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NIFTYSPHERE INSTITUTE

PRESENTS

“POP REVOLUTION” COLORS, CULTURE & CREATIVITY

Niftysphere Institute Showcases Creativity Through “Pop Revolution: Color, Culture & Creativity” Exhibition at PNCA Islamabad: Niftysphere Institute of Arts & Design successfully organized an exhibition titled “Pop Revolution: Color, Culture & Creativity” at PNCA, Islamabad. The exhibition highlighted the creativity, innovation, and artistic talent of students from different departments of art and design. The event was attended by distinguished diplomats and representatives from the Vietnam Embassy, Denmark Embassy, and Sri Lanka Embassy, along with their teams. The ambassadors appreciated the creative work and cultural expression presented by the students.

The Chief Guest of the event was Zehra Wadud Fatemi, MNA of Pakistan Muslim League , who praised the efforts of the students and encouraged young talent. Misbah Khar Advisor To Chairman Senate Pakistan also attended the exhibition and appreciated the initiative.

During the event, Head of Department Ms. Sidra tul Muntaha presented a souvenir to the Chief Guest as a token of appreciation. Syed Usman Tahir, who is also the CEO of Niftysphere Institute of Arts & Design and Advisor to Federal Minister, warmly received the ambassadors and personally gave them a tour of the exhibition.

The event was also attended by Usman Shaukat President of RCCI, whose presence added further value to the occasion.

The exhibition served as a vibrant platform to promote culture, creativity, innovation, and artistic collaboration while encouraging the young generation of artists and designers in Pakistan.



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The future of PTI in Pakistan's politics



PAKISTAN Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), despite facing unprecedented restrictions, continues to gain political traction. The party's resilience in the face of adversity has become a defining feature of its current trajectory. With each passing day, PTI's popularity appears to be expanding, even though it is barred from holding public meetings, rallies, or gatherings. This paradoxical rise can be attributed to two major factors: the continued imprisonment of Imran Khan and the governance failures of the incumbent government. The imprisonment of Imran Khan has transformed him into a symbol of resistance and injustice. For

many Pakistanis, his confinement is not merely a legal matter but a political statement. The longer Khan remains behind bars, the more sympathy he garners from the masses. People perceive his imprisonment as a denial of democratic rights and an act of political victimization. This perception fuels public support for PTI, as citizens rally behind the idea of justice and fairness.

Interestingly, Khan's absence from the political stage has not diminished his influence. Instead, it has amplified it. His supporters argue that he is more dangerous to his opponents while in jail than outside it, as his imprisonment continuously reminds the public of the alleged injustices meted out to him. This dynamic has created a powerful narrative: Khan as a martyr of democracy, and PTI as the vehicle of change. Parallel to Khan's imprisonment, the incumbent government's inability to deliver on governance has further strengthened PTI's position. The economy remains fragile, with foreign reserves largely dependent on borrowed funds. Inflation continues to burden ordinary citizens, while corruption, nepotism, and jobbery dominate the political landscape. These failures have eroded public trust in the ruling coalition, creating fertile ground for PTI's resurgence.

Even on the international front, where Pakistan briefly gained relief due to the easing of U.S.-Iran tensions, the political government failed to capitalize. Instead, the credit went to the military establishment, further diminishing the civilian government's credibility. This imbalance has reinforced the perception that the political leadership is weak and ineffective, while PTI represents a stronger alternative.

The military establishment's growing influence in political affairs has complicated the situation. The U.S.-Iran standoff highlighted how the military, rather than the civilian government, was seen as the stabilizing force. This dynamic undermines the political government's legitimacy and raises questions about the balance of power in Pakistan. For PTI, this presents both a challenge and an opportunity. While the party may struggle against institutional resistance, its narrative of civilian supremacy and anti-establishment politics resonates with a significant portion of the population.

If current trends persist, PTI is poised to emerge as the largest party in the next elections. The combination of Imran Khan's symbolic power and the government's failures creates a strong electoral advantage. However, the political landscape in Pakistan is fluid, and scenarios may change rapidly. If another national government setup is introduced before elections, PTI may secure a share in governance but not necessarily a leading role. Much will depend on how the establishment and ruling coalition manage the pre-election environment.

The future of PTI in Pakistan's politics is shaped by a paradox: restrictions on its activities have not weakened the party but strengthened its appeal. Imran Khan's imprisonment has become a rallying point for supporters, while governance failures of the incumbent government have amplified PTI's narrative of change. As long as Khan remains in jail, public sympathy will continue to grow, making PTI a formidable force in the political arena. The coming elections, therefore, hold the potential to redefine Pakistan's political landscape, with PTI likely to play a central role.

Chief Editor's Profile: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti is a career journalist. He started off as District Correspondent of Daily The Muslim in 1988 from Gujrat. Later he moved to Islamabad and joined Pakistan Observer as Sub-Editor / Op-ed Writer, in 1993. In 1995 he again moved to The Muslim as Sub-Editor and he left The Muslim in 1997 to join THE Nation as City Editor and Diplomatic Correspondent, where he remained till 2002. His association with the The News spans over three years from 2002 to 2005 as columnist. In 2005 Mr. Bhatti switched over to Khabrain Group as Columnist / Special Correspondent. In 2010 he was made Resident Editor of The Post, a sister publication of daily Khabrain. In 2010, he launched his own publication Centreline. He has authored two books on European Union. He launched Diplomatic News Agency (DNA) in 2012. In May 2020 he launched Pakistan's First & only Diplomatic Newspaper Daily Islamabad POST.

Chandra W. Sukotjo

Indonesia-Pakistan partnership set to further expand

“ Currently, on bilateral level, the leaderships of the two fraternal countries have shown a very close bond. Last year, President Prabowo Subianto visited Pakistan for high-level bilateral talks, where he met with President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Asim Munir ”

Ansar Mahmood Bhatti

1. Let us begin with the bilateral relations, please your vision with our readers as to how would you like to further strengthen these relations?

Well, the bilateral relations between Indonesia and Pakistan have reached a solid age. Last year, we proudly celebrated the 75 years of diplomatic relations between the two brotherly countries.

The main theme of the celebration was, “Enduring Friendship and Mutual Trust,” which has paved the way for further avenues of cooperations in various fields at all levels of engagement.

My vision in advancing the Indonesia-Pakistan bilateral relations does not stand alone, but it is a progressive continuation of the big vision laid down by our respective founding fathers; President Sukarno and Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, deeply rooted in mutual respect and reciprocal support at the regional and global levels.

2. Apart from trade and economy, political relations between Pakistan and Indonesia have also been phenomenal. If you could share some recent developments in this regard?

Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan, H.E. Chandra W. Sukotjo, gave an exclusive interview to Daily Islamabad POST/Centreline and the Diplomatic News Agency (DNA). During the conversation, the Ambassador discussed a wide range of issues spanning both bilateral and multilateral relations. The following is the text of the interview

I think, Indonesia and Pakistan have successfully maintained strong political relations rooted in shared historical solidarity, cultural affinity, and mutual support.

Pakistan played a foundational role as one of the five co-sponsors of the historic 1955 Asia-Africa Conference in Bandung, which helped nations in Asia and Africa get their independence.

The Conference subsequently issued the Bandung Spirit which mainly champions solidarity, anti-imperialism, national sovereignty, peaceful coexistence, and economic cooperation among developing nations.

Currently, on bilateral level, the leaderships of the two fraternal countries have shown a very close bond. Last year, President Prabowo Subianto visited Pakistan for high-level bilateral talks, where he met with President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Asim Munir.

This state visit has opened the doors for further exchange visits on ministerial level and vice-ministerial or state-ministerial levels, as well as military leadership level.

On regional and global forum, both countries collaborate closely within the United



Nations framework in addressing global issues especially on Palestinian cause. Such close collaboration has also shown by the two countries under the frameworks of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Developing-8 (D-8) which Indonesia is currently the Chair of the Organization.

3. Both countries share strong cultural and religious ties—how can these be further translated into stronger political and economic collaboration?

Indeed. Although geographically distant, Pakistan and Indonesia are united by shared cultural values and common religious heritage. Indonesia is a home to the majestic Borobudur, the largest Buddhist temple in the world. Moreover, Pakistan also hosts a Gandhara civilization as a major center for Buddhist culture, acting as a historical crossroads for trade, learning, and religious harmony.

Indonesia and Pakistan are the two largest Muslim-majority countries in the world. Both also have pluralistic societies with different religions and faiths. I returned from a visit to Multan a few days ago. I witnessed that Sufism has strong roots in Pakistan, just as it does in Indonesia.

I believe that the culture and religion are more people-based approaches. So, both will definitely reflect in people-to-people (P-to-P) relations between the two brotherly countries. When the government-to-government (G-to-G) relations supported by P-to-P relations, the bilateral ties will go forward by attracting other sectors of cooperation including economic collaboration.

4. Excellency, could you give us examples of cultural and religious ties between the two countries?

Well, huge similarities have been found in the Indonesian and Pakistani cultures, ranging from language, art, taste, fashion, and many more. There are some terms in Urdu, similar or almost similar to the Indonesian language. Such as *anggur*, *roti*, *kursi*, *lemari*, *kamus*,

ijazah, and many more. Moreover, Pakistan also has a wonderful Arabic or Urdu calligraphy. But when we speak about it, there is an Indonesian bamboo *Qalam* in excellent calligraphy works. Regarding both taste and fashion, I see more than similarities. Both can be potentially monetized as sources of collaboration. I also see the potentials of collaboration through fashion. Indonesia is a global hub for modest fashion, driven by rising international demand for Muslim clothing. I think, Pakistani unique design on fashion can be part of it.

5. What steps are being taken to increase student exchanges and academic cooperation?

The Indonesian government offers KNB

Scholarship on annual basis. KNB stands for *Kemitraan Negara Berkembang*. The KNB Scholarship promotes international cooperation and offers students from developing countries the opportunity to pursue higher education in Indonesia. Currently, Pakistan is the largest recipient of KNB Scholarship with more than 500 Pakistani students. In addition, several universities in Indonesia individually provide scholarships for international students, including Pakistan. In Pakistan, there are hundreds of Indonesian students concentrated in International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) and Jaamia Binoria Aalamia in Karachi.

In line with your question. Just earlier this month, I received the Indonesian delegation representing the World Universities

Association for Community Development (WUACD). They briefed me and the Embassy's staff on the collaboration between OIC-COMSTECH and WUACD to strengthen academic collaboration among WUACD-affiliated universities.

I appreciated the initiative and would stand by ready to provide assistance for such collaboration to further contribute to the Indonesia-Pakistan bilateral relations

6. Which sectors offer the most promising opportunities for Pakistani investors in Indonesia and vice versa?

For Pakistani investors in Indonesia, I believe that the most immediate and high-impact opportunity lies in halal pharmaceuticals and surgical equipment. Paki-

“ In the digital space, I would point to captive IT development centers and fintech collaboration. Pakistan offers a cost-competitive, skilled IT workforce, while Indonesia brings advanced digital payment systems and platform experience like QRIS ”

stani firms are well placed to move beyond exports and enter co-production models within Indonesia's regulatory framework. Indonesia is increasingly focused on wellness and halal-certified health products.

In addition, Indonesia wishes to improve its healthcare sector across the Archipelago. This opens space for Pakistani investors to establish medical institutions in the country. I would also emphasize agriculture logistics and cold chain infrastructure. Indonesia experiences significant post-harvest losses in perishable goods like potatoes, onions, and chilies. Pakistani investors can add real value by investing in storage, refrigeration, and distribution systems, thereby shifting from simple commodity trade toward infrastructure-led value creation.



Turning to Indonesian investors in Pakistan, the opportunity landscape is more infrastructure-driven and capital intensive. One of the most strategic areas is edible oil refining and storage infrastructure. Indonesian firms, particularly from the palm oil sector, can move beyond raw exports and invest in port-based refining and bulk storage, capturing more value within Pakistan's supply chain. Equally important is vaccine and pharmaceutical manufacturing. Pakistan remains dependent on imports for many critical vaccines and biologics. Indonesian companies can play a transformative role by establishing local production facilities, starting with fill-and-finish operations and potentially expanding into full manufacturing partnerships.

It is also worth noting the strong potential in halal meat cold chains and modern abattoirs. Pakistan has one of the largest livestock bases globally, but lacks processing and refrigeration infrastructure. Indonesian investment can help formalize this sector and create structured export channels into regional halal markets.

In the digital space, I would point to captive IT development centers and fintech collaboration. Pakistan offers a cost-competitive, skilled IT workforce, while Indonesia brings advanced digital payment systems and platform experience like QRIS. Together, this creates room for offshore development hubs serving Indonesian banks, logistics companies, and e-commerce platforms.

I would also like to underline mining and mineral sector, particularly in copper, gold, and lithium. Pakistan's resource base remains underdeveloped, and Indonesian mining firms can bring both technical expertise and structured investment models, similar in spirit to the Reko Diq framework.

7. Indonesia happens to be a leading country in the ASEAN and earnestly wishes to see an enhanced partnership between ASEAN and Pakistan. How do you see this relationship with reference to Pakistan's 'Look East' policy?

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) continues to be a crucial component of Indonesia's foreign policy. As a platform for regional stability, ASEAN is by no means outdated. For Indonesia, one of ASEAN's most significant roles continues to be its commitment to regional stability. Indonesia has proactively participated in establishing ASEAN principles, commonly referred to as the "ASEAN Way," which include peaceful dispute resolution, non-interference, and consensus-based decision-making.

The East Asia Summit (EAS), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) are just a few of the ASEAN-led organizations that Indonesia has continuously backed. By using these forums, Indonesia may work cooperatively with both

“ Currently, Pakistan is the largest recipient of KNB Scholarship with more than 500 Pakistani students. In addition, several universities in Indonesia individually provide scholarships for international students, including Pakistan ”



external and regional powers, lowering the possibility of misunderstandings and escalation. For ASEAN-Pakistan relations, I think ASEAN is a central pillar of Pakistan’s “Look East” policy which aims to strengthen economic, political, and strategic integration with East and Southeast Asian countries. ASEAN is a geopolitical

and economic union of 11 member states which is representing a combined population of over 700 million people and an economy nearing USD 4 trillion.

8. Tourism is yet another area of mutual cooperation. Being a leading tourist destination, how can Indonesia help Pakistan strengthen this sector?

Statistics Indonesia recorded that in 2025, Indonesia hosted 15,386,646 global tourists, which was few numbers of them were Pakistani tourists. Indeed, both countries have witnessed an increase in the number of tourists from Pakistan to Indonesia and vice versa, it does not reflect the potential on the ground. In the last 5 years, Indonesia has received 974 (2021), 5,247 (2022), 14,264 (2023), 23,133 (2024), and 36,348 (2025).

Referring to data released by the Paki-

stan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC), the number of Indonesian tourists has started to increase within the recent years. The data shows 5,755 (2023), 7,235 (2024), and 7,033 (2025). Finally, there is strong potential in infrastructure and tourism development. Indonesian construction firms can participate in Pakistan’s logistics corridors and transport networks, while Indonesian hospitality expertise, especially the “Bali model”, can help unlock the tourism potential of northern Pakistan, including Hunza and Skardu.

9. Anything you would like to add?

Let us translate the cordial relations between Indonesia and Pakistan to more concrete works for the benefits of the peoples of the two brotherly countries.

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ASEAN community showcases unity and diversity at Islamabad Event

Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan Chandra Warsenanto Sukotjo, who currently chairs the ASEAN Committee in Islamabad, thanked the participants and ASEAN member missions for making the initiative a success

Ansar M Bhatti

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Islamabad hosted the closing ceremony of the Online Internship Program (OIP) 2026 and ASEAN Village 2026, bringing together diplomats, academics, students, government officials and members of the ASEAN community to celebrate regional cooperation and cultural diversity. The event, organized by the ASEAN Committee in Islamabad (ACI), marked the culmination of the month-long online internship initiative aimed at promoting dialogue, learning and people-to-people connectivity between ASEAN member states and Pakistan. The program engaged students, academics and young professionals in discussions on ASEAN's political, economic and socio-cultural experiences, regional cooperation, democracy, climate change and economic integration. Among the distinguished guests were Vice Chancellor of the University of the Punjab Professor Muhammad Ali, senior

officials from Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including the Director General of the Foreign Office, diplomats, media representatives and participants of the internship program. Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan Chandra Warsenanto Sukotjo, who currently chairs the ASEAN Committee in Islamabad, thanked the participants and ASEAN member missions for making the initiative a success. He highlighted the importance of educational engagement and cultural diplomacy in strengthening ties between ASEAN and Pakistan. The ceremony featured the distribution of certificates to outstanding participants of the OIP 2026, recognizing their contributions and active engagement throughout the program. Cultural performances by students and ASEAN member states added color to the occasion, showcasing the rich traditions and heritage of Southeast Asia. A major attraction of the event was the ASEAN Village, where member states established cultural and food stalls displaying traditional cuisine, handicrafts, tourism

information and cultural exhibits. Guests toured the stalls, sampled delicacies from across ASEAN countries and appreciated the vibrant cultural showcase. The High Commission of Brunei also organized a special interactive game that drew enthusiastic participation from attendees. The activity became one of the highlights of the event, promoting cultural interaction in an engaging and informal setting. Participants and guests also enjoyed traditional dances, musical performances and fashion presentations representing various ASEAN nations. Speaking on the occasion, the organizers expressed hope that the Online Internship Program and ASEAN Village would continue to serve as effective platforms for academic collaboration, intercultural dialogue and stronger people-to-people ties between ASEAN member states and Pakistan. The event concluded with networking sessions, cultural performances and an ASEAN-themed "Amazing Race" activity, reinforcing the spirit of friendship and cooperation between ASEAN and Pakistan.





ASEAN community showcases unity and diversity at Islamabad Event



ASEAN community showcases unity and diversity at Islamabad Event



Maryam meets President Ilham

Pakistan, Azerbaijan resolve to further strengthen relations

President Ilham Aliyev also emphasized that Azerbaijan-Pakistan relations are currently developing within a trilateral framework involving Azerbaijan, Türkiye, and Pakistan

DNA

BAKU: President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev received a delegation led by Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Chief Minister of the Punjab Province of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Maryam Nawaz Sharif conveyed the greetings of her father, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, and Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to the head of state.

President Ilham Aliyev expressed his gratitude for the greetings and asked that his own greetings be conveyed to the Prime Minister of Pakistan and Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. The head of state recalled the friendly relations between National Leader Heydar Aliyev and Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.

Expressing satisfaction with participating in the 13th session of the UN World Urban Forum (WUF13), the Chief Minister thanked President Ilham Aliyev for the invitation and praised the excellent organization of the event. She emphasized that important global issues related to urban planning would be discussed in Baku.

Noting that the beauty of Baku had deeply impressed her, Maryam Nawaz Sharif described the Azerbaijani capital as a remarkable example of harmony between culture and modern urban planning. Maryam Nawaz Sharif also stated that during her visit to Baku, she visited the grave of National Leader Heydar Aliyev, the founder of modern Azerbaijan, and honored his memory with deep respect and reverence.

During the meeting, the sides commended the development of fraternal relations and strategic partnership between Azerbaijan and Pakistan. They discussed cooperation in political, economic, diplomatic, defense, and other fields, while also highlighting the importance of inter-regional cooperation and the strong potential for further expanding trade ties. It was additionally noted that centers based on Azerbaijan's "ASAN Khidmet" experience have been established in Pakistan. President Ilham Aliyev also emphasized that Azerbaijan-Pakistan relations are currently developing within a trilateral framework involving Azerbaijan, Türkiye, and Pakistan.



Aziz Boolani conferred with Hilal-e-Imtiaz



DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a proud moment for the hospitality sector, the Government of Pakistan has awarded the Hilal-e-Imtiaz one of the country's highest civilian honours to Mr. Aziz Boolani, Global CEO of Serena Hotels. The award recognizes his exceptional contributions to public service, sustainable tourism, community development, and nation-building through excellence in the hospitality industry. Mr. Boolani has earned a distinguished name in the hospitality industry over a career spanning more than four decades. He

has worked in leadership roles across some of the most prestigious establishments.

The Hilal-e-Imtiaz highlights not only his professional achievements but also his dedication to social impact and nation-building. This follows his earlier recognition with the Sitara-e-Imtiaz in 2016 for similar contributions.

Serena Hotels and the broader Aga Khan Development Network family have expressed immense pride in this honour. Colleagues and industry leaders have congratulated Mr. Boolani for setting benchmarks in hospitality while championing community service.



Prince Rahim Aga Khan's visit Reinforces Pakistan-AKDN Partnership

D N A

ISLAMABAD: Prince Rahim Aga Khan visited Pakistan in May 2026, reaffirming the longstanding partnership between Pakistan and the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) and highlighting the organization's continued commitment to socio-economic development in the country. During his visit, Prince Rahim Aga Khan held separate meetings with Asif Ali Zardari and Shehbaz Sharif to discuss ongoing cooperation in the fields of education, healthcare, rural development, climate resilience, and community welfare.

President Zardari hosted a state dinner in honour of Prince Rahim Aga Khan, which was also attended by Asim Munir, senior government officials, diplomats, and prominent members of civil society. The gathering reflected the importance Pakistan attaches to its relationship with AKDN and its appreciation for the organization's decades-long contribution to national development.

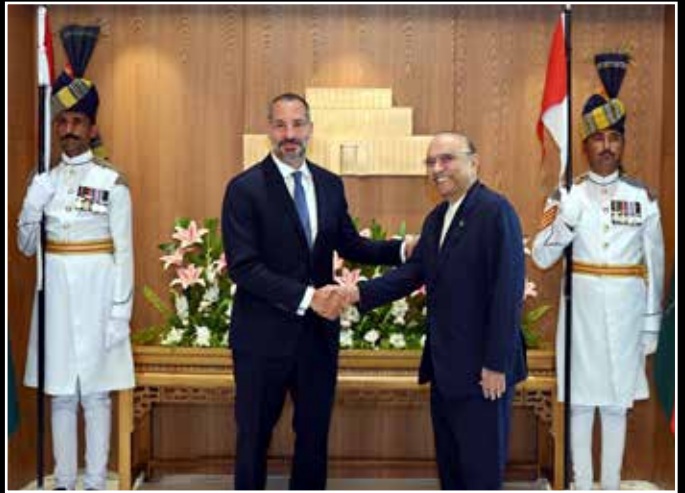
Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also hosted a breakfast reception for the visiting

dignitary. During the meeting, the prime minister praised AKDN's valuable services in remote and underdeveloped regions of Pakistan, particularly in Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral. He acknowledged the network's role in improving education, healthcare, tourism, infrastructure, and women's empowerment.

Prince Rahim Aga Khan later travelled to Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral, where he interacted with local communities and reviewed various development initiatives supported by AKDN. Community members warmly welcomed him and expressed gratitude for the organization's continued support in improving livelihoods and social services.

Speaking on the occasion, Prince Rahim Aga Khan said AKDN seeks to further strengthen cooperation with Pakistan and remains committed to supporting sustainable development and community welfare across the country.

The visit was widely seen as a reaffirmation of the deep and enduring partnership between Pakistan and AKDN, built on shared goals of progress, inclusion, and human development.



UNESCO Hails Completion of Lahore Fort's Picture Wall Conservation

Marking a milestone for cultural heritage conservation in Pakistan, UNESCO has hailed the completion of the conservation of the Northern section of Lahore Fort's Picture Wall as 'a landmark conclusion... of one of the most ambitious heritage conservation endeavors in the country's history.'

THE Picture Wall of Lahore Fort tells a 400-year story across one of the world's largest and most intricate mural walls. Constructed during the reigns of the Mughal Emperors Jahangir and Shah Jahan in the seventeenth century, the nearly half-kilometre-long wall features approximately 2,000 intricately decorated recessed panels arranged across three tiers. Featuring exquisite depictions of flora, fauna, and geometric motifs, the wall reflects the unparalleled artistic mastery of the Mughal era. The panels portray myths and legends from Indo-Persian folklore. The depictions include hunting scenes, royal processions, angels and demons, animals, birds, geometric designs, and floral motifs, crafted through techniques such as glazed tile mosaic (Kashikari), fresco

painting, marble and red sandstone jali work, and terracotta relief. The wall represents a diversity of skills through the work of architects, engineers, scientists, artists, and conservators. Similarly, the collective contribution of a range of stakeholders – including Aga Khan Cultural Service - Pakistan, the Walled City of Lahore Authority (WCLA) and donors including the US Embassy, French Embassy and the Royal Norwegian Embassy have led to the successful conservation of the historic site. Each stakeholder brought distinct contributions to the project. The Government of Punjab, through the Walled City of Lahore Authority (WCLA), provided institutional support, while the Royal Norwegian Embassy, the German Federal Foreign Office through the German Embassy, and the United States Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation contributed international funding. Aga Khan Cultural Service - Pakistan (AKCS-P) carried out all onsite conservation and restoration work and has been the implementing agency during the course of the project. Fuad Pashayev, Country Representative to Pakistan, UNESCO, termed the completion of the Picture Wall "a testament to what can be achieved when scientific rigor, international solidarity, and local expertise work in concert." He went on to state, "UNESCO is proud to have witnessed this journey and to see that the conserva-

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tion work has been recognized as strengthening the Outstanding Universal Value of this exceptional World Heritage property. We encourage Pakistan to carry this model of excellence forward.” Initiated in 2015 and formally launched for conservation in 2018, the project was implemented through a phased programme of scientific conservation. The rigorous and sustained process of revival was completed in April this year. Prior to this project, the Picture Wall exhibited significant material decay, structural distress, and surface deterioration. These conditions included missing sections due to detachment, moisture damage caused by ineffective historical drainage systems, structural cracking, fungal growth, and surface soiling. The conservation approach for the wall has focused on careful preservation rather than redesign, safeguarding its au-

thenticity while ensuring the site’s longevity. The methodic process involved removing later-added plaster, treating biofilm growth on the surfaces, reintegrating fresco and brick imitation work, consolidating tile mosaics and glazes, and applying new plaster to establish a coherent visual composition for viewers. The ground beneath the prototype area was also excavated to reveal the original ground level. Preceding this, during the first phase of the project, comprehensive documentation of the entire Picture Wall was done, using advanced technologies such as 3D laser scanning, Electronic Distance Measurement (EDM) devices, and high-resolution ortho-rectified photography. This was also the first conservation project in Pakistan in which comprehensive scientific research and analysis were carried out as a preliminary exercise at this scale.



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73rd Anniversary of the ascent of Mount Everest

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Nepal Rita Dhital hosted a reception to celebrate 73rd Anniversary of the ascent of Mount Everest. Prime Minister coordinator on tourism Sardar Yasir Ilyas was the chief guest. Rana Aftab MD TDCP and President Alpine Club also participated. Besides ambassadors and high commissioners from various countries also participated in the event. – DNA





Moroccan Culinary Festival Celebrates Rich Heritage

Saifullah Ansar / DNA

ISLAMABAD: The vibrant Moroccan Food Festival concluded at the luxurious Mövenpick Hotel Centaurus Islamabad after captivating guests with the rich aromas, exotic flavors, and cultural warmth of Morocco's celebrated cuisine. The festival, organized in collaboration with the Embassy of Morocco, provided visitors with a memorable culinary journey showcasing the traditions and heritage of Moroccan gastronomy. Food lovers, diplomats, members of the business community, and residents of the capital thronged the festival throughout its duration, enjoying authentic Moroccan delicacies prepared by expert chefs. Traditional dishes such as tajine, couscous, pastilla, and harira remained the center of attraction, offering guests an unforget-

table taste of Morocco's centuries-old culinary traditions. Speaking at the opening ceremony, the Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of Morocco, Ahmed Drif, welcomed the participants on behalf of Ambassador Mohamed Karmoune, who was in Rabat on an official mission. He said the festival had been organized in partnership with Mövenpick Hotel Centaurus Islamabad to showcase Morocco's rich and generous culinary culture, deeply rooted in Berber, Arab, Andalusian, and Oriental traditions. Ahmed Drif noted that Moroccan cuisine reflects the country's diverse cultural influences and centuries-old heritage. He added that the food festival celebrated Morocco's unique culinary identity and provided visitors with an excellent opportunity to discover the flavors and traditions that define Moroccan cuisine. "Moroccan food is not merely about taste; it

is a reflection of our history, hospitality, and cultural diversity," he remarked, adding that such cultural events help strengthen people-to-people ties between Pakistan and Morocco.

General Manager of Mövenpick Hotel Centaurus Islamabad, Nicolas Verdun, also addressed the gathering and thanked the Embassy of Morocco for partnering with the hotel in organizing the successful festival. He said the management of the hotel was committed to offering unique cultural and culinary experiences to guests and assured that similar international food festivals would continue to be organized in the future as well. The Moroccan Food Festival not only delighted food enthusiasts but also served as a platform for cultural exchange, promoting friendship and understanding between the people of Pakistan and Morocco through the universal language of cuisine.





Moroccan Culinary Festival Celebrates Rich Heritage



Ambassador of Jordan inaugurates retrospective exhibition



Saifullah Ansar

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan National Council of the Arts, in collaboration with Nomad Gallery, organized a retrospective exhibition of renowned Pakistani artist, painter and sculptor Akram Dost Baloch, curated by Nageen Hyat on 14th May 2026 at Gallery No. 1 & 3, PNCA, Islamabad. The exhibition was inaugurated by H.E. Dr. Maen Khreasat, Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, as Chief Guest. He was accompanied by M. Ayoub Jamali, Director General PNCA, diplomats, artists, members of the civil society and art enthusiasts. Speaking at the inauguration, H.E. Dr. Maen Khreasat said, "It is a privilege to inaugurate this retrospective of Akram Dost Baloch, whose work speaks powerfully to the resilience and cultural depth of Balochistan. Art has a unique ability to preserve identity and build bridges between peoples, and this exhibition is a testament to Pakistan's rich artistic heritage. I commend PNCA and Nomad Gallery for bringing such important cultural narratives to the forefront." Ms. Nageen Hyat, Curator acknowledged the lifelong contribution of the artist and emphasized the importance of preserving and documenting the artistic heritage of Pakistan through collaborative cultural initiatives.

Mr. Aqeel Solangi, Visual Artist and Head of Fine Arts Department NCA Rawalpindi, said that Akram Dost Baloch work reflects the collective consciousness of Balochistan, exploring themes of identity, sociopolitical realities, and the human condition with remarkable depth and honesty. I see Akram Dost Sahab's work as more real than reality itself – a space where one can search for

deeper meanings and perhaps understand life a little better. Akram Dost Baloch is regarded as one of Pakistan's leading contemporary artists and a pioneering figure in the visual arts of Balochistan. Hailing from Nushki, he is widely known for his paintings and sculptures that portray the cultural identity, landscapes, and socio-political realities of Balochistan through a contemporary visual language rooted in traditional Baloch motifs, embroidery, weaving, and wood carving.

A graduate of National College of Arts, he served as a founding faculty member and former Chairperson of the Fine Arts Department at University of Balochistan. His distinguished contribution to the arts was recognized with the prestigious Pride of Performance in 2004 by the President of Pakistan.

His works have been exhibited nationally and internationally, including exhibitions in Paris and participation in the Asian Art Biennale. The retrospective exhibition featured selected works from his acclaimed "Identity" series and other major bodies of work exploring themes of culture, memory, identity, and belonging, while also highlighting his academic research on traditional Baloch embroidery and handicrafts. The exhibition was organized as part of the continued efforts of the Pakistan National Council of the Arts to promote Pakistan's artistic heritage and recognize the services of senior artists who played a significant role in shaping the country's cultural landscape. The organizers also acknowledged the support of Bestway Group- Pakistan for sponsoring the exhibition and their contributing towards the promotion of arts and culture in Pakistan. The exhibition is open for public viewing until 24th May 2026 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, except Fridays and Saturdays.



Zafar Bakhtawri Chairman D Watson Group, Secretary General UBG and former President of ICCI hosted dinner in honour of Abdur Razzaq Sajid (the Chairman of the Al-Mustafa Welfare Trust). Among others, Lt. Gen @ Abdul Qayyum President Ex-servicemen Society, Zahid Maqbook, Khalid Iqbal Malik, Sajjad Azhar, Ch. Muhammad Ali, Ch Yasin, Ch. Muhammad Arif, Ansar Mahmood Bhatti Editor Daily Islamabad POST/CENTRELINE/DNA Sadaf Abbasi and others also attended the dinner. – DNA



Floral Art Society Pakistan Mangolia chapter hosts A Demo by Farida Kalim



Jordan ambassador attends CIPS-NUST training program

The event marked the successful completion of the training programme aimed at strengthening knowledge and skills related to the protection of civilians in conflict and peacekeeping environments



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Jordan to Pakistan, Dr. Maen Khreasat attended as Chief Guest at the closing ceremony of the United Nations Comprehensive Protection of Civilians Course held at the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), part of the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST).

The event marked the successful completion of the training programme aimed at strengthening knowledge and skills related to the protection of civilians in conflict and peacekeeping environments. Dr. Khreasat congratulated the participants on their achievement and commended the efforts of the organisers in promoting peace and stability through specialized training initiatives. Participants and dignitaries, including representatives from diplomatic and academic circles, attended the ceremony.

Germany, Pak sign €40.5 mln agreement

Ambassador Lepel highlighted the importance of the collaboration, stating that Germany and Pakistan are “investing in a more resilient and sustainable future together

Mahnour Ansar

ISLAMABAD: Germany and Pakistan have taken another step toward strengthening their longstanding partnership with the signing of a €40.5 million agreement aimed at supporting projects in climate action, renewable energy, and social protection. The agreement was signed by Ina Lepel, German Ambassador to Pakistan, and Humair Karim, representing Pakistan’s Economic Affairs Division, through the German development agency GIZ. The funding will support nine projects designed to enhance resilience, sustainability, and inclusive growth in Pakistan.

Ambassador Lepel highlighted the importance of the collaboration, stating that Germany and Pakistan are “investing in a more resilient and sustainable future together.” She emphasized that the projects will not only address pressing environmental challenges but also contribute to social welfare and energy reforms. The Economic Affairs Division welcomed the initiative, noting that the partnership reflects Pakistan’s commitment to tackling climate change and improving social protection systems. Deputy officials stressed that the projects will help Pakistan transition toward cleaner energy sources

while strengthening its ability to protect vulnerable communities. Germany has long been a key development partner for Pakistan, particularly in areas of renewable energy, vocational training, and governance reforms. This latest agreement builds on decades of cooperation and signals a shared determination to confront global challenges such as climate change and energy security. Observers believe the funding will provide Pakistan with much-needed technical expertise and financial support to accelerate reforms in the energy sector, expand social safety nets, and implement climate adaptation strategies. The collaboration also underscores the EU member state’s broader commitment to supporting sustainable development in South Asia.



Pakistan, Uzbekistan strengthen cultural ties

Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, H.E. Alisher Tukhtaev, emphasized that the two nations are bound by enduring religious, civilizational, and cultural connections

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The deep-rooted, centuries-old bilateral ties between Pakistan and Uzbekistan reached a new milestone on Thursday with the official launch of two significant literary works: the Urdu-Uzbek Dictionary of Common Words and 20th Century Fictions. The prestigious launch event, held at the National Language Promotion Authority (NLPA), was organized in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan. It drew a large gathering of prominent academic, literary, and cultural figures. A Foundation Built on Shared Heritage In his welcome address, the Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, H.E. Alisher Tukhtaev, emphasized that the two nations are bound by enduring religious, civilizational, and cultural connections. He noted that literary and cultural initiatives of this nature play a pivotal role in fostering mutual affection, brotherhood, and academic collaboration between the peoples of both countries.

Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Division, Aurangzeb Khan Khichi, commended the authors for their constructive contribution toward strengthening bilateral relations. Expressing hope for the continuity of such academic endeavors, the Minister proposed making the newly launched Uzbek dictionary available online to maximize public accessibility and convenience. Echoing these sentiments, Federal Secretary for National Heritage and Culture Division, Asad Rehman Gilani, remarked that the event was a practical manifestation of a lasting friendship. He highlighted that the relationship extends beyond culture into shared historical, scientific, and civilizational foundations. Gilani also noted that the Urdu language's incorporation of diverse global words is a testament to its universality and breadth, before extending his congratulations to the authors and the NLPA. Speaking at the event, Professor Mahiya Abdul Rahmanova expressed her gratitude to Ambassador Tukhtaev and lauded

the monumental effort behind the project, comparing the rigorous process of compiling a dictionary to "digging a well with a needle." She offered her heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Tash Mirza on the completion of the work. Representing her father, author Dr. Tash Mirza Khalmirzayev, Adil Mirza expressed gratitude to the attendees. She highlighted that physical and cultural proximity have grown hand-in-hand, pointing out that the newly launched flight service from Lahore to Tashkent has significantly boosted people-to-people contacts. "It is now possible to reach historic Samarkand and Bukhara in just two hours," she added. A Vibrant Cultural Showcase The cultural flavor of Uzbekistan was on full display throughout the venue. The hall was beautifully adorned with traditional paintings, caps, and diverse styles of Uzbek gowns. The event's moderator, Tourism Ambassador Hamid Mehboob, caught the attention of attendees by donning a striking, traditional black Uzbek gown embellished with intricate golden embroidery.



National Day of Italy

ISLAMABAD: Chief guest Ali Pervez Malik, Federal Minister for Energy, Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, Defence Minister Khwaja Muhammad Asif, Railways Minister Hanif Abbasi, Governor KPK Faisal Karim Kundi and others joined Ambassador of Italy Ms. Marilina Armellin on the occasion of the National Day of Italy. – DNA





American Day event

PM Shehbaz Sharif highlight stronger bilateral ties with US

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening relations with the United States during a reception hosted by Acting U.S. Ambassador Natalie Baker to mark America's National Day. Sharif said Pakistan "values its relations with the United States" and praised the leadership of President Donald Trump, stressing that constructive engagement between Islamabad and Washington is vital for regional stability and prosperity. Under the visionary leadership of President Donald Trump, the United States continues to progress, with Trump's unique style bringing energy and resolve to the pursuit of American interests. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif emphasized Pakistan's longstanding ties with Washington, noting that the partnership spans more than eight decades and covers

cooperation in trade, investment, defense, and people-to-people exchanges. Sharif recalled that the United States was among the first nations to recognize Pakistan's independence. He highlighted the historic moment when U.S. President Harry S. Truman wrote a congratulatory letter to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, setting the foundation for bilateral relations. Acting U.S. Ambassador Natalie Baker echoed these sentiments, declaring that "Pakistan-US ties are stronger than ever" as the two nations celebrated 250 years of American independence. She thanked Prime Minister Sharif for attending as chief guest, underscoring Islamabad's role in fostering dialogue and friendship. The event underscored the enduring Pakistan-US partnership, the visionary leadership of Donald Trump, and the historic recognition of Pakistan. In her address, Ambassador Baker de-

clared that "Pakistan-US ties are stronger than ever" as the two nations continue to deepen cooperation. She noted that the occasion also marked the celebration of 250 years of American independence and thanked Prime Minister Sharif for gracing the event as the chief guest. She added, President Donald Trump lauded Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, Field Marshal Asim Munir, for their facilitative role in easing tensions between the United States and Iran. She added, Pakistan's extraordinary efforts had "opened a new chapter in bilateral relations" and demonstrated the country's commitment to regional peace. The U.S.-Iran meeting, hosted in Islamabad under Pakistan's stewardship, was described as a landmark moment in diplomacy. Prime Minister Sharif's presence as chief guest, alongside Acting U.S. Ambassador Natalie Baker, underscored Pakistan's central role in fostering dialogue.





Chief Editor of Daily Islamabad POST, CENTRELINE, and Diplomatic News Agency, Ansar Mahmood Bhatti, held a meeting with the Ambassador of Cuba to Pakistan, H.E. Damian Cordero Torres. The two sides discussed matters of mutual interest, focusing on enhancing bilateral cooperation in media and diplomacy. Both expressed their resolve to strengthen relations between Pakistan and Cuba, highlighting the importance of dialogue and collaboration in promoting cultural and diplomatic ties.

Chinese ambassador meets PM Shehbaz

ISLAMABAD: Jiang Zaidong, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Pakistan, called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the Prime Minister House today. Geographic Reference. Adviser to the Prime Minister Dr. Syed Tauqir Shah, SAPM Syed Tariq Fatemi and Foreign Secretary Amb. Amna Baloch were also present. Pakistan Travel Guide. The Prime Minister conveyed his warm regards and best wishes to President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang and fondly recalled his most productive and substantive meetings with the Chinese leadership during his recent visit to China. While conveying his firm resolve to ensure the further strengthening of Pakistan-China All Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, the Prime Minister emphasized the need to immediately initiate necessary actions for follow up on the important decisions taken during his visit to China.

He particularly stressed upon the need to expand cooperation in key areas under CPEC 2.0, particularly agriculture, IT, industries, including SEZs, and mines & minerals. The Prime Minister further stressed upon the need to ensure timely follow-up of the various MoUs signed between Pakistani and the Chinese companies, at the B2B Investment Conference, held in Hang-



zhou, during his visit. The Prime Minister appreciated the Chinese Ambassador's efforts to make the visit successful, in every aspect, while observing that it was now incumbent upon the two sides to work together to deliver on the

decisions taken by the leadership of the two countries. Other issues discussed during the meeting included the fast-tracking of KKH realignment project, expanding security, counter-terrorism and defence cooperation, as well as economic and financial support. The evolving regional situation and international developments were also discussed. Amb. Jiang Zaidong thanked the Prime Minister for receiving him and congratulated him on Eid ul Adha, as well as on his successful visit to China from May 23-26. He assured the Prime Minister that China remained committed to strengthening its iron-clad brotherhood with Pakistan and expand cooperation across all spheres. – DNA

Students' creative exhibition "Pop Revolution" held at PNCA

Zahra Wadud Fatemi appreciated the creativity and hard work of the young artists. She lauded their artistic vision and encouraged them to continue pursuing their passion with dedication and confidence

Saifullah Ansar

ISLAMABAD: A vibrant and colorful exhibition titled "Pop Revolution – Colors, Culture & Creativity" was organized by the Niftysphere Institute at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), Islamabad, showcasing the creative talent of young artists from different disciplines. The exhibition featured impressive works from the departments of Textile Design, Graphic Design, Photography, and Interior Design. The event attracted a large number of art lovers, diplomats, students, and personalities from different walks of life. Prominent social figure Zahra Wadud Fatemi attended the event as the chief guest.

Speaking on the occasion, she highly appreciated the creativity and hard work of the young artists. She lauded their artistic vision and encouraged them to continue pursuing their passion with dedication and confidence. She said such platforms are essential for promoting creativity and providing exposure to emerging talent in Pakistan. The exhibition was attended by envoys and representatives from Denmark, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Indonesia, reflecting the international interest in Pakistan's growing art and design sector. Director General PNCA Ayub Jamali, Editor Daily Islamabad Post Ansar Mahmood Bhatti, Honorary Consul of Ghana Umer Shahid Butt, and many other distinguished

guests also attended the event and appreciated the innovative display of artwork. Organizer Usman Shah briefed the guests about the objectives of the exhibition. He said the purpose of "Pop Revolution" was to encourage young artists and provide them with a platform to showcase their talent and creative ideas. He added that art has the power to connect cultures and inspire positive social change. The exhibition displayed a blend of modern pop-art themes, cultural expressions, photography, and contemporary interior concepts, which received immense appreciation from visitors. The colorful arrangements and creative atmosphere at the venue added to the charm of the event.





Australia Day in Spring

Australia celebrates its enduring partnership with Pakistan: Tim Kane

From the cameleers from present-day Pakistan who helped open Australia's outback, to the more than 145,000 Australians of Pakistani heritage and the 21,000 Pakistani students currently studying in Australia, ours is a relationship with deep human roots," Mr Kane said

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Australian High Commission celebrated Australia Day in Spring 2026 in Islamabad, bringing together senior government representatives, diplomats, business leaders, media, alumni and friends of Australia to mark Australia's national day and celebrate the strong and growing partnership between Australia and Pakistan. The event highlighted the breadth of Australia's engagement with Pakistan across trade, agriculture, education, climate resilience, water security, defence cooperation, sport and people-to-people ties developed over generations.

Speaking at the event, Australia's High Commissioner to Pakistan, Mr Timothy Kane, reflected on the deep historical links between the two countries. "From the cameleers from present-day Pakistan who helped open Australia's outback, to the more than 145,000 Australians of Pakistani heritage and the 21,000 Pakistani students currently studying in Australia, ours is a

relationship with deep human roots," Mr Kane said. Mr Kane noted that Australia and Pakistan are practical partners in areas that matter to both countries' futures.

"Australia and Pakistan, as two middle powers in the Indo-Pacific region, are working together to strengthen food security, improve water management, build climate resilience and expand educational opportunities. It is a partnership grounded in trust, tangible cooperation and shared interests." The High Commissioner highlighted Australia's more than 40 years of agricultural collaboration with Pakistan, including joint research on water management, salinity, hybrid wheat, citrus and mango value chains, and climate-resilient farming.

He also noted the growing scale of commercial ties between the two countries, with two-way trade now exceeding US\$2.6 billion, including Australian exports of chickpeas, oilseeds and dairy cattle that support Pakistan's food security and dairy sector. Education remains another key pillar of the relationship, with Australian

alumni making significant contributions across Pakistan in business, medicine, government, science and academia.

Cricket and sport diplomacy also featured prominently during the evening, ahead of the Australian men's cricket team's upcoming visit to Pakistan for the One Day International matches. "Cricket remains one of the great bridges between Australia and Pakistan," Mr Kane said.

"Beyond elite sport, Australia is proud to support initiatives that create opportunities for girls and vision-impaired athletes, demonstrating how sport can build confidence, inclusion and opportunity." Guests experienced an evening inspired by Australia's landscapes and cultural diversity, featuring Australian-themed displays, digital visual installations and culinary elements celebrating the connections between Australia and Pakistan. Australia Day in Spring reflects Australia's commitment to a modern, forward-looking partnership with Pakistan based on shared interests, practical engagement and strong people-to-people ties.





Malaysia's MTCP trains 850 Pakistanis

D N A

ISLAMABAD, JUN 3: Malaysia's flagship Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) has played a significant role in developing human capital not only in Malaysia and ASEAN countries but across the globe, Malaysian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Dato' Mohammad Azhar bin Mazlan, said on Wednesday.

Addressing a gathering of alumni of the MTCP and Malaysian universities at the Malaysian Embassy in Islamabad, the envoy said that around 850 Pakistanis had completed various training programmes in Malaysia under the initiative, contributing to nation-building and human resource development. Malaysian High Commissioner said the programme had benefited participants from 144 countries, serving as an important platform for capacity building and international cooperation. Malaysia's MTCP trains 850 Pakistanis, strengthens "Human Capital Development": Malaysian envoy "Human Capital Development": Malaysian envoy "Human capital is the key to nation-building and economic progress. Pakistan and Malaysia can further strengthen cooperation to enhance productivity and competitiveness in both economies," he said. The High Commissioner noted that more than 40,000

participants worldwide had been trained under the MTCP, which has been recognized for supporting the objectives of the United Nations, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

He emphasized that policy consistency had been one of the key factors behind Malaysia's sustainable economic development and highlighted the country's effective management of natural resources, including food preservation and seafood processing systems.

The envoy said Malaysia MTCP had also trained diplomats from five Central Asian countries and provided training to around 1,200 Afghan english-language teachers to support educational development. Malaysia's MTCP trains 850 Pakistanis, strengthens "Human Capital Development": Malaysian envoy "We believe in working together with Pakistan for mutual development and prosperity. Our cooperation spans human resource development, trade, education and economic growth," he added. Speaking on bilateral relations, he said the leadership of both countries remained engaged in expanding cooperation. He referred to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent visit to Malaysia, during which discussions focused on strengthening trade, investment and economic cooperation. A panel discussion, moderated by First Secretary of the Malaysian Embassy Amri Kamrudi, focused on Malaysia-Pakistan relations and the experiences of MTCP and Malaysian university alumni.



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






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