handled by Shaheen Airport Services (SAPS). On this auspicious occasion of inaugural flight of Azerbaijan Airline at Karachi, was honored by Governor of Sindh Mr Kamran Tessori, Provincial Minister of Interior Mr Jam Ikram and the Ambassador of Azerbaijan Mr Khazar Farhadov. There will be 2 flights per week between Karachi and Baku, which will promote tourism, culture, interaction of people of both the countries, besides commerce and trades between Pakistan and Azerbaijan will grow further. There is also huge potential of cargo between the two countries.

It is because of this consistent loyalty and hard work of all SAPS Employees that after Covid-19, the business of SAPS has grown by more than 300% for which the credit only goes to the entire SAPS Team.



First flight from Azerbaijan lands at Karachi Airport

The first direct flight of Azerbaijan Airlines from Baku landed at Karachi airport in the wee hours of Friday, 19 April morning.

According to a press release issued by the Civil Aviation Authority, the aircraft was presented with a traditional water cannon salute on arrival at the Jinnah International Airport.

The flight crew and around 90 passengers were warmly welcomed by Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori, Industries Minister Ikramullah Dharejo, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan's chief executive Zubair Motiwala, Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Iftikhar Ahmed and officials of the Foreign Office.

Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov to Pakistan and Mr. Amer S. Mian CEO, Dimension Travels (Pvt.) GSA for the Airlines in Pakistan were also present to greet the inaugural flight. SAPS provided ground handling services to the airline.

Azerbaijan Airlines is already operating direct flights to Islamabad and Lahore and it expanded its direct flight operation to Karachi by starting two weekly flights.

Governor Tessori termed it a historic achievement for both the nations and said that the direct link between Baku and Karachi would boost trade, tourism and bilateral relations.

He said that Pakistan-Azerbaijan bilateral trade volume was \$ 10 million that has witnessed a three time growth after start of direct flight operation. He hoped that air connectivity with the biggest city of the country would help bolstering the trade relation between the brotherly countries.

"Karachi is not only economic and financial hub of Pakistan but it is gateway to a number of tourist places," he said and hoped that it would help strengthening people to people contacts as well as tourism in both the country.

Ambassador of Azerbaijan Farhadov said that direct flights would open new avenues for bringing people of both the brotherly countries more closer who were tied in bonds of brotherhood from centuries.

"We are historically very close and leadership of both the countries had taken significant steps to develop a mechanism for bringing people of both the countries closer," he said adding that it would contribute to strengthen bilateral relations of Azerbaijan and Pakistan.

Replying a question, he said two drafts of

preferential trade agreement and transit trade agreement were under constitution between both the countries and our trade will increase more and more.

Meanwhile, Azerbaijan's Ambassador Farhadov called for strengthening bilateral trade relations and said that Pakistan could invest in fields of services, textiles and information communication technologies.

Talking on the occasion TDAP chief

Motiwala, he underscored the mutual benefits that could be realised through enhanced cooperation in these sectors, says a press release.

Mr Motiwala echoed the sentiment of fostering closer economic ties between the two nations. He emphasised that direct flights between the two countries would not only facilitate smoother business transactions but also significantly boost trade and tourism.



Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov and Mr. Amer S. Mian GSA for the Airlines along with other members of city's business community and government officials, cutting the cake on the occasion of inaugural flight of Azerbaijan Airlines from Baku to Karachi.

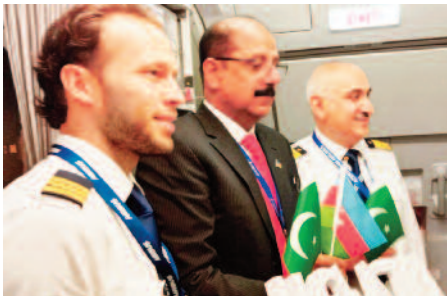


Picture shows (2nd-R) Capt. Saeed Khan, Head of Commercial, SAPS and Air Comd. (R) Ahsan Arshad GM, SAPS escorting the guests on the occasion.

Glimpses of Azerbaijan Airlines inaugural flight



Glimpses of Azerbaijan Airlines inaugural flight



SAPS staff group photographed on the occasion.

TRANSWORLD CARGO



**WE BELIEVE IN RELATIONSHIP,
TRUST, AND LOYALTY**

**FREIGHT FORWARDER, NVOCC, BREAK
BULK AND DOOR DELIVERY AGENT**

HEAD OFFICE

183 Broadway Suite # 310, Hicksville, NY 11801

CLEVELAND OFFICE

4100 Congress Parkway West, Richfield, OH 44286

LONDON OFFICE

394 Alfreton Road Nottingham, NG7 5NE

DUBAI OFFICE

Aspin Commercial Tower 48th Floor, Suite # 4804,
Sheikh Zayed Road, Dubai - UAE

KARACHI OFFICE

1/2-0, Block 6, PECHS Karachi - Pakistan

SIALKOT OFFICE

Fouz plaza, 2nd floor, Paris Road, Sialkot - Pakistan

Transworld cargo took a step forward digitalising the Freight Forwarding Services.

**OUR CUSTOMER PORTAL
IS AVAILABALE ON WEB &
MOBILE**



info@twcargo.com

www.twcargo.com

Investigation sought into 'Walton Airport'

The Aircraft Owners & Operators Association Pakistan (AOOAP) has called for a probe into the sale of Walton Airport land, claiming that the authorities concerned have flouted rules and regulations in doing so.

'Selling of the land of Walton Airport, Lahore is a perfect case of violation of rules, regulations and proceeds done through deception, said the association in a letter addressed to the ministry of aviation and defence recently. On the other hand, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA) have rejected the association's claim, terming it false and baseless.

According to the authority, it was a government-to-government transaction undertaken by the federal and provincial cabinets in 2021.

For the last few days, apparently since the letter came to the fore, social media is abuzz with the denunciation of the transaction of airport land.

AOOAP General Secretary Muhammad Nawaz Asim, a former captain wing commander, wrote in the letter that the land in question is evaluated to be worth Rs350 billion or more, which has been sold in violation of rules and regulations.

'The worst thing is that out of Rs50 billion (the sold amount), only Rs1 billion has been received into the accounts of CAA. Where is rest of the money gone? Who is the beneficiary and who has been used as rubber stamp to facilitate such corruption?' the letter reads.

It alleges that prima facie the national asset has been destroyed by the land mafias

in collusion with the CAA's director general and other government officials.

'The Waltongate scandal is a symbol of mala fides on part of the CAA officials and that is how aviation industry is being ruined as the Walton Airport was a hub of general aviation in Pakistan which requires judicial intervention and NAB investigation,' it says.

The CAA Officers Association has endorsed the AOOAP's assertions, demanding the government to launch a thorough probe into the allegations.

A 'fake story' Meanwhile, the CAA has rejected the allegations, saying the AOOAP's letter has concocted a fake and baseless story and that it is a desperate attempt to defame the CAA leadership. The letter aims to undermine the mega central business district project initiated by the Punjab government in Lahore, it added.

'To lend context, there were serious safety concerns regarding continuation of flight operations from Walton Airport. As a result, it was already proposed to the federal government to relocate the training and other operations to a more appropriate location. The decision to move was prompted by the escalating risks posed by aviation activities to the large commercial and residential areas near Walton aerodrome, the CAA explains.

It recalls that in 2020-21, the then Punjab government had approached the federal government to acquire the land of Walton aerodrome to establish the Lahore central business district. According to CAA, it was a government-to-government transaction undertaken by both the federal and provincial cabinets in 2021.

The federal government directed the CAA to transfer the land to the PCBDDA. Both the federal and provincial governments approved the project wherein 52 per cent ownership is with the CAA and 48pc with the Punjab government. Besides, the CAA has purchased a piece of land measuring 450 acres in Muridke (Sheikhupura) from the Punjab government to establish a new airport which is near completion.

The PCBDDA has also termed the AOOAP's letter baseless and misleading and an attempt to 'sabotage the repute of CAA for personal gains'.

The PCBDDA states that Pakistan grapples with the repercussions of unplanned city expansion, leading to associated socio-economic challenges. The government's decision in 2021 marked a pivotal moment as it embarked on integrating high-rise buildings and vertical infrastructure into urban development plans.

It clarifies that Walton Airport's decommissioning stemmed from its impractical location within densely populated urban areas, posing significant safety risk and hindering sustainable development.

'Consequently, the land was transferred to PCBDDA in a transparent government-to-government (G2G) deal, ensuring accountability and adherence to legal frameworks. The land was transferred through a triparty agreement between CAA, Government of Punjab and PCBDDA on profit sharing model with a three year grace period. 'Notably, the authority has successfully auctioned 12 mixed-use commercial plots, securing a staggering investment of Rs61 billion, it said.





VISION LOGISTICS (PVT) LTD.

INTERNATIONAL FREIGHT
FORWARDERS AND
SHIPPING CONSULTANTS

LET THE PROFESSIONALS TAKE OVER!



WE TAKE CARE:

- INTERNATIONAL AIR AND SEA FREIGHT MANAGEMENT IN IMPORTS & EXPORTS SHIPMENTS.
- CONSOLIDATION OF LCL SHIPMENTS
- SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT
- BEST LOGISTICS HANDLING OF TRANSSHIPMENTS
- PROJECT HANDLING INCLUDING OVERSEAS PROJECTS
- WAREHOUSING & CARGO INSURANCE
- CUSTOMS BROKERAGE
- DOOR 2 DOOR DELIVERY
- CUSTOMS AND LOGISTICS CONSULTANCY

DEDICATED AGGRESSIVE TEAM OF PROFESSIONALS TO CATER ALL SORTS OF CARGO REQUIREMENTS. OUR COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES REDUCE YOUR CARGO COSTS & INCREASE YOUR REVENUES !

0092 42 35851475,76, 35869257 info@visionlogistics.net
OFFICES: LAHORE, KARACHI, ISLAMABAD, SIALKOT- PAKISTAN



Airbus delivered twice as many commercial aircraft than Boeing in March

European aircraft manufacturer, Airbus, has released its orders and delivery figures for the first three months of this year. The plane maker delivered more than 140 planes in the first quarter, in contrast to Boeing's double-digit deliveries in the same time period. Boeing is in deep crisis following its 737 MAX aircraft issues and is struggling to catch up

Boeing delivered 130 aircraft in the same period last year, and this year's figures represent a 36% annual decline. While Boeing is in hot waters with its 737 MAX program, it was still the most delivered aircraft in the first three months, with 67 deliveries. The remaining planes were widebodies, comprising 3 Boeing 767s and 13 787 Dreamliners.



with its rival across the Atlantic.

According to the latest figures released by Airbus, it ended the first three months of 2024 with a total of 142 aircraft deliveries to 45 customers. Many of these came in March alone when the plane maker delivered 63 planes to 32 customers.

Unsurprisingly, narrowbody aircraft formed the bulk of Q1 deliveries, with a total of 128 aircraft. Of these, 54 comprised the A320neo planes, 62 A321neos, 11 A220-300 and one A220-100. Airbus also delivered 14 widebody aircraft, equally split between the A330 and A350.

Airlines from across the world received Airbus planes in the first three months, ranging from Delta Air Lines, Wizz Air, British Airways, and Condor to IndiGo, Cebu Pacific, Vistara, Turkish Airlines, and Flynas, among many others.

Airbus' rival in the United States, Boeing, has also revealed its delivery results for the first quarter. Unlike Airbus, Boeing's delivery figures were contained to double digits, with the plane maker only signing off 83 commercial airplanes, a little more than half of what Airbus delivered.

While this is just the first quarter, it looks like Boeing has a long road ahead to catch up with Airbus. Given the restrictions put in place by the Federal Aviation Administration, there's still some time before Boeing can reach anywhere near Airbus' delivery targets.

The first three months of the year also brought new aircraft orders for Airbus, with most of them coming in March. The plane maker received a total of 170 net orders, 96 of which were for narrowbody planes and 74 for widebody.

A month-wise breakdown reveals that Delta Air Lines placed an order for 20 A350s, and Ethiopian Airlines ordered 11 A350s in January. In February, an undisclosed customer ordered two more A350s, whereas in March, several other airlines ordered Airbus airplanes, led by American Airlines, which placed an order for 85 A321neos.

Starlux Airlines ordered three A330s and five A350Fs, a private customer ordered a single A319neo, IndiGo ordered an additional 10 A320neos, while Korean Air ordered six A350-900s and 27 -1000 variants.

Malaysia Airlines cuts cargo load for Middle East detour

If any airline in the world understands how dangerous it can be to fly over armed conflicts, it is Malaysia Airlines. It is only a decade since one of its flights between Amsterdam and Kuala Lumpur was blasted from the sky over eastern Ukraine, killing all 298 people onboard in an incident that the Dutch government holds Russia responsible for.

It is unsurprising that Malaysia Airlines,



like most commercial airlines, has given the airspace over the Middle East a wide berth, preferring to take a sharp detour northwards near Afghanistan and follow a track through Turkmenistan, Romania and Germany before landing in the United

On Wednesday, 17 April, Malaysia Airlines flight MH2 departed Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KUL) at 23:48 and, after a 13:18-hour flight, touched down at London Heathrow Airport (LHR) at 06:06 on Thursday. Tracking data from Flightradar24 shows an average flight time for the nonstop sector of 13:25, while a search revealed that on December 19, 2023, it took a straight-line route to cover the journey in 12:24 hours, although even then, the average was shown as 13:25 hours.

Flight MH3, the return service, is scheduled to depart Heathrow at 11:00 and arrive in Kuala Lumpur at 07:15 on Friday. The rotation was operated with a 2018 Airbus A350-900, registration 9M-MAD and MSN 183, which regularly flies between KUL and London Heathrow. Bloomberg reported that Malaysia Airlines (Malaysia) will temporarily stop carrying cargo on its passenger flights from Kuala Lumpur to London Heathrow. That decision was taken after Iran's aerial attack on Israel over the weekend forced various airlines to make detours to their flight plans and avoid the troubled airspace. The new route means that the Malaysian A350s will need more fuel, which means a lighter load is required, and no freight will be carried.

Bewildering Mythology : Good Developments

(Prof. Safdar Sandal)



'There is always a way out for those clever enough to find it' - Rick Riordan
Athena, whose name was closely linked to the city of Athens, is the Olympian goddess of wisdom and war' as well as an adored patroness of Athens itself. During several visits of

below some of the most interesting features of Athena goddess):

Quite ironically, the goddess Athena is also associated with features of peace and handicrafts, especially spinning and weaving. She is said to surpass everyone in both domains and even 'Ares' (Ares is the

represented with a spindle and a Corinthian helmet or with a spear in one hand.

The legend of Medusa is rather intriguing. She was not a goddess or



Athens and travel on my part, also in its underground rail + buss system called 'Athens Metro', (The Red Line) being the longest with fourteen underground stations, I have enjoyed watching on the accompanying walls of the stations which have paintings, old sculptures and statues of the Greek past, possessing a very rich Mythological history of Greece of which I am a keen student and have seen beautifully carved out on side walls of the Athens metro tracks, innumerable famous sculptures of Greek gods and goddesses of ancient Greece, a mythological past which has hardly a parallel in human history barring the old Mesopotamian civilization for its interesting culture and antiquity. (See

Greek god of war and courage), who also feared her, while all other Greek Heroes asked for her help and sought her advice on matters of peaceful

Olympian but a beautiful priestess of Athena herself. Medusa was cursed for breaking her vow of keeping her celibacy. She, in violation, had developed an affair with the Sea god 'Poseidon' and when Athena found of this affair, she punished her. Medusa, who was very beautiful, was switched from being attractive to a hideous creature. Her hair was replaced with writhing snakes and her skin changed to green. Perhaps what was the worst was whoever she looked eyes with, was turned to stone.



coexistence. She is usually depicted as a majestic lady with beautiful yet stern face. She has unsmiling lips, grey eyes and a graceful build that is usually covered by a chitin or armour. She is sometimes

It was 'Perseus' who was sent on a quest to kill Medusa and he accomplished the task by fighting her reflection through a polished shield and chopping of her head as



(At 'Accropolis Taverna' in the company of Greek friends)





a weapon to use against his enemies. In fact, an image of her head was even placed on Athena's own armour.

(The tragedy of war is that it uses man's best to do man's worst) - Henry Fosdick

The Soviet Withdrawal from Afghanistan, spanning from 1989 to 1990, marked the end of a lengthy and costly military intervention. Initiated in 1979 to support the pro-communist Afghan government against insurgent forces, the Soviet presence faced fierce resistance from Mujahadin fighters, bolstered by international support. Growing domestic opposition and economic strain prompted Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to initiate the withdrawal -negotiations. By February 1989, the last Soviet troops left Afghanistan, leaving behind protracted civil conflict. The withdrawal signified a significant geopolitical shift. Marking the decline of Soviet influence in the region and paving the way for subsequent developments, including the rise of Taliban.

Pakistan, under the leadership of a military dictator Gen. Zia-ul-Haq got directly involved in the conflict, which proved to be the biggest blunder in Pakistan's political history. The political philosophers also opined however that Soviet Union's ultimate aim was to accomplish its centuries' old ambition to reach the warm waters of Pakistan's oceans.



It is the same approach pursued under which China had initiated the multifaceted CPEC agreement with Pakistan Government and built the Gawader Port on Pakistan's soil, but not through military attack which Soviets Union had ill-wished to do through war, but through a most humane and civilized approach of negotiations reaching final agreements of mutual benefits.

But it was General Zia's vision that lodged the worst shape of religious repression and intolerance like beating of people of Pakistan on army style 'tiktikies', installed in bazars of Pakistan's busiest cities (like in Anarkali bazar of Lahore) and lastly committing a judicial murder of Z. A Bhutto, who was his own benefactor. This is the ugliest face of Pakistan's political history and involvement of military, which turned the tables to a point of having hampered the progress of Pakistan and its people to loose their peace of mind and a good social life, which they were hitherto living. About the rest of events that followed, ouster of Gen. Zia through an engineered plane crash; the Pakistani nation remembers Zia's (anjam) end, through a planned Air crash caused by

USA who had used enough the General and wanted to put him away now from the political arena, as he was no more required by them; reasons can be explained in a separate article elaborately.

Good Developments:

There is a huge landmark of SIAL airport that world's 2nd largest cargo aircraft 'ANTONIO AN-124' had landed at 'Sialkot International Airport' and then another aero plane has now brought 300 cows from Brazil and the Brazilian Ambassador has accompanied them. It will be noted that that it was the selective choice of the Brazilian Government itself to choose a runway which in their opinion fitted well for this purpose. These are the peculiar features of SIAL airport and the people of Sialkot too, who are interestingly most sportive and intelligent people of the sub-continent who supply, not only the world class footballs but also all other sporting goods to the whole world, the only one and world-prominent activity of any city of this land from over two centuries. There is hardly any home in the town from where one or two people have not travelled abroad for searching, toiling for and finally exporting their products.



Stocks hit record high as PIA steps closer to privatization

Strong international interest following significant progress towards privatization of the national flag carrier and optimism about IMF in flows early next month further boosted investor confidence triggering a fresh buying spree tossing the benchmark KSE 100-share index to an all-time high closing above 66,500 level.

Previously, the index did cross the pivotal level several times in recent weeks but could not sustain the gains above that level.

The approval of the 11-member board of directors of PIA Holding Company with former SBP governor Tariq Bajawa as its chairman by the federal cabinet on Tuesday, 26 March was considered a major development which would speed up the privatization of the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA).

The cabinet also approved that the liabilities and assets of the loss-making national carrier would be transferred to the holding company, which would be registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan.

Interestingly, the majority of the independent directors on the holding company's board are the heads of commercial banks, including Bank Alfalah CEO Atif Aslam Bajwa and United Bank chief executive Shahzad Dada.

Separately, the aviation ministry

confirmed that it had received investor interest in the PIA transaction from several countries including Germany, France, The Netherlands, Qatar, the UAE, Malaysia and Turkiye which also sparked enthusiasm among the local investors.

Ahsan Mehanti of Arif Habib Corporation said besides PIA privatization, the rupee stability, PM commitments over CPEC second phase and expected foreign inflows also helped the market to scale a new closing peak.

Topline Securities Ltd said the market finally settled above the pivotal level as investors chose to further strengthen their equity position by buying blue-chip scrips across the board.

Resultantly, the power, bank & fertiliser sectors contributed positively to the index as Hub Power, Meezan Bank, United Bank, MCB Bank and Engro Corporation cumulatively added 319 points to the index.

On the other hand, Pakistan Petroleum, National Bank and Millat Tractors attracted some profit-taking wiping out 67 points.

As a result, the KSE-100 index closed at an all-time high of 66,547.79 points after staging a robust rally of 641.51 points or 0.97 per cent from the preceding session. Its previous all-time high closing was 66,427.78 points on Dec 12, 2023.

The overall trading volume rose

further by 16.75pc to 354.59 million shares. The traded value, however, fell 1.60pc to Rs11.88bn on a day-on-day basis.

Stocks contributing significantly to the traded volume included Lotte Chemical (42.83m shares), Telecard Ltd (29.17m shares), Pakistan Telecommunication Company Ltd (24.70m shares), The Organic Meat Company Ltd (18.79m shares) and Hascol Petroleum Ltd (16.03m shares). Shares registering the biggest increases in their share prices in absolute terms were Nestle Pakistan (Rs235.00), Shahmurad Sugar Mills Ltd (Rs31.38), Hallmark Company Ltd (Rs30.32), Pakistan Tobacco Company Ltd (Rs23.92) and Mari Petroleum Ltd (Rs11.64).

Companies registering the biggest decreases in their share prices in absolute terms were Rafhan Maize Products Company Ltd (Rs240.00), Sapphire Fibres Ltd (Rs106.50), Unilever Foods (Rs100.00), Hoechst Pakistan (Rs93.87) and Sapphire Textile (Rs84.05).

Foreign investors continued picking shares as their next purchase worth \$0.33m.

Lufthansa stops using Iranian airspace

German airline Lufthansa said on Friday its planes would no longer use Iranian airspace as it extended a suspension on flights to and from Tehran amid soaring Middle East tensions.

"Due to the current situation, Lufthansa is suspending its flights to and from Tehran up to and including Thursday, 18 April," a company spokesperson said Friday, 12 April.

"The airline is also no longer using Iranian airspace." The flights to the Iranian capital have been suspended since April 6. Lufthansa did not outline the immediate reasons for the suspension. But the move comes after Iran blamed arch foe Israel for a strike in Syria this month that killed two Iranian generals, and threatened reprisals.



The benchmark KSE-100 index on Wednesday, 27 March, posted a 641-point rally to surpass its previous highest level of 66,427 points to close at 66,547.79.

Depreciation fears prompt exporters to sell dollars

Banks are experiencing a surplus of dollars, driven by exporters swiftly selling their earnings in anticipation of further depreciation of the US currency.

In the currency market, some banks are considered export banks due to their large network of exporters, who sell their proceeds to these banks. According to currency dealers, there's been a remarkable increase in the inflow of export proceeds, exerting pressure on the exchange rate.

"The current situation could have driven the dollar to even lower rates, which would have been detrimental for exporters," said Atif Ahmed, a currency dealer in the interbank market.

Over the past three months, the exchange rate has gradually strengthened the rupee against the dollar, which closed at Rs277.93. The dollar's value has decreased by around Rs3 in the interbank market during this period.

Moreover, the forward premium — a future currency exchange rate — has dropped by over 50 per cent for six months, reducing to Rs14 from a peak of Rs24 per dollar within the fiscal year.

Similarly, the forward-booking premium for three months has come down to Rs8 per dollar, showing waning confidence in the greenback. The government is now taking measures to prevent further dollar depreciation to support exporters.

Banking sector dealers have observed that importers, in anticipation of future costs, are securing dollars at these adjusted premiums for three, four and six months to manage their import needs.

The banks are following the State Bank's policy to provide dollars to importers only when they have in their accounts. This policy has restricted imports, resulting in reduced trade as well as current account deficits. Importers are still facing restrictions on some essential and non-essential imports.

Though the SBP has expanded the list of imports of essential items, importers said the restrictions have significantly affected the economic growth. Pakistan depends on imports of raw materials on a large scale for its finished domestic and exportable products.

The low imports and high inflation reduced the consumption in the country, resulting in negative growth in the previous fiscal year and just 1pc growth rate in the second quarter of this year. The World Bank

estimates the country's economy to grow by only 1.8pc this fiscal year.

The SBP reported that the reserves have increased by \$19m to \$8.04 billion. The currency market believes that the improvement in the SBP's reserves was due to the purchasing of dollars from the interbank market. This is a usual practice of the SBP.

The country's total foreign exchange reserves have reached \$13.38bn, including \$5.34bn of the commercial banks during the week ended on March 29.

The central bank also hopes to receive

about \$1.2bn this month as the final tranche of the ongoing short-term loan agreement with the IMF.

The inflow will help the State Bank to bear the outflow of \$1bn, which is due for the payment against the maturing of Eurobonds. The maturity of the bonds is expected by mid-April.

The banking market also expects higher inflows of remittances due to Ramazan that would help the State Bank to manage its foreign exchange reserves and the exchange rate.

Exports to central Asian states jump 21pc in 8 months

Pakistan's exports to five central Asian countries (CACs) witnessed a growth of 21.17 per cent during the first eight months of the current fiscal year over the corresponding period last year.

Despite the existing prospects, the country's exports to the region have yet to attain their full potential. Similarly, imports from Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and other countries to Pakistan have not increased significantly, despite regular high-profile visits.

In absolute terms, the value of Pakistan's exports to the five central Asian countries — Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan — rose by 21.17pc to \$158.07 million in July-February 2024 from \$130.45m during the same period last year.

Imports from the region fell by 18.56pc to \$17.46m in 8MFY24 from \$21.44m during the same period last year. The majority of these imports came from Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

Pakistan's trade with CACs is between \$400 and \$500m annually via transit of Afghanistan. Uzbekistan has already implemented its transit trade agreement with Pakistan, under which 1,200 containers were imported in February.

Tajikistan imported three trucks loaded with potatoes from Pakistan under the transit agreement.

Pakistan's exports to Turkmenistan stood at \$0.735m in 8MFY24 from \$0.79m over the corresponding months last year, showing a decline of 6.33pc. Imports from Turkmenistan recorded a

growth of 113pc to \$4.96m during the period under review against \$2.32m over the corresponding months last year.

The export proceeds to Uzbekistan reached \$47.07m in 8MFY24 against \$53.22m over the corresponding months last year, showing a decline of 11.55pc. Imports from Uzbekistan also declined by 19.87pc to \$9.11m from \$11.37m over the corresponding months last year.

In terms of value, Kazakhstan has the highest export value, with \$90.76m in 8MFY24 compared to \$59.55m during the same period last year, representing a 52.40pc rise. The value of imports from Kazakhstan fell 85.74pc to \$0.62m this year against \$4.35m over the corresponding months of last year.

Pakistan's exports to Kyrgyzstan stood at \$6.37m in 8MFY24 against \$2.78m over the corresponding months last year, indicating an increase of 129pc. Imports from Kyrgyzstan stood at \$0.27m this year as against \$0.14m over the last year, a decline of over 92pc.

Exports to Tajikistan stood at \$13.14m in 8MFY24 against \$14.11m over corresponding months last year, showing a decline of 6.87pc. Similarly, imports from Tajikistan also dropped 23.3pc to \$2.50 against \$3.26m over the corresponding months last year.

Pakistan and Tajikistan have already signed and implemented a transit trade agreement. Under the agreement, Tajikistan will import goods via Pakistani seaports.

HOTEL TAJ PALACE



Reception desk offering in house services too.

RECEPTION

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



BED ROOMS



Oriental and continental meals served.

DINING HALL

Around the clock for guests and visitors



COFFEE SHOP



BAR B.Q.

Out door Bar. B.Q. daily.

Halls Available for Parties Wedding, Seminars + Exhibition



PARTY HALL



MUSIC CORNER

Light music on request.

Communication facilities fax, phone, E-mail + Internet



BUSINESS CENTRE



LAUNDRY

In-house service for guests.

Open around the year for guests and club members.



SWIMMING POOL



RENT A CAR

Automobiles available on request.



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

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

AT TAJ WE MAKE YOU FEEL COMFORT.

HOTEL TAJ PALACE

COURT ROAD, SIALKOT - PAKISTAN

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

E-mail: info@taj.com.pk

Accord on CPEC's second phase soon, says PM Shehbaz

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday, 26 March revealed that an agreement on the second phase of CPEC would soon be signed with China under which the ML-I rail project would be started and economic zones established



across the country to boost economic activities.

The premier made the announcement while addressing the 'Tax Excellence Awards' ceremony, shortly before a suicide attack in Shangla claimed six lives, including five Chinese workers.

He said Pakistan enjoyed excellent ties with China and the second phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor would expedite economic development.

He said the government has no other option but to go for another IMF programme, adding that the programme didn't stop "us from increasing our growth and exports and expanding the tax net. We will ensure no more inflation due to the next IMF programme." He termed another IMF programme a requirement for the country's economic stability.

The prime minister said the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) was accelerating investment prospects by removing hurdles. He said the government was outsourcing airports, besides expediting the privatization of PIA, and regretted that state-owned enterprises were making billions of rupees of losses annually.

Terming the highest taxpayers heroes of the nation, PM Shehbaz announced significant incentives for them, including issuance of blue passport and conferring of Pakistan Honour Cards and honorary title of ambassadors of the country upon them.

He said about Rs65 billion refunds had been issued to exporters upon his directive and he had also ordered making it a routine

matter without any leniency. He stressed that the government and private sector had to work closely to overcome economic issues and challenges being faced by the country.

He said the federal government with the support of provincial governments would address the issues faced by the private sector and end red tape by providing them enabling circumstances so that they could tread upon the development path.

He reiterated the nation should get rid of costly oil-churning power units to provide competitive power supply to industries, adding that he had directed the authorities concerned to do away with such junk.

About the Federal Board of Revenue, PM Shehbaz said the government was taking measures for its complete restructuring and a consultant would be appointed next month for that purpose. He said that about Rs27bn was under litigation whereas the revenue target was set at Rs9 trillion.

He underscored the need for appointment of competent tribunal heads to expeditiously dispose of the pending litigation, adding that he had also appealed to the chief justice of Pakistan for speedy disposal of such cases at the upper tiers.

He said the country's tax collection stood at around 9pc of GDP which was the lowest in the region while a huge chunk of tax was siphoned off. If this massive leakage is not plugged, further imposition of taxes would not yield results, he said, underlining the need for reducing tax slabs.

The premier appreciated the tax collectors and relevant departments who, he said, would also be given public recognition. He emphasised upon an exports-led growth, boosting of IT and agriculture development.

PM-president meeting Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday met President Asif Ali Zardari wherein they expressed their resolve to steer the country out of prevailing challenges. They also discussed the country's overall political and economic situation, a President House press release said.

The meeting also featured deliberations on the measures to extend relief to the masses during Ramazan.

Card for exporters, taxpayers launched

In a rare development, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has notified an incentives-laden scheme offering privileges and facilities to top exporters and taxpayers.

The Pakistan Honour Card Scheme was notified through SRO469 on Thursday, 21 March. The benefits include expedited clearance at immigration offices, issuance of diplomatic passports and access to VIP lounges at airports.

The cards will be issued to 65 top exporters and compliant taxpayers, including companies, associations of persons (AOPs), and individual taxpayers who received awards from Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

The scheme is divided into several categories, including top taxpayers recognised for outstanding performance in various fields. Nine top exporters will be short-listed for the cards based on the value of their export proceeds from the country.

There will be another category depending on sector performance. The top two exporters by sector will be chosen from chemical products, followed by two each from food items, leather, machinery, pharmaceuticals, sports goods, and other top exporters of paper and plastic, steel and metal products, and other products. The exporters of non-traditional and innovative products will also be offered the cards. The top exporter of aluminium and articles will also be offered the card, followed by spices, fish and crustaceans. In the category of information technology, three top exporters will be selected under the scheme.

Two exporters with the highest increase over the previous year, three top exporters who shipped products for the first time, the top three women exporters, the 12 highest taxpayers in all taxes, the highest taxpayer of income tax, the top five highest tax paying companies, and the highest AOP, in addition to the top five individual taxpayers.

To be eligible for the Pakistan Honour Card, taxpayers must meet certain conditions, including full payment of taxes based on returns or final taxation statements, the absence of outstanding arrears or claims (unless challenged in court), and the absence of pending criminal procedures.

Pakistani businessmen asked to explore Iraqi market

Iraq's Ambassador to Pakistan Hamid Abbas Lafta said on Saturday, 30 March that Iraq was a country of opportunities with a strong economy and an annual budget of \$110 billion, inviting Pakistani businesses to explore opportunities in his country.

Mr Lafta was speaking to a delegation of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI).

"While both Pakistan and Iraq have strong bonds, their trade relations are at a very low level, which needs to be enhanced, and for this purpose, the chambers of both sides can play a significant role," he said.

The envoy further noted that the Iraqi government has unveiled its national action plan for the investments, and Pakistani businessmen have to come forward to avail themselves of these opportunities.

He also stressed for joint ventures between the business communities of both countries.

ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari led the delegation, and inquired about the potential of sending Pakistani human resources to the industrial and farm sectors of Iraq.

Mr Bakhtawari said that to overcome the problem of low trade volumes between Iraq and Pakistan, direct connectivity between the

business communities of the two countries was needed.

He highlighted that the cost of transportation between the two countries was also very low.

President ICCI expressed that Iraq and Pakistan needed to initiate trade through Gwadar and Basra ports to enhance volumes and maintain low freight charges.

Along with other multiple investment opportunities in different areas, Pakistan also enjoys the tourism potential, especially in the northern areas, so the Iraqi side must grasp this opportunity as well, he said.

Mr Bakhtawari suggested that the ICCI chalk out a plan for its participation in the trade exhibition to be held in Najaf in June this year to showcase its products in Iraq to boost business ties between the two countries.

He added that the ICCI was determined to play its role in the promotion of business relations between the two countries.

On this occasion, United Business Group (UBG) Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari expressed the hope that the Ambassador, being a dynamic figure, will continue to play his role in furthering the ties between the two countries, and in this connection, the bilateral visits of the highest leadership of both sides will be momentous.

Exports to ME up 36pc

Pakistan's trade deficit with the Middle East narrowed 22.62 per cent to \$8.525 billion in the first eight months of the current fiscal year from \$11.017bn in the corresponding period of last year mainly due to reduced imports of petroleum products from the region.

The trade imbalance with the region has shrunk since the start of the current fiscal year due to lower use of petroleum goods as prices have steadily increased.

In absolute terms, Pakistan's exports to the Middle East rose 35.75pc to \$2.024bn between July and February 2023-24, compared to \$1.491 bn in the corresponding period last year.

At the same time, imports dipped 15.66pc to \$10.549bn in 8MFY24 against \$12.508bn in the same period last year, according to data compiled by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

Pakistan has recently signed a free trade agreement with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states to minimise its trade imbalance with the region.

A surge in demand for Pakistani products was observed from countries like the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Pakistan witnessed a 7.24pc decline in imports totalling \$17.488bn in FY23, down from \$18.853bn in the preceding year. In FY23, exports to the Middle East shrank 12.62pc to \$2.332bn from \$2.669bn in the preceding year.

Exports to Saudi Arabia rose 47.3pc in 8MFY24 to \$442.82m from \$300.62m in 8MFY23. At the same time, imports from Saudi Arabia also increased by 37.16pc to \$3.078bn in 8MFY24 against \$2.244bn in the same period last year.

Exports to the UAE surged 41.33pc to \$1.336bn in 8MFY24 from \$945.27m in 8MFY23, primarily due to a significant rise in exports to Dubai. The majority of these exports were directed towards Dubai, amounting to \$1.102bn this year, compared to \$856.52m during the same period last year, indicating an increase of 28.66pc.



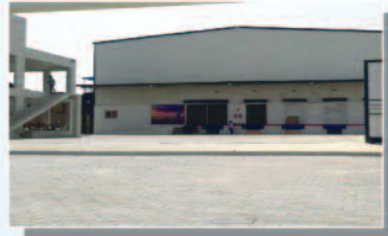
Bridge collapses in US on March 26, shows (Clockwise from top) an aerial view of the cargo vessel which crashed into the bridge; the steel frame of the bridge sits on top of the ship after it collapsed; and, a traffic warning sign is activated after the collision.



THE TAQ ORGANIZATION

Pakistan's leading logistics and supply chain service provider

With a cost-efficient range of reliable services TAQ continues to move ahead



A pioneer in its field 'The TAQ Organization' has served the trade and industry in Pakistan with distinction. TAQ continues to give greater value to customers. Let us be your service provider and form a winning team to tap the opportunities that lie ahead in this region.

- International Freight Forwarding**
- Contract Logistics**
- Trucking Services**
- Custom Brokerage Management**
- Wholesale Freight Management**
- Warehousing and Distribution**
- Industrial Projects Handling**
- Transit Trade Services**
- Door to Door Service**

We are a different organization in Pakistan

Email: info@tlpk.com Website: www.taq.com.pk UAN: +92-42-111 222 827

Karachi: (021) 34541301-7, **Lahore:** (042) 36363300-7, **Sialkot:** (052) 3554301-6,
Rawalpindi / Islamabad: (051) 5162704-5, **Faisalabad:** (041) 8542924, **Peshawar:** (091) 5606565,
Multan: (061) 4510465

Punjab CM visits Kartarpur by copter

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz visited Kartarpur on Thursday, 18 April via helicopter and she was not travelling with a motorcade at the time of an accident, which claimed the life of a youth in Narowal, the provincial government said on Friday, 19 April.

In a statement, a spokesperson said the CM had taken notice of the youth's death and ordered immediate action, issuing directions for the identification of the car involved in the accident and the arrest of the culprits.

The spokesperson said that police, on the orders of the CM, had registered a case and launched an investigation into the man's death.

According to initial reports and eyewitness accounts, 23-year-old filling station worker Muhammad Abubakar had died after allegedly being hit by an Elite Force vehicle, said to be part of the chief minister's convoy.

The incident took place at the Chandowal Stop on the Shakargarh Road, en route to Kartarpur, where the CM had attended Baisakhi celebrations on the same day. The government, however, has rejected these reports.

Meanwhile, Abubakar was laid to rest in his native village following funeral prayers.

Narowal DSP Malik Muhammad Khalil said they had obtained the CCTV footage of the incident, claiming that Abubakar could be seen fell on the ground after being hit by an unidentified motorcyclist before he had a fatal collision with a government vehicle.

DPO Naveed Malik said the search was on for the unidentified motorcyclist, but so far they had not got any information about him. He claimed that a departmental inquiry had been launched against the driver of the government vehicle that hit Abubakar.

DC Syed Hasan Raza said a proposal had been sent to the government for financial support of the family of the deceased. But Ali Rizwan, a cousin of the deceased, told media nobody from the government contacted the family.

Baisakhi festivities celebration at Kartarpur

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz visited Zero Line Kartarpur Sharif in Kheti Sahib to officially inaugurate 'Baisakhi' by harvesting the golden crop of wheat with a golden sickle.

Goroband Committee Raminder Singh Bumrah draped Sarupa (shawl) on Maryam. Diljit Singh Sarnan presented Kirpan and other gifts to her. Sarupa (shawl) and gifts were also presented to Senior Minister



Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz eats food with pilgrims at Langar Hall.

She expressed happiness on the honour of harvesting in Baba Guru Nanak's field.

Sikh women warmly greeted her with folded hands at Pak Darshan Deodhi. Sikh youths performed traditional Gatka.

The chief minister also visited Sarovar (holy pond), Samadhi (prayer hall), Guru Ghar and had darshan of Sangat. She was briefed about the facilitation centre. She said: "Today we are celebrating Baisakhi festival for the first time at the official level. The doors of Pakistan are open to Sikh men and women from all over the world. Sikh pilgrims come to Pakistan and perform religious rituals at holy places with complete freedom. Sikh pilgrims will be provided complete security, travel and best residential facilities in Pakistan."

The Indian Sikh Jatha leader appreciated the chief minister's initiatives and arrangements. He thanked her for the love and care, and said, "We all are proud of daughter of Punjab becoming the chief minister."

President Delhi

Mariyum Aurangzeb.

Maryam also visited the Sikh Art Gallery and ate food with the pilgrims at the Langar Hall. She was entertained with boiled rice, curry pakoras, groundnut daal, sweet rice, roti and pickles.

Senior Minister Mariyum Aurangzeb, ministers Ramesh Singh Arora, Bilal Akbar, Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani, MNA Anwarul Haq, MPA Wasim Butt, Rana Manan, secretaries of tourism and agriculture departments, the commissioner and other officials were present on the occasion.



Sikh pilgrims perform their rituals during the Baisakhi festival at Gurdwara Punja Sahib in Hassanabdal on Sunday, 14 April. Over 2,400 pilgrims arrived from India to participate in the festivities.

Pakistani climbers aiming to scale world's all 14 highest peaks

Despite the nation's rich mountaineering legacy, it has yet to claim a climber who has conquered all 14 of the highest peaks in the world.

However, this narrative might soon undergo a significant shift with climbers like Sajid Sadpara leading the charge, said Alpine Club of Pakistan (ACP).

Renowned for its formidable peaks, including five of the world's towering 8,000 metres mountains, Pakistan stands on the cusp of mountaineering history, said ACP secretary Karrar Haidri.

Sajid Sadpara, son of the late legendary climber Mohammad Ali Sadpara, was currently embarking on a monumental journey towards the 8,586 metres tall Kangchenjunga in Nepal and the third highest peak in the world. Should he succeed, it would mark his ninth conquest of an 8,000 metres peak.

ACP said what set Sajid Sadpara apart was his remarkable feat of scaling these peaks without the aid of supplementary oxygen, a feat he accomplished even on Mt Everest last year. Once again, Sajid Sadpara would brave the unforgiving heights as part of the rope-fixing team, eschewing bottled oxygen and personal sherpa support.

Following Kangchenjunga, Sajid Sadpara's odyssey continued with four more mountains on his agenda the 8,516 metres Lhotse (4th highest in the world), 8,485 metres Makalu (5th highest) and the formidable Tibetan giants 8,188 metres Cho Oyu (6th highest) and Shisha Pangma 8,027 metres, 14th highest peak in the world.

Meanwhile, two other Pakistani climbers, Sirbaz Khan and Shehroze Kashif, also had their sights set on Shisha Pangma, aiming to etch their names in mountaineering lore by completing their 14x8,000m quest on the Tibetan giant.

ACP pointed out that Sirbaz Khan, known for his indomitable spirit and swift ascent, often collaborated with Mingma G's Imagine Nepal team. With 10 of his 138,000-metre summits conquered without supplementary oxygen, Khan's prowess on the mountains has earned him accolades from the mountaineering community.

On the other hand, Shehroze Kashif, one of the youngest faces in the high-altitude climbing scene, has been supported by Seven Summit Treks throughout his mountaineering endeavours. Having shattered age records with his ascent of Broad Peak at the age of 17, Shehroze Kashif continued to make waves in the mountaineering world.

Among Pakistani women, Naila Kiani has been a beacon of inspiration, achieving her 10th 8,000 metres summit by conquering Cho Oyu last fall.

Despite her ambitious plans to tackle Shisha Pangma, avalanches halted her journey, underscoring the unpredictable and perilous nature of high-altitude mountaineering.

As the mountaineering community eagerly awaited their next moves, Naila Kiani, in particular, aimed to foster a culture of athleticism among Pakistani women, hoping to ignite a passion for sports and adventure in the younger generation.

Mr Haidri said that in a nation where only one per cent of women participated in sports, Naila Kiani's achievements served as a testament to the boundless potential of Pakistani mountaineers, inspiring future generations to reach new heights both on and off the mountains.



Visitors Take keen interest in the display of Sindh culture at Sindh Museum on Saturday. Besides amusement parks, Al-Manzar (Indus riverbed), Rani Bagh (zoo) and such other places, the museum also attracted people on large numbers during the extended Eid holidays.



Police personnel destroy Poppy in Barang Tehsil of Bajaur Tribal District, recently.

Punjab Senior Minister inaugurates Lion Safari

Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb inaugurated the Lion Safari at the Lahore Safari Zoo on Saturday, 06 April.

While announcing free entry to the safari park on the Eid day, on the direction of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, she disclosed that the free facility would be allowed to 60-plus people even after Eid. Meanwhile, huts meant for the night safari will soon be opened to the public to fully enjoy the facility.

The senior minister inspected different sections, including the salt range, deer and bird safaris and urial safari in the e-safari cart. She provided a timeline of three months for the establishment of the veterinary complex, bird hatcheries, information boards installation,

systemisation of electric carts, fixing of speed limit boards on pathways, fountains, artificial moulds, water ponds' construction and steps for dust-free environment for the



visitors. She stated that two more veterinary doctors would be immediately hired while separate vet doctors would also be hired for different animals. She also gave directions

for the arrangement of the accommodations for safari park staff.

Ms Aurangzeb mentioned sending wildlife staff to learn the latest technological interventions to vetline centre in Hong Kong, the panda zoo in China and other countries.

The provincial government would develop a safari park application while introducing an international bidding system for swings, she said and added that three elephants would be imported from Zimbabwe for the safari park for which four vet doctors would be appointed.

"The Safari Park Wildlife Center will make a world-class safari in three months," the minister said and added that the CM would soon announce an eco-tourism plan for Changa Manga Forest & Wildlife Park.

Tigress injures two as it escapes during transportation

A Bengal tigress which was being transported from Lahore to Multan by an animal dealer after buying it from a breeding farm in Lahore ran away into the fields from its cage near Multan in the wee hours of Sunday, 31 March.

The animal trader was identified as Muhammad Adnan.

Punjab Wildlife Department Multan Deputy Director Sheikh Zahid told media the tigress was being carried in a pick-up in a cage. As the vehicle reached Bosan Road on the mud track behind the Multan Public High School, the vehicle got stuck on the muddy track that was wet due to rain.

As the vehicle jerked to get out of the mud, the cage got opened and the big cat escaped into the fields. The owner, Muhammad Adnan, called the police on 15 but the police told him to contact the wildlife department as they could help in this regard. Fear gripped the locals in the area as the news of a tigress loitering in the open spread among the residents.

On the other hand, the furious tigress ran into fields and reportedly injured two persons, including a wildlife official. However, the injuries were stated to be mild. The Punjab Wildlife Department officials and a DHA Multan Zoo vet were involved in the operation to catch the tigress. The big cat was finally caught after tranquilisation done by a DHA Multan

Zoo vet with his tranquiliser gun.

Wildlife officials, private zoo vet catch the big cat after hours-long operation

A fine of Rs221,000 was imposed on Adnan by the wildlife department under the Punjab Wildlife Act 1974. The tigress has been returned to the owner on payment of the fine, Mr Zahid said.

Punjab Wildlife and Parks Department Director General Mudassar Riaz Malik said the wildlife officials took part in the rescue operation. To a question why tigers and lions had not yet been categorised in the Schedule 3 of the Punjab Wildlife Department, the DG said he had called a meeting on Monday, 1st April to set standards and regulate the issue of keeping tigers and lions in breeding farms and houses. "Such animals fall in Schedule 3 and it is prohibited to keep them domestically," he added. The meeting would have representatives of the WWF-Pakistan as well.

To the question if these animals were put in Schedule 3, what

would happen to the private breeding farms having a huge number of lions and tigers, Mr Malik said it's a crucial issue that would be discussed in the meeting besides all other aspects and possible licensing of such animals. To yet another question, Mr Malik said the meeting would also discuss either a new schedule or a new law.

The wildlife DG said the Captive Wildlife Management Committee had got rules approved by the cabinet and new law would be introduced under these rules.

According to some media reports, the age of Bengal tigress is about two years and its value is Rs5m to Rs6m.





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



Karachi Cargo Services (Pvt.) Ltd.



Software 0321-247724



HEAD OFFICE

Fabeha Castle, 168, Block-B, S.M.C.H.S., Karachi, Pakistan.
Tel: +92-21-34534411-12-13-14

TOWN OFFICE

Office # 06, Lotia Building No. 2, Club Road Karachi.
Tel: +92-21-35641050-52 | Toll Free: 0800 02426
Email: headoffice@karachicargo.com

LAHORE OFFICE:

Tel: +92 42 631 3191-2

SIALKOT OFFICE:

Tel: +92 52 3257310-2

ISLAMABAD OFFICE:

Tel: +92 51 5952326-7

www.karachicargo.com

KP chief minister urged to transform Gandhara into role model for faith tourism

Dr Ramesh Kumar Vankwani has requested Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur to join hands in transforming Gandhara into an international role model for faith tourism, with the active collaboration of all federal and provincial stakeholders.

In a letter addressed to the chief minister, Dr Vankwani said the bill was a move to develop coordination between the federal government and the provinces to promote and market Gandhara heritage as part of Pakistani culture, which would help increase revenue through the systematic arrival of international pilgrims.

The letter was in response to criticism by certain quarters, including the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, over the recent 'Gandhara Corridor' introduced by Dr Vankwani in the National Assembly.

Dr Vankwani said there was no conspiracy to snatch or take administrative control of the Gandhara civilisation from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said the bill was an attempt at exploring opportunities for strengthening Pakistan's economy as well as projecting a positive image of the country, as establishing a high-level facilitation centre at the federal level to promote Gandhara faith pilgrimage with the collaboration of provinces would not

violate the 18th Amendment, which ensured provincial autonomy.

The letter by Dr Vankwani further added that Gandhara should not only be limited to the remains or archaeological sites, as Gandhara civilisation was actually based on tolerance, harmony and brotherhood among different faiths, communities and segments of human society.

"The Gandhara civilisation comprises several historical archaeological sites spread across Pakistan and has the potential to attract the followers of Dharmic religions of the subcontinent, including Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism," it added.

Dr Vankwani had been spearheading the campaign to promote Gandhara tourism, and while serving as chairman of the Prime Minister's Taskforce on Gandhara Tourism, he identified 50 potential Gandhara sites in all provinces, which already included Mohenjodaro remains and stupas located in Sindh as well. Out of 50 sites, 38 are related to Buddhism, 10 to Hinduism and two belong to Jainism. He said the proposed Gandhara Corridor would also demonstrate that the state of Pakistan supported non-Muslims to enjoy religious freedom, as guaranteed in the Constitution and international laws.

Khunjerab Pass opens for travel, trade

Khunjerab Pass, which remained shut for four months starting Nov 30, was reopened for travel and trade between Pakistan and China on Monday.

The border-crossing is now expected to keep functioning throughout the year.

On Oct 20, then-caretaker prime minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar held a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing where the two sides agreed to make the Khunjerab Pass operational throughout the year.

On Monday, a flag hoisting ceremony was held at the Sost Dry Port. The ceremony was attended, among others, by local traders, officials from the Hunza district administration and

Customs officials.

Pakistani and Chinese flags were hoisted on the occasion and national anthems were played.

In his address Customs official Dr Asjad urged the traders to respect the department's laws. A van of the Northern Areas Transportation Cooperation, a government transport organisation, carrying passengers including Chinese citizens and European tourists crossed into China through the pass. From the other side, Chinese containers loaded with imported goods entered Pakistan.

Meanwhile, the annual permits exchange ceremony was held at the China Gate where Pakistani and Chinese officials exchanged documents and gifts.

Auditorium at Taxila museum to facilitate tourists visiting Buddhist sites

The Directorate General of Archaeology Punjab is establishing an auditorium that will open a new window for local and international tourists, especially followers of Buddhism, as well as researchers and scholars of ancient Gandhara civilisation.

The auditorium, which is being established on the premises of the museum, would provide an opportunity to the visitors and tourists to digitally visit the ancient civilisation and see artifacts and Buddha statues showcased in the adjacent museum building.

"The ground-breaking ceremony of the project was performed on March 10, 2020 and it is expected to complete in June this year," said Ali Gohar, archaeological engineer at the Directorate General of Archaeology. He said the project would be completed at the cost of Rs23.549 million.

Responding to a question, Mr Gohar said the construction of the auditorium in Taxila Museum was part of the project funded by the Punjab government under which public facilities and historical monuments and sites were to be upgraded.

"Once completed, it will serve as a venue for screening Gandhara heritage site documentaries and hosting seminars focusing on Gandhara civilisation," Taxila Museum curator Humaira Naz said.

Deputy Director, Department of Archaeology, Anjum Javaid termed the establishment of this facility within the premises of the museum as a remarkable achievement for provision of better facilities to tourists, especially international pilgrims.

He said a virtual tour to all important Buddhist sites scattered in Taxila valley would be arranged for tourists, adding that visitors would be able to see the ancient sites through virtual tours if they were unable to physically visit them.

Mr Javaid said the building would also provide a platform for organising conferences and seminars to facilitate national and international participants.



PAKISTAN CARGO SERVICES
Serving with Excellence
Since 1984



ROAD TRANSPORT TO EUROPE, UK & SCANDINAVIA

UPTO DOOR UNDER TIR CONVENTION



OUR FTL SERVICES COVERS

Eastern Europe
 Western Europe
 United Kingdom
 Scandinavia
 CIS Countries

Door Delivery in 29days
 Door Delivery in 31days
 Door Delivery in 35days
 Door Delivery in 35days
 Door Delivery in 25days

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



Phone: +92 300 8613820
 WhatsApp: +92 302 8507888
 Email: umair.kam@pakistancargo.com
Yousaf.ce@pakistancargo.com



Paris 2024 torch lit in Olympics birthplace, relay under way

The torch for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games was lit in ancient Olympia in a traditional ceremony on Tuesday, 18 April, marking the final stretch of the seven-year preparations for the Games' start on July 26.

Greek actress Mary Mina, playing the role of high priestess, lit the torch using a backup flame instead of a parabolic mirror that is normally used, due to cloudy skies, in the 2,600-year-old Temple of Hera, near the stadium where the Olympics were born in 776 BC, for the start of a relay in Greece and France.

It will culminate with the lighting of the Olympic flame in the French capital at the opening ceremony. Paris will host the summer Olympics for a third time after 1900 and 1924.

"In these difficult times we are living through, with wars and conflicts on the rise, people are fed up with all the hate, the aggression and negative news they are facing day in and day out," International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach said in his speech.

"We are longing for something which brings us together, something that is unifying, something that gives us hope. The Olympic flame that we are lighting today is the symbol of this hope."

The IOC has cleared the way for Russian and Belarusian athletes to compete at the Olympics despite the ongoing war in Ukraine but they will do so as neutral athletes with no national flag or anthem, a decision that angered Moscow.

French President Emmanuel Macron also said last week Russia would be asked to observe a ceasefire in Ukraine during the Paris Olympics. The Kremlin said Ukraine might use it as an opportunity to regroup and rearm.

Suspending armed conflicts under an Olympic truce during the Games was a standard practice in ancient Greece.

"In ancient times, the Olympic Games brought together the Greek city states, even — and in particular — during times of war and conflict," Bach said.

"Today, the Olympic Games are the only event that brings the entire world together in peaceful competition. Then as now, the Olympic athletes are sending this powerful message: yes, it is possible to compete fiercely against each other and at the same time live peacefully together

under one roof."

Carrying the flame in a pot, the high priestess lit the torch of the first runner of the relay, Greece's Olympic rowing champion Stefanos Ntouskos.

After a short run he then handed the flame on to France's three-time Olympic medallist in swimming and head of Paris' Olympic torch relay, Laure Manaudou, as the representative of the host city.

The torch harks back to the ancient Olympics when a sacred flame burned

The French torch relay will last 68 days and will end in Paris with the lighting of the Olympic flame on July 26.

Officials on Tuesday stressed that the Paris Games will set new milestones, following the legacy of the other two prior Olympics held in the French capital.

"The Olympic Flame will shine over the first Olympic Games inspired by our Olympic Agenda reforms from start to finish," Bach said. "These Olympic Games will be younger, more inclusive, more



Greek actress Mary Mina (R), playing the role of the High Priestess, lights the torch during the Olympic torch lighting ceremony for the Paris Games at the Ancient Olympia archeological site on Tuesday, 18 April.

throughout the Games. The tradition was revived in 1936 for the Berlin Olympics.

During the 11-day relay on Greek soil, some 600 torchbearers will carry the flame over a distance of 5,000 kilometres (3,100 miles) through 41 municipalities.

The flame will be officially handed over to Paris Games organisers in Athens's Panathenaic stadium, site of the first modern Games in 1896, on April 26.

It will then depart the next day for France on board a three-masted ship, the Belem where it will arrive on May 8 in Marseille, with up to 150,000 people expected to attend the ceremony in the southern city's Old Port.

The last torch bearer in Marseille will climb on the roof of the Velodrome stadium on May 9, organisers said.

Marseille, founded by the Greek settlers of Phocaea around 600 BC, will host the sailing competitions.

urban, more sustainable. These will be the very first Olympic Games with full gender parity, because the IOC allocated exactly 50 percent of the places to female and male athletes."

Paris Olympics chief organiser Tony Estanguet noted that women took part for the first time in the Paris 1900 Games, while the first Olympic Village was created for the 1924 Paris Games.

For the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic imposed toned-down events for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and 2022 Beijing Winter Games, the ceremony was back with full regalia and scores of spectators.

Greek President Katerina Sakellaropoulou, French sports minister Amelie Oudea-Castera and Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo were present at the ceremony. American mezzo soprano Joyce DiDonato delivered the Olympic anthem.

METRO CAB

URGENT SERVICE

Airport Pick & Drop Service

24 HOURS CALL CENTER

Karachi: 021-111-222-787

Lahore: 042-111-222-787

Whatsapp # 0312-1305511

Whatsapp # 0321-8409692

Email: karachi@metrocab.com.pk

Email: lahore@metrocab.com.pk

Faisalabad: 041-111-222-787

Reliable & Trustworthy



U A N # 111 - 222 - 787

Very Attractive terms for corporate Clients:
Contact Cell # 0314-2377771 - Whatsapp # 0312-1305511
Email: director@metrocab.com.pk



CARGO SALES AGENT FOR YTO AIRLINES IN PAKISTAN



For Booking Please Contact :

syed.waqar@xpress-aviation.com.pk
import@xpress-aviation.com.pk

tayyab@xpress-aviation.com.pk
bilal@xpress-aviation.com.pk



**Sialkot
International
Airport**

Now Powered by Solar!



We are...

GOING SOLAR...

GOING GREEN...

SAVING THE PLANET



**Sialkot
International
Airport**

6-KM from Sambrial Sialkot - Pakistan

Phones: 92-52-6633001-4 Fax: 92-52-6633023-4

 info@sial.com.pk  [@SialkotInternationalAirport](https://www.facebook.com/SialkotInternationalAirport)  [@Sialkotairport](https://twitter.com/Sialkotairport)
 [@AirportSialkot](https://twitter.com/AirportSialkot)  [Sialkot International Airport](https://www.youtube.com/SialkotInternationalAirport)  www.sial.com.pk