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Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine



Paulo Domingues

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relations poised
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The collapse of the system: Mohsin Naqvi's stark warning



INTERIOR Minister Mohsin Naqvi's recent statement that "the present system has collapsed" has sent shockwaves across Pakistan's political landscape. His blunt assessment – that democracy is not delivering and that people are living miserable lives – is both a reflection of public sentiment and a rare admission from within the corridors of power. Yet, while Naqvi's words resonate with truth, they also raise more questions than answers.

Naqvi argued that the system must be replaced with a new one, though he stopped short of specifying what that alternative should be. This omission is critical. Diagnosing the dis-

ease without prescribing a cure leaves the nation in limbo. Pakistanis are painfully aware of the failures of governance, corruption, and inefficiency. What they crave is a roadmap toward reform, not just a declaration of collapse.

Naqvi's critique did not spare the business elite. He pointed out that corrupt politicians are sustained by equally corrupt businessmen who fund election campaigns and make hefty donations to political parties. This nexus, he argued, perpetuates a cycle of bad governance. If businessmen were to stop financing corrupt actors, "bad people will be weeded out." One may agree with this logic, but again, the minister did not outline mechanisms to enforce such accountability. Without structural reforms campaign finance laws, transparency in donations, and independent oversight the cycle will continue unchecked.

Perhaps the most intriguing aspect of Naqvi's remarks was the ambiguity surrounding the "collapse" of the system. Did he mean only the political class, or was he also pointing a finger at the establishment? After all, if the system has collapsed, then every stakeholder politicians, bureaucrats, businessmen, and yes, the establishment must share the blame. It is no secret that the establishment has played a decisive role in making and breaking governments. If politicians are to change course, the other side must also mend its ways. Without mutual accountability, reform will remain a distant dream.

Naqvi's assertion that "all political stakeholders must sit together" is perhaps the most constructive part of his statement. National reconciliation is the need of the hour. But reconciliation cannot be selective. If the minister truly believes in dialogue, he must ensure that the leadership of Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI) is also brought to the table. Imran Khan and his detained colleagues must be freed to participate in a genuine political process. Excluding PTI from dialogue would render any reconciliation hollow and deepen divisions.

Despite the gaps in his argument, Naqvi's statement rings true. Democracy in Pakistan has failed to deliver on its promises. Ordinary citizens struggle with inflation, unemployment, and insecurity. Institutions are weak, and corruption is rampant. The people's faith in the system has eroded to the point where even a sitting minister acknowledges collapse. This honesty is refreshing, but honesty alone will not suffice. What Pakistan needs is a blueprint for reform.

The challenge now is to translate Naqvi's words into action. If the system is indeed broken, then piecemeal reforms will not be enough. Structural changes are required. Without these steps, Naqvi's warning will remain just another speech remembered briefly, then forgotten.

Mohsin Naqvi has spoken the truth: the system has collapsed, and democracy is not delivering. But truth without solutions is dangerous. It breeds despair rather than hope. If Naqvi is serious, he must go beyond diagnosis and lead the effort for reform.

For now, Naqvi's words stand as both an indictment of the present and a challenge for the future. The question is whether Pakistan's leaders, political and otherwise, are willing to rise to that challenge.

Arif

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.

Paulo Domingues

Portugal, Pakistan relations poised for a quantum leap

Ansar Mahmood Bhatti

His Excellency Paulo Domingues, the Ambassador of Portugal to Pakistan, gave an exclusive interview to CENTRELINE, Daily Islamabad Post, and the Diplomatic News Agency (DNA). Having recently arrived in Pakistan, Ambassador Domingues shared his vision for deepening bilateral relations and exploring new dimensions of cooperation between Portugal and Pakistan. Here is the full text of his interview:





1. What are your immediate priorities as Portugal's new ambassador to Pakistan, and how do you envision strengthening bilateral ties?

It is a great honour to represent Portugal in Pakistan, a country of immense strategic importance, remarkable resilience and extraordinary human potential.

My priority is simple: to bring Portugal and Pakistan closer together. Our diplomatic relations span more than seven decades, and I believe there is considerable untapped potential to elevate them to a new level.

During my tenure, I intend to focus on three main priorities: strengthening our political dialogue, expanding economic and business cooperation, and deepening people-to-people contacts through education, culture and tourism.

Portugal and Pakistan share many common interests, and I believe that sustained dialogue, mutual trust and regular high-level exchanges will allow us to build an even stronger and more dynamic partnership.

2. Trade between Portugal and Pakistan remains modest. Which sectors do you see as most promising for expansion — textiles, IT, renewable energy, or tourism?

There is enormous scope to increase bilateral trade.

Textiles will naturally remain an important pillar of our economic relationship. Pakistan is a global textile producer, while Portugal has developed one of Europe's most innovative and high-value textile industries. There is significant potential for cooperation in technology, design, sustainability and value-added production.

At the same time, I see considerable opportunities in information technologies, pharmaceuticals, renewable energy, agribusiness, engineering, water management and tourism.

Portugal has developed internationally recognised expertise in renewable energy, digital transformation, smart cities and ocean economy. These are areas where Portuguese companies can become valuable partners for Pakistan's development ambitions.

Our objective should not simply be to trade more, but to build long-term partnerships that generate investment, innovation and employment in both countries.

3. Portugal has a rich cultural heritage. Are there plans to enhance cultural exchange programs, such as student scholarships, art exhibitions, or language initiatives?

Absolutely.

Culture is one of the strongest bridges between nations, and Portugal places great importance on cultural diplomacy. One of my priorities is to expand academic cooperation between Portuguese and Pakistani universities, encourage student mobility, strengthen research partnerships and promote the Portuguese language.

We are already exploring opportunities to introduce Portuguese language teaching in Pakistani universities, while also encouraging greater academic exchanges between our institutions.

I also hope to promote Portuguese cinema, music, literature, gas-

tronomy and contemporary arts in Pakistan, while encouraging Portuguese audiences to discover Pakistan's extraordinarily rich cultural heritage. The more our peoples know each other, the stronger our friendship becomes.

4. How can Portugal attract more Pakistani tourists, and conversely, how can Pakistan showcase its tourism potential to Portuguese travelers?

Portugal has become one of Europe's most attractive tourist destinations thanks to its safety, hospitality, rich history, beautiful coastline, excellent gastronomy and diverse cultural experiences. We would very much like to welcome more Pakistani visitors, whether for tourism, business, education or family travel.

At the same time, I believe Pakistan possesses extraordinary tourism assets that deserve much greater international recognition. Its breathtaking mountain landscapes, ancient civilizations, Buddhist heritage, vibrant cities and renowned hospitality make it a

“ The Pakistani community in Portugal has grown steadily over recent years, totaling around 50.000 people, and has become an important and valued part of Portuguese society. Pakistani entrepreneurs contribute to our economy, students enrich our universities, and families help strengthen the social fabric of our communities ”

truly unique destination.

Improving connectivity, increasing visibility through tourism promotion and facilitating exchanges between travel operators can all contribute to increasing tourist flows in both directions.

Tourism is not simply about visiting places—it is about building understanding between peoples.

5. As a member of the European Union, how does Portugal view Pakistan's role in EU-South Asia relations, particularly in trade and security?

Pakistan occupies an important position in South Asia and plays a significant role in promoting regional stability and addressing global challenges. Portugal strongly supports constructive



engagement between the European Union and Pakistan based on mutual respect, dialogue and shared interests.

Trade remains a central pillar of this relationship, but cooperation extends well beyond economics to include education, climate action, migration, counter-terrorism, regional stability and sustainable development.

Portugal values Pakistan's contribution to international peacekeeping and appreciates its efforts in promoting dialogue in a complex regional environment.

The European Union and Pakistan have built an increasingly mature partnership, and Portugal will continue to support initiatives that strengthen this relationship.

6. How significant is the Pakistani diaspora in Portugal, and what role can they play in bridging the two nations?

The Pakistani community in Portugal has grown steadily over recent years, totaling around 50,000 people, and has become an important and valued part of Portuguese society. Pakistani entrepreneurs contribute to our economy, students enrich our universities, and families help strengthen the social fabric of our communities.

Diasporas often become the strongest ambassadors between countries. They build business networks, encourage investment, promote tourism and create lasting human connections. I believe the Pakistani community in Portugal can play an increasingly important role in bringing our two countries closer together.

7. Both Portugal and Pakistan face climate challenges. Could joint initiatives in water management, renewable energy, or disaster preparedness be explored?

Certainly.

Climate change is one of the defining challenges of our time, and international cooperation is essential.

Portugal has accumulated considerable expertise in renewable energy, water management, coastal protection, environmental technologies and climate adaptation.

Pakistan, meanwhile, has experienced first-hand the devastating consequences of climate-related disasters and has become an important voice in global climate discussions. I believe there is genuine potential for collaboration between our governments, universities, research institutions and private sectors in areas such as water efficiency, renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, environmental innovation and disaster resilience. These are partnerships that benefit both our countries while contributing to global sustainability.

8. What are your first impressions of Pakistan, and what message would you like to convey to the Pakistani people at the start of your tenure?

Although I have only recently arrived, Pakistan has already left a very positive

impression on me.

I have been touched by the warmth, generosity and hospitality of the Pakistani people. Everywhere I have travelled, I have been received with kindness and openness. I have also been impressed by Pakistan's entrepreneurial spirit, its young population, its cultural richness and its determination to continue developing despite significant challenges.

My message to the people of Pakistan is one of friendship. Portugal sees Pakistan as an important partner and a valued friend. I look forward to travelling across the country, meeting people from all walks of life, listening, learning and working together to build an even stronger relationship between our two nations. I firmly believe that the future of Portugal-Pakistan relations is bright. Through dialogue, trust and cooperation, we can achieve much more together than we can apart.



DAILY ISLAMABAD POST & DNA SIGN MOU WITH UZBEKISTAN'S DUNYO NEWS AGENCY



DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a significant step towards strengthening media cooperation between Pakistan and Uzbekistan, the Daily Islamabad Post and Diplomatic News Agency (DNA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with DUNYO News Agency, the official news agency of Uzbekistan. The ceremony was held in Islamabad where Ambassador of Uzbekistan, Alisher Tukhtaev, and veteran journalist Ansar Mahmood Bhatti, Chief Editor of Daily Islamabad Post and DNA, formally exchanged documents. Both sides pledged to promote each other's content under the framework of media collaboration, aiming to enhance mutual understanding and coverage of bilateral relations.

The MoU is expected to further cement media contacts between Uzbekistan and Pakistan, opening new avenues for cooperation in journalism, information sharing, and cultural promotion. Ambassador Tukhtaev highlighted the importance of media in fostering people-to-people ties and expressed confidence that this partnership would bring the two nations closer. On the Pakistani side, Ansar Mahmood Bhatti emphasized the role of independent media



in bridging gaps between countries. He noted that DNA, Pakistan's leading private news agency, and Daily Islamabad Post, the country's first and only diplomatic daily, have always prioritized international collaboration. Bhatti, with over 35 years of experience in journalism and analysis, underscored that this initiative reflects Pakistan's commitment to strengthening diplomatic and cultural bonds with Uzbekistan.

The collaboration will allow for the exchange of news, features, and analytical reports, ensuring that audiences in both countries gain deeper insights into each other's political, economic, and cultural landscapes. This partnership marks another milestone in Pakistan-Uzbekistan relations, reinforcing the role of media as a vital tool in diplomacy and international cooperation.

Chairman Monal Group Luqman Ali Afzal and his wife host farewell reception for Ambassadors of Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan



Chairman Monal Group Luqman Ali Afzal and his wife host farewell reception.....



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The Philippines assumes ACI chair Pakistan strengthens diplomatic ties with ASEAN amid global challenges

Ansar M Bhatti

ISLAMABAD: In a significant diplomatic development, Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik expressed deep gratitude to the ambassadors of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) for their unwavering support to Pakistan during testing times. Speaking at a gathering that underscored the spirit of collaboration, Malik highlighted the importance of learning from one another and building stronger partnerships to overcome shared challenges. Minister Malik expressed these remarks while speaking on the occasion of handing over of ASEAN Islamabad Committee chairmanship from Indonesia to the Philippines, for the next six months. The minister noted that this sentiment of cooperation was also echoed by Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar during his recent visit to Manila, where he conveyed Pakistan's commitment to fostering regional unity. Malik emphasized that Pakistan's diplomatic efforts have played a crucial role in bringing "sanity" to conflicts that have engulfed the wider region, stressing that economic pain has been felt globally,

including in the United States.

Minister Malik underscored that Pakistan's role in stabilizing the region has been a source of pride for its people. He firmly rejected any notion that Pakistan supports terrorism, clarifying instead that the country has been a victim of it. "We look forward to building close and strong partnerships with ASEAN states," he said, adding that such alliances are vital for peace and prosperity.

On the economic front, Malik candidly admitted that Pakistan's exports have declined from 15 percent to around 8-9 percent, a trend that poses serious challenges to growth. "No country can grow without increasing exports," he remarked, urging policymakers and business leaders to prioritize trade expansion as a cornerstone of economic revival.

The Indonesian Ambassador and the outgoing Chair of ACI Chandra Warsenanto Sukotjo reaffirmed ASEAN's commitment to supporting Pakistan, noting that the bloc values Islamabad's participation in regional dialogues. He thanked Pakistan for ensuring that Finance Minister Dar took part in the ASEAN meeting in Manila, describing Pakistan as holding an "important place" in

ASEAN's engagement strategy.

The ambassador stressed that ASEAN's efforts are geared toward improving bilateral relations and ensuring that Pakistan remains an integral partner in the region's economic and diplomatic landscape. The discussions highlighted a shared recognition that collaboration between Pakistan and ASEAN is not only desirable but essential. Both sides acknowledged the pressing need to address economic challenges, strengthen trade ties, and work collectively to counter terrorism and instability. Ambassador of the Philippines to Pakistan, Dr. Emmanuel R. Fernandez, expressed gratitude to the Indonesian Ambassador for his support and assured that he would work diligently to pursue the objectives of the ASEAN Islamabad Committee.

Dr. Fernandez emphasized that his mission would move forward "hand in hand" with fellow ASEAN colleagues to ensure the success of the current tenure. He further pledged to make befitting arrangements for the upcoming ASEAN Day celebrations on August 20, highlighting the importance of unity and collaboration among member states.

Pakistan strengthens diplomatic ties with ASEAN amid global challenges



Pakistan strengthens diplomatic ties with ASEAN amid global challenges



Japan and UNICEF reaffirm decades-long partnership to deliver results for children in Pakistan



DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Japan and UNICEF reaffirmed their long-standing partnership, highlighting decades of collaboration to protect children's rights in Pakistan. Japan is one of UNICEF's longest standing and largest global partners. In Pakistan, this enduring partnership has supported children and families across health, nutrition, education, water, sanitation and hygiene, and child protection. Together, Japan and UNICEF have responded to major emergencies, Pakistan's ongoing polio eradication efforts, while continuing to invest in stronger systems that improve children's lives. Following the 2022 floods, Japan contributed US\$6.48 million to support UNICEF's emergency response in some of the hardest-hit communities in Sindh and Balochistan enabling vulnerable children and families to access safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene services, healthcare, and nutrition support, helping communities recover and better respond to future shocks. "Japan and UNICEF have walked a long road together. Ours is one of the most enduring partnerships in international devel-

“Japan has been a steadfast partner for children in Pakistan for decades. From responding to emergencies to strengthening essential services and supporting long-term development, Japan’s commitment has helped millions of children survive, recover and thrive”

opment cooperation, built over decades on a shared belief that every child, no matter where they are born or what circumstances they are born into, deserves a fair chance at a healthy, safe, and dignified life. Japan's foreign policy is guided by the deep conviction that human development, especially the wellbeing of children, is the true meas-

ure of progress,” said H.E. Mr. Akamatsu Shuichi, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan. H.E Ambassador Akamatsu also underscored Japan's longstanding commitment to eradicating polio through support to vaccination campaigns that have reached millions of children in some of the most remote and difficult-to-access corners of this country. "Japan has been a steadfast partner for children in Pakistan for decades. From responding to emergencies to strengthening essential services and supporting long-term development, Japan's commitment has helped millions of children survive, recover and thrive. Together, we are not only meeting the urgent needs of today but also helping build stronger, more resilient systems that give every child the opportunity to survive and thrive in the future,” said Sharmeela Rasool, Acting UNICEF Representative in Pakistan. Japan's continued investment ensures that essential services for children continue during and after emergencies, meeting urgent humanitarian needs while supporting sustainable recovery and stronger systems that benefit children and families for years to come.

Egyptian Ambassador highlights strong bilateral ties at National Day celebration



Ansar Mahmood Bhatti

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Egypt to Pakistan delivered a heartfelt address at the National Day of Egypt reception held at the Islamabad Serena Hotel, emphasizing the deep-rooted friendship and growing strategic partnership between Egypt and Pakistan. Speaking at the elegant ceremony, the Ambassador warmly welcomed dignitaries and guests, including Chief Guest Jam Kamal Khan, Federal Minister for Commerce, members of the diplomatic corps, and other distinguished personalities. Federal Minister Jam Kamal also spoke on the occasion. He said Pakistan greatly valued relations with Egypt adding these relations are on a positive trajectory and constantly on the move. The Ambassador further said, "It is an honour and a privilege to welcome you this evening as we celebrate the National Day of the Arab Republic of Egypt," the Ambassador said. He expressed gratitude to the Government of Pakistan and all guests for their presence on this important occasion. The Ambassador reflected on the

significance of the 1952 Egyptian Revolution, describing it as a defining milestone in Egypt's modern history that embodied the nation's aspirations for independence, social justice, dignity, and development. He reaffirmed Egypt's commitment to building a modern, prosperous, and resilient state anchored in peace, stability, and international cooperation. Praising the bilateral relationship, the Ambassador stated that Egypt and Pakistan share a "deep, longstanding, and multifaceted friendship" rooted in mutual respect, shared values, and fraternal bonds between the two peoples. He noted the remarkable momentum in bilateral relations over the past two years, highlighted by high-level exchanges, including two visits by Egypt's Foreign Minister Dr. Badr Abdelatty to Pakistan and the visit of Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar to Egypt. "These milestone exchanges have not only strengthened our political consultations but have also broadened cooperation in key strategic sectors," the Ambassador said, adding that

both countries are laying a solid foundation for a more dynamic and robust partnership. The Ambassador stressed that amid current regional and global challenges, Egypt and Pakistan stand united in their belief in dialogue, diplomacy, and adherence to international law as the path to peace and sustainable development. He expressed Egypt's desire to translate the positive political momentum into concrete outcomes, particularly through enhanced economic cooperation, increased trade, and stronger people-to-people ties. Concluding on a personal note, the Ambassador said he has personally experienced the warmth and hospitality of the Pakistani people since his arrival, which he described as a true reflection of the enduring friendship between the two nations. "I remain profoundly confident that the partnership between Egypt and Pakistan will continue to grow stronger in the years ahead," he added. The National Day reception was attended by senior Pakistani officials, diplomats, business leaders, and members of the Egyptian community in Pakistan.



Pakistan Reaffirms Commitment to Peace as France Celebrates National Day in Islamabad

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and France renewed their commitment to strengthening bilateral ties and promoting regional peace during the celebrations of France's National Day on Friday in Islamabad. Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, who was the chief guest, highlighted Pakistan's dedication to stability in the Middle East while underscoring the importance of economic cooperation with France. The event was attended by senior dignitaries including UN Under-Secretary Tom Fletcher and French Ambassador to Pakistan Nicolas Galey.

Speaking on the occasion, Finance Minister Aurangzeb said Pakistan would continue its efforts to foster peace in the Middle East. He specifically mentioned that Field Marshal Asim Munir and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would sustain their mediation initiatives aimed at resolving ongoing tensions in the region. "Pakistan values its longstanding ties with France and remains committed to further deepening this relationship across multiple sectors," Aurangzeb stated.

He also praised the Generalized System of Preferences Plus (GSP+) scheme, noting that Pakistan has benefited significantly from the trade arrangement with the European Union, of which France is a key member. The minister emphasized that enhanced economic linkages under such frameworks have supported Pakistan's export sector, job creation, and industrial growth.

French Ambassador Nicolas Galey, addressing the gathering, reflected on his tenure of over four and a half years in Pakistan. He expressed satisfaction at the progress made in bilateral relations during this period and reiterated France's appreciation for Paki-

stan's constructive role in promoting peace and stability. Ambassador Galey commended Pakistan's efforts towards regional harmony and highlighted shared concerns on global issues. In a firm stance, he condemned Russia's actions in Ukraine, stating that the conflict has resulted in the killing of innocent civilians. He also voiced strong support for the people of Palestine, calling for urgent attention to their plight and a just resolution to the longstanding issue.

The celebrations underscored the cordial diplomatic relations between the two countries. Both sides expressed optimism about future collaboration in areas such as trade, investment, education, culture, and defense. France has been an important partner for Pakistan in various development projects, while Pakistan continues to serve as a bridge for dialogue in South and West Asia. The National Day of France, also known as Bastille Day, commemorates the storming of the Bastille on July 14, 1789, which marked the beginning of the French Revolution and the birth of modern republican values of liberty, equality, and fraternity.

The embassy's event in Islamabad brought together diplomats, government officials, business leaders, and members of the Pakistani and French communities to celebrate this historic occasion. Officials from both sides agreed that people-to-people contacts and cultural exchanges would further solidify the friendship between the two nations. With Pakistan actively engaging in peace mediation and France advocating for international norms, the event reflected a convergence of views on pressing global challenges. As both countries look ahead, strengthened economic ties under GSP+ and continued diplomatic coordination are expected to open new avenues of cooperation, contributing positively to regional and global stability.







Blood donation at the Indonesian embassy involves more youth

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Islamabad, in collaboration with the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), organized the Blood Donation Drive in conjunction with 81st Anniversary of Indonesia's Independence Day Celebration next month and the Embassy's current Chairship of ASEAN Committee in Islamabad (ACI) (8/7). The annual event which themed, "Share Blood, Share Hope : ASEAN-Pakistan Zindabad!," brought together diplomats from ASEAN member states, Indonesian diaspora, Pakistani counterparts, as well as tens of Indonesian and Pakistani students. Thai Ambassador, Rongvudi Virabutr and Brunei High Commissioner Pengiran Haji Kamal Bashah bin Pengiran Haji Ahmad were among the attendees.

The event was officially inaugurated by the Indonesian Ambassador, Chandra W. Sukotjo, who graced the occasion accompanied by his spouse, Tamara Sukotjo. Representing PRCS, Dr. Dania Hassan emphasized the importance of Blood Do-

nation Drive continued by the Emergency Training, as follow up of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Humanitarian Cooperation signed by the Indonesian Ambassador and Chairperson of PRCS last year. In his opening remarks, Ambassador Chandra W. Sukotjo called to mark the momentous days with action. "Indeed, voluntary blood donation is simple, yet profound act of kindness. It gives others a second chance at life," he said. The Ambassador further viewed that the blood donation activity reaffirmed commitment to the values of compassion, empathy, and humanity. Referring his previous assignment as part of peacekeeping forces in different armed conflicts, the Ambassador underlined that blood is life. "Every few seconds, someone needs transfusion. Without enough safe blood, many lives are lost," he continued. This year's blood donation is more special as it involves more youth. Tens of Indonesian and Pakistani students come in solidarity with the spirits of contribution to build more compassionate community

through blood donation.

"I feel more connected with the Indonesian colleagues, since I frequently participate in discussions held at the Indonesian Corner, National Library of Pakistan (NLP)," expressed Shakir Malik, Pakistani student of Political Science at the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI).

"For me, taking part in blood donation is a reflection of gratitude to Allah," explained Irham Amin, Indonesian student at IIUI who has just received congratulatory messages from the Indonesian Ambassador along with his graduating fellows prior the Blood Donation Drive. "I really appreciate youth's participation during this year's blood donation, as the blood donated is relatively low-risk of possible diseases," said Dr. Wasifa Mutasim, Program Manager Health Department, PRCS. Concluding the event, the PRCS team reported more than 80 blood bags successfully collected. The humanitarian cooperation between the Embassy of Indonesia continues with the Emergency Training on 9-10 July 2026, for ASEAN family members.



Serena Hotels Concludes Golf Training Camp for Young Girls

Mr. Aziz Boolani, CEO Serena Hotels said, “At Serena Hotels, we believe that sport is a powerful tool for empowerment, inclusion, and personal development

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels, in collaboration with Margalla Greens Golf Club, successfully concluded the 4th edition of the Tee to Triumph Golf Training Camp for Young Girls under its Sports Diplomacy Initiative, reaffirming its commitment to empowering young women through sports and promoting greater female participation in golf. Now in its fourth consecutive year, Tee to Triumph continued to provide a platform for aspiring young golfers to develop their skills through structured training and professional guidance.

The camp brought together over 48 young girls, who underwent comprehensive coaching under the expert supervision of the qualified coaches at Margalla Greens Golf Club.

Designed to introduce young girls to the game while building confidence,

discipline, teamwork, and resilience, the initiative reflected the shared commitment of Serena Hotels and Margalla Greens Golf Club to creating meaningful opportunities for youth development through sport. Over the years, Tee to Triumph has become a significant programme that encourages young girls to pursue golf and realize their potential both on and off the course. Speaking on the occasion, Commodore (Retired) Majid Satti, Secretary, Margalla Greens Golf Club, said:

“Tee to Triumph has continued to grow into an impactful platform for introducing young girls to the sport of golf and helping them develop their skills under professional guidance. We are delighted to have partnered with Serena Hotels once again to deliver another successful edition of this initiative, which reflects our shared commitment to supporting youth and expanding op-

portunities for women in sports.”

Mr. Aziz Boolani, CEO Serena Hotels said, “At Serena Hotels, we believe that sport is a powerful tool for empowerment, inclusion, and personal development. Through our Sports Diplomacy Initiative, Tee to Triumph has continued to inspire young girls to pursue excellence, build confidence, and embrace the values of discipline, perseverance, and teamwork. We are proud to have completed the fourth edition of this programme in partnership with Margalla Greens Golf Club and remain committed to supporting initiatives that create lasting impact within our communities.”

Through its Sports Diplomacy Initiative, Serena Hotels has continued to champion programmes that encourage youth engagement, promote women’s participation in sports, and contribute to the growth of a more inclusive sporting culture across Pakistan.





Serena Hotels showcases Mango Diplomacy at ISH

Aziz Boolani assured that Serena Hotels will continue hosting such cultural and culinary events in the coming days, reinforcing the brand's commitment to promoting Pakistan's agricultural treasures and hospitality traditions

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels celebrated Pakistan's rich mango heritage with a vibrant Mango Festival at the Islamabad Serena Hotel, marking another step in its culinary diplomacy initiative. Global CEO of Serena Hotels, Aziz

Boolani, alongside KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, formally inaugurated the event. The festival showcased scores of mango varieties, delighting guests with the diverse flavors of Pakistan's "fruit king." Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs Amna Baloch represented the Deputy Prime Minis-

ter and Minister for Foreign Affairs Ishaq Dar. She visited various stalls. Aziz Boolani assured that Serena Hotels will continue hosting such cultural and culinary events in the coming days, reinforcing the brand's commitment to promoting Pakistan's agricultural treasures and hospitality traditions.



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch along with Global CEO Serena Hotels tasting mangoes at the Mango Festival. – DNA





Serena Hotels Brings Together Experts to Discuss Wellbeing as the New Leadership Imperative

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels, under its Public Diplomacy initiative, Raabta, organized another thought-provoking panel discussion titled "Leading Beyond Performance: Wellbeing as the New Leadership Imperative." The session brought

meaningful dialogue on how organizations and leaders can create healthier workplaces while balancing performance, purpose, and people. The conversation highlighted the importance of emotional intelligence, resilience, psychological safety, and inclusive leadership in navigating today's increasingly complex professional landscape. The distinguished panel featured a diverse

organizations. Dr. Mowadat Hussain Rana, Professor of Psychiatry & Behavioural Sciences, highlighted the critical role of mental health, psychological resilience, and emotional wellbeing in effective leadership and organizational success. Dr. Ammara Saad Hashmi, Founder of Pakistan's First Wellness and Longevity Clinic, explored the growing significance of preventive wellbeing, holistic health, and human-centered leadership in building high-performing workplaces. Miral Shareef, Country Head Yango Pakistan, offered valuable insights on leading with authenticity, developing inclusive workplace cultures, and creating environments where employee wellbeing drives innovation, engagement, and sustainable growth.

Serena Hotels always emphasize the importance of creating platforms that encourage informed dialogue on social and developmental issues. Through initiatives such as Raabta, Serena Hotels remains committed to develop conversations that inspire positive change, strengthen communities, and contribute to a more inclusive and resilient society. Through this latest edition of Raabta, Serena Hotels reaffirmed its dedication to promoting thought leadership and encouraging conversations that inspire organizations and individuals alike to re-define leadership through empathy, wellbeing, and human-centered values.

“Serena Hotels always emphasize the importance of creating platforms that encourage informed dialogue on social and developmental issues. Through initiatives such as Raabta, Serena Hotels remains committed to develop conversations that inspire positive change, strengthen communities, and contribute to a more inclusive and resilient society”

together distinguished professionals and thought leaders to explore the evolving role of wellbeing in shaping effective, compassionate, and sustainable leadership. Curated and moderated by renowned journalist and media personality Sidra Iqbal, the discussion provided a dynamic platform for

group of experts, each bringing unique perspectives from their respective fields. Abida Malik, President of the Behbud Association, shared her extensive experience in community development and people-centric leadership, emphasizing the importance of empathy and purpose in creating resilient

Foreign Ministers of Uzbekistan and Pakistan hold meeting

DNA

BISHKEK: On the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) meeting, the Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan Bakhtiyor Saidov held talks with Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The meeting was marked by warm exchanges, with both sides reaffirming their commitment to advancing the Uzbekistan–Pakistan strategic partnership. Discussions focused on translating the new momentum in bilateral relations into practical outcomes.

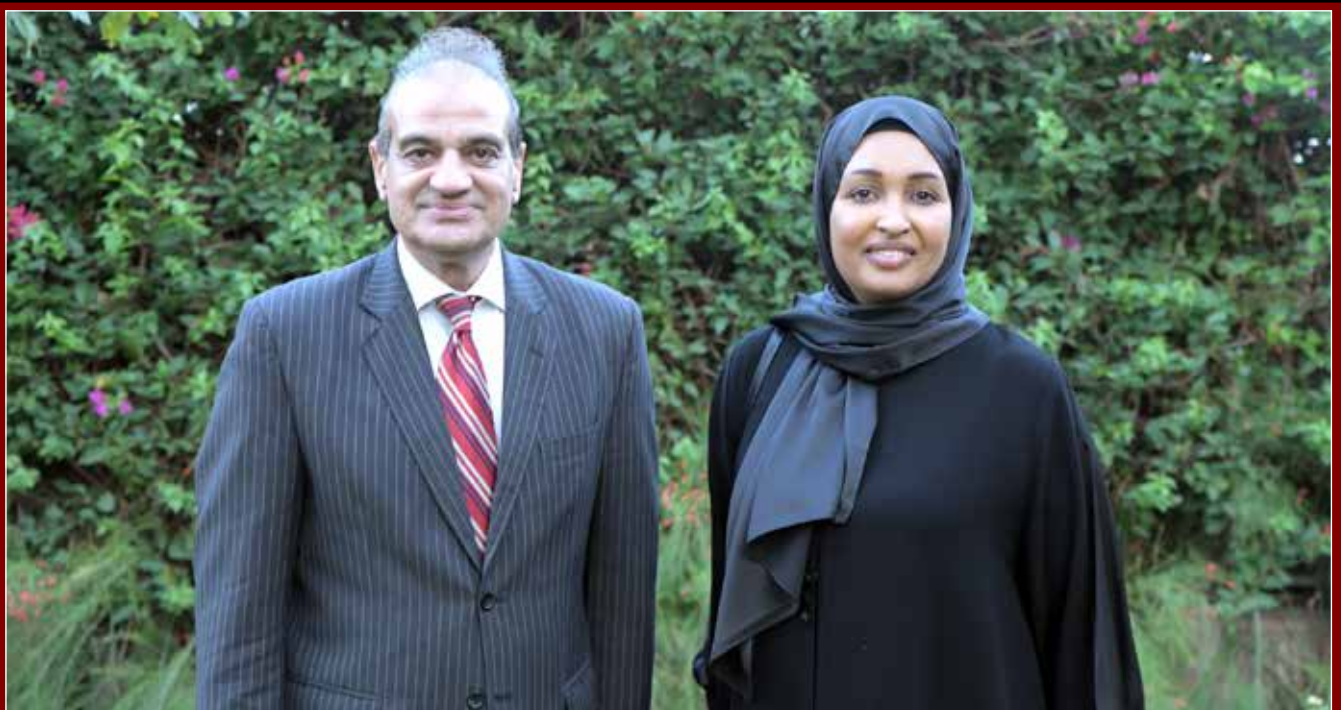
Key areas highlighted included:

- **Bilateral trade:** Harnessing untapped potential to expand economic cooperation.
- **Transport connectivity:** Strengthening infrastructure links to facilitate smoother movement of goods and people.
- **Interregional ties:** Expanding collaboration across diverse sectors to deepen mutual understanding.
- **International cooperation:** Reinforcing close coordination within multilateral and regional organizations.



Both ministers emphasized that enhanced cooperation will contribute to peace, prosperity, and stability across

the region, underscoring the importance of continued dialogue and partnership under the SCO framework.



ISLAMABAD: Editor Daily Islamabad POST/CENTRELINE/DNA met with Somalia's Minister of Family and Human Rights Development, Khadija Mohamed Al-Makhzoumi who visited Islamabad, Pakistan in July 2026 to attend the 9th OIC Ministerial Conference on Women. It was indeed a nice meeting after four years. Both sides discussed matters of mutual interest Minister Khajida had served in Pakistan as Somalian ambassador for almost six years. – DNA

Pakistan greatly values relations with Morocco

Morocco Celebrates Throne Day, Ambassador Highlights Strong Ties with Pakistan

Ansar M Bhatti

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco in Pakistan marked the 27th anniversary of King Mohammed VI's ascension to the Throne with a ceremony that underscored Morocco's achievements under the King's leadership and reaffirmed the deep-rooted friendship between Morocco and Pakistan. Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik said that Pakistan attached great importance to its relations with Morocco. He hoped that these relations would further be cemented in the days to come. Speaking at the event, Moroccan Ambassador Mohamed Karmoune emphasized the progress Morocco has made over the past 27 years. He noted that democratic institutions have been strengthened, the country's GDP has tripled, and social protection policies have expanded access to healthcare and social services. "The security and stability enjoyed by Morocco, as well as the efficiency of state institutions, have allowed important economic development," he said.

Ambassador Karmoune highlighted Morocco's emergence as a hub for industry, tourism, and investment. The Kingdom has become Africa's leading car exporter, producing nearly one million vehicles annually, while the aviation and renewable energy sectors continue to grow. In 2025, Morocco welcomed a record 20 million tourists, including members of the diaspora. "These accomplishments are the result of clear strategic direction and resolute policies turned to the future," he added. The Ambassador also paid tribute to the historic relations between Morocco and Pakistan, which span more than 72 years. He praised the "brotherly relations based on mutual respect and trust" and pointed to regular political dialogue, high-level exchanges, and coordination in international organizations as evidence of the strong partnership. "We strongly believe that working together will achieve our common development vision and embed our relations in excellence," he affirmed. The celebration served not only as a reflection on Morocco's progress but also as a reaffirmation of the enduring ties between the two nations.



Pakistan strengthens diplomatic ties with ASEAN amid global challenges



Pakistan strengthens diplomatic ties with ASEAN amid global challenges



Pride of Islamabad to be back soon

Constitutional Court declares Monal demolition as illegal

According to the bench, the then apex court's swift order had denied the management and its employees their fundamental right to due process. Most notably, the bench pointed out that the previous ruling bypassed standard legal channels by completely denying the restaurant administration the right to appeal, a cornerstone of any democratic judicial framework



Saifullah Ansar / DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a landmark decision that has sent shockwaves through the country's legal and political landscape, the newly formed Constitutional Court of Pakistan has declared the previous demolition of the iconic Monal Restaurant illegal. The Constitutional Court, headed by Justice Azhar Hassan Rizvi, ruled that the prior Supreme Court judgment ordering the closure and dismantling of the famous eatery violated basic principles of natural justice and procedural law. The court has directed that the lower courts should now decide the entire case fresh, strictly on its legal merit. In its detailed ruling, the Constitutional Court sharply criticized the manner in which the case was originally handled. Justice Azhar Hassan Rizvi observed that the Supreme Court did not properly treat the complex matter, failing to provide a fair hearing to the aggrieved parties involved.

According to the bench, the apex court's swift order denied the management and its employees their fundamental right to due process. Most notably, the bench pointed out that the previous ruling bypassed standard legal channels by completely denying the restaurant administration the right to appeal, a cornerstone of any democratic judicial framework. The legal battle dates back to a high-profile verdict delivered by the Supreme Court, which was then headed by the former Chief Justice, Qazi Faez Isa.

That bench had declared Monal, along with several other neighboring establishments operating in the picturesque Margalla Hills National Park, to be completely illegal structures, ordering their

immediate closure and subsequent demolition to preserve the local environment. While framed as an environmental preservation effort, the sudden destruction of the premier tourist destination triggered widespread public backlash. For over a decade, Monal served as a primary cultural ambassador for the capital city. Situated high above Islamabad, it was an iconic venue where state guests, foreign dignitaries, and international delegations were routinely hosted to experience Pakistani hospitality.

Following its demolition, overseas Pakistanis and international visitors heavily criticized the move on various global platforms, slamming the decision as short-sighted and detrimental to Pakistan's struggling tourism sector. Many argued that instead of complete demolition, sustainable regulatory frameworks could have been introduced to address environmental concerns without destroying a multi-million-dollar asset and displacing hundreds of workers.

News of the Constitutional Court's intervention has brought a wave of immense relief across the capital and among food and hospitality industry stakeholders. Citizens have taken to social media to celebrate the judgment, viewing it as a correction of an overreached judicial mandate. Legal experts note that by sending the case back to the lower courts to be heard strictly on merit, the Constitutional Court has restored the traditional hierarchy of the judiciary and guaranteed the right to a fair trial. With this major legal hurdle cleared, local residents and regular patrons are expressing renewed optimism that the iconic landmark will soon rebuild and return to its former glory.

Bakhtawari family hosts farewell dinner for Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan envoys



Saifullah Ansar / DNA

ISLAMABAD: A distinguished farewell dinner was hosted by Zafar Bakhtawari, Secretary General of the United Business Group (UBG) and Chairman of D Watson Group, in honor of the outgoing ambassadors of Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan. The event brought together prominent figures from Pakistan's business and diplomatic community, reflecting the deep ties between the nations.

The dinner was attended by UBG Patron S.M. Tanir, FPCCI President Atif Ikram, ambassadors, high commissioners, and leading members of the business community. Among the notable speakers was Ahsan Bakhtawari, President of the Azerbaijan-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, who paid glowing tributes to the outgoing envoys. He acknowledged their invaluable contributions in strengthening bilateral relations and wished them success in their future endeavors.

In his address, Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Bakhtawari family for the warm farewell. He highlighted key achievements during his tenure, including the launch of direct flights between Azerbaijan and Pakistan, which he described as a milestone in enhancing connectivity. He also noted the growth in trade and economic activity, the exchange of high-level delegations, and the introduction of the ASAN

visa scheme, which simplified travel through online applications. Farhadov emphasized that these initiatives had significantly boosted people-to-people and business-to-business ties.

Ambassador of Kazakhstan Yerzhan Kistafin, in his farewell remarks, underscored the importance his country places on relations with Pakistan. Reflecting on his five-year tenure, he mentioned the progress made through high-level talks and delegations. He recalled the brief launch of direct flights between the two countries, expressing hope that such a link would soon be re-established. Kistafin thanked the people of Pakistan for their hospitality and friendship, which he said had left a lasting impression.

Additional Foreign Secretary Hamid Asghar Khan also addressed the gathering, lauding the role of the outgoing ambassadors in advancing diplomatic and economic cooperation. He noted that their efforts had laid a strong foundation for future collaboration.

In his concluding remarks, Zafar Bakhtawari praised the ambassadors for their dedication and service, emphasizing their role in fostering closer ties between Pakistan and their respective countries. The evening ended with the presentation of souvenirs to the ambassadors, symbolizing appreciation and goodwill.

This farewell dinner not only celebrated the achievements of the outgoing envoys but also reaffirmed the commitment of Pakistan's business and diplomatic community to strengthening regional partnerships and promoting mutual prosperity.



Bosnia's Ambassador to Pakistan honors victims of Srebrenica genocide

Saifullah Ansar / DNA

Ambassador Emin expressed deep gratitude to Pakistan for its support during Bosnia's darkest days. He recalled Pakistan's humanitarian aid shipments, advocacy at the United Nations, and the role of the Pakistani Battalion in assisting survivors

ISLAMABAD: Bosnia and Herzegovina's Ambassador to Pakistan, Emin Cohodarevic, delivered a solemn address to mark the International Day of Reflection and Commemoration of the 1995 Genocide in Srebrenica. Speaking before dignitaries, officials, and guests, the ambassador paid tribute to the more than 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys systematically murdered in July 1995, calling the atrocity "the greatest crime committed in Europe after the Holocaust."

The commemoration coincides with the 31st anniversary of the genocide. Ambassador Emin noted that ten newly identified victims were buried at the Potočari Memorial Center near Srebrenica, their remains pieced together from fragments found in mass graves and forests. "The perpetrators tried to hide the crime by moving bodies from grave to grave. They did not

succeed," he said.

The ambassador reminded attendees that the genocide was the culmination of years of persecution, ethnic cleansing, and mass killings across Bosnia and Herzegovina beginning in 1992. He condemned the international community's failure to act decisively, describing the UN's designation of Srebrenica as a "safe zone" as "the biggest stain on the conscience of the international community."

"After the Holocaust, the world said: 'Never again.' Half a century later, genocides were committed in Rwanda and Srebrenica," Emin declared, warning that the phrase has lost much of its meaning in today's world. Ambassador Emin expressed deep gratitude to Pakistan for its support during Bosnia's darkest days. He recalled Pakistan's humanitarian aid shipments, advocacy at the United

Nations, and the role of the Pakistani Battalion in assisting survivors. "We remember and appreciate the help you provided in the reconstruction of Bosnia and Herzegovina after the war, as well as the support you provide to our country today," he said.

He also thanked Pakistan for its role in the adoption of the UN General Assembly resolution in May 2024, which established July 11 as the International Day of Remembrance and Commemoration of the Srebrenica Genocide. Emin described the resolution as "a moral, historical, and civilizational act of the United Nations." The ambassador emphasized that the genocide is firmly documented and adjudicated by international and domestic courts, rejecting denial efforts. He urged future generations to "speak the truth, research, write, learn, and remind — not for revenge, not for hate, but for justice."





PRGMEA NEWS

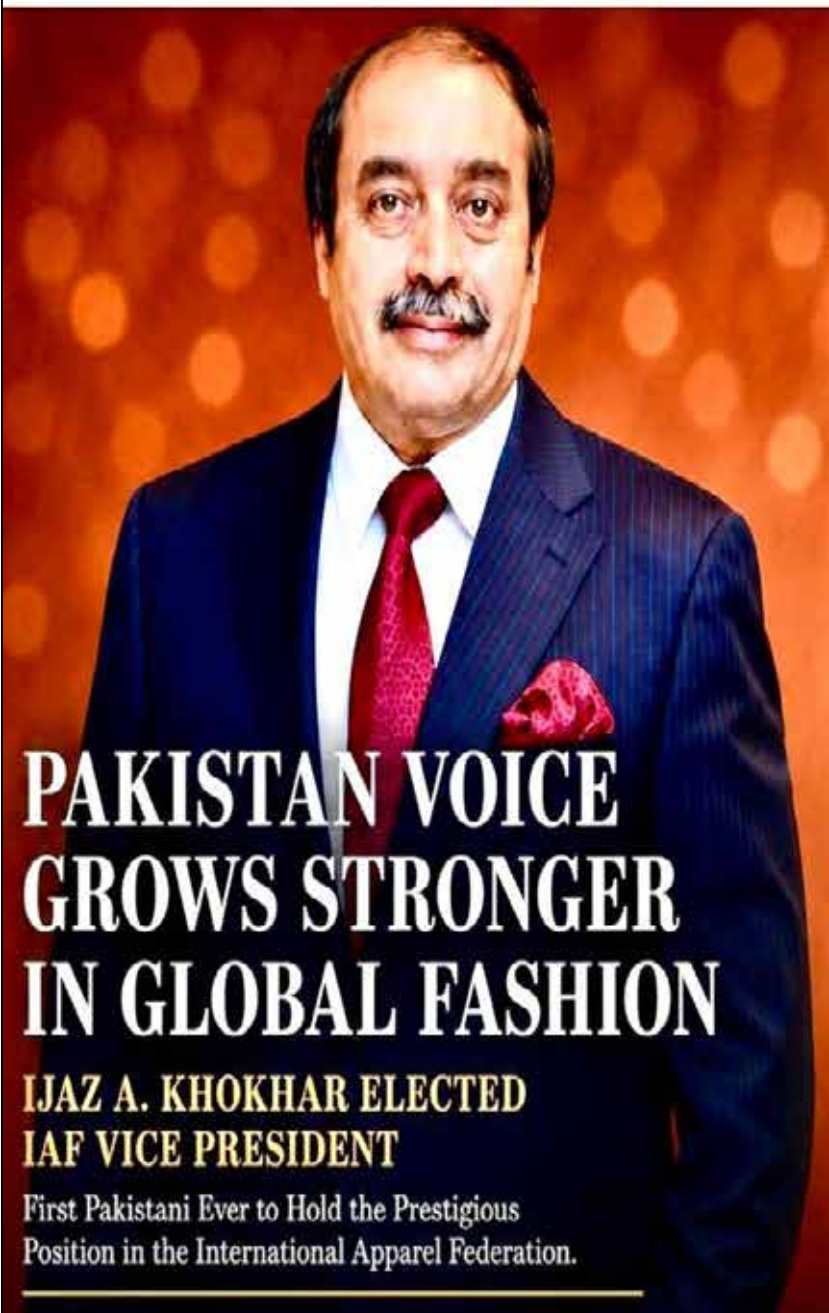
GLOBAL TRADE



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LEADERSHIP



PAKISTAN VOICE GROWS STRONGER IN GLOBAL FASHION

**IJAZ A. KHOKHAR ELECTED
IAF VICE PRESIDENT**

First Pakistani Ever to Hold the Prestigious
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Ijaz A. Khokhar, former Chairman PRGMEA and leading exporter from Sialkot, has made history as the first Pakistani ever elected Vice President of the International Apparel Federation (IAF). Nominated by IAF President Stefano Festa Marzotto in recognition of his long-standing service to the federation and the global apparel sector, this milestone reflects the growing influence of Pakistan's apparel industry on the global stage.



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