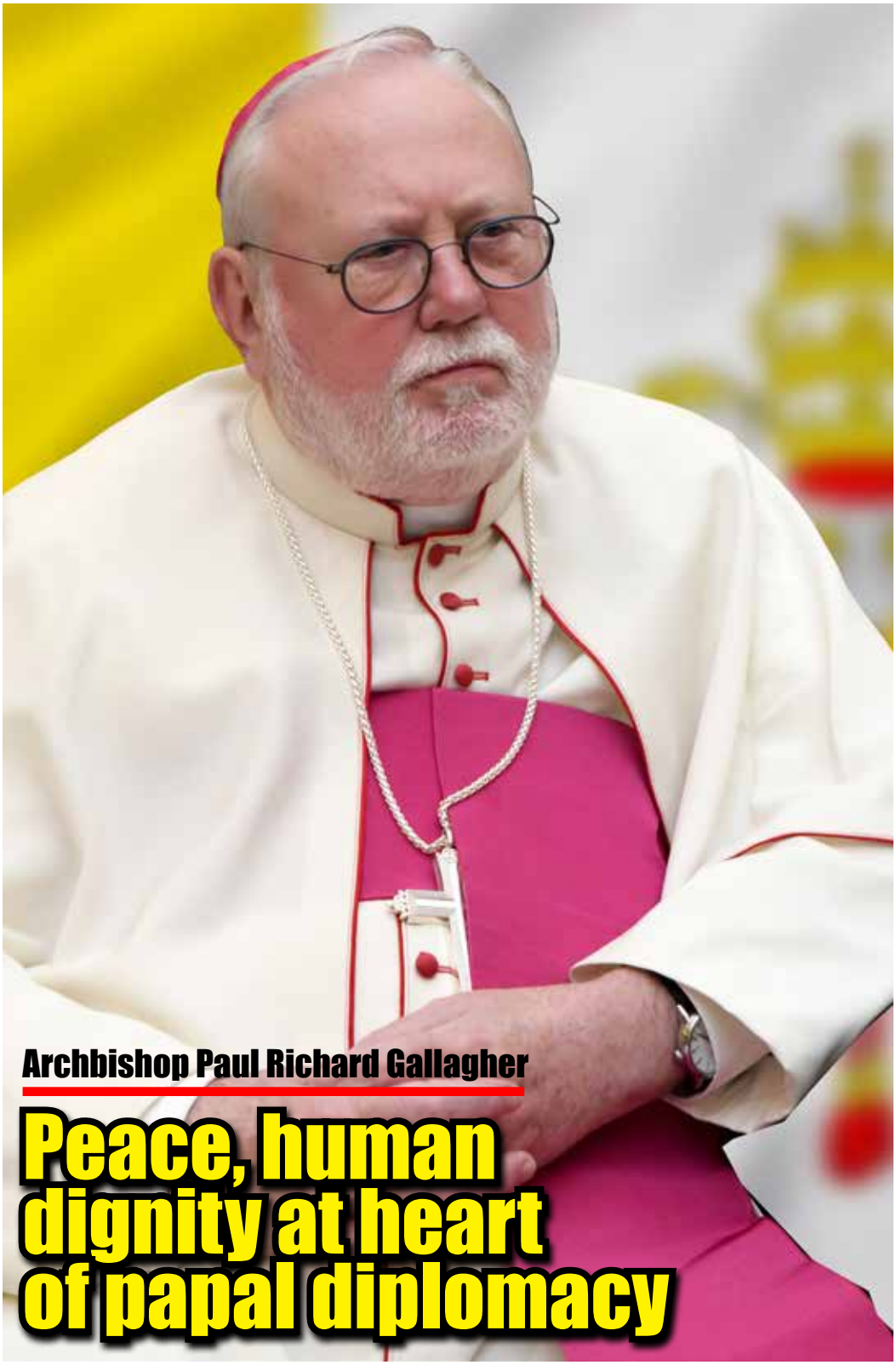
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Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher

Peace, human dignity at heart of papal diplomacy



PM Reaffirms Commitment to Strengthening Pak-Türkiye Friendship

Page: 24-25



Serena Hotels celebrates sporting excellence at Serena Polo Cup 2026

Page: 14-16



KP Governor attends Hungarian National Day event

Page: 26

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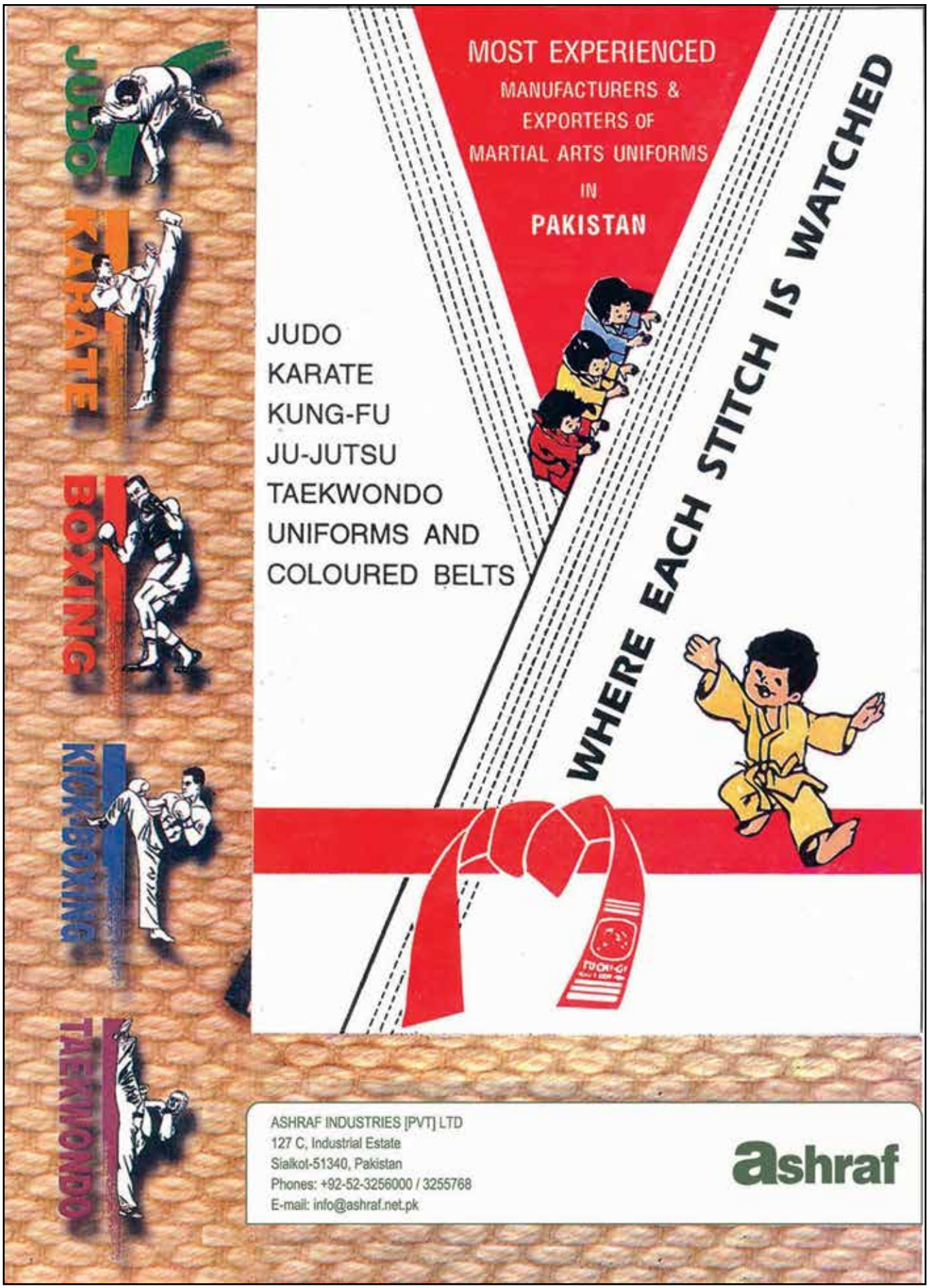






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Trump's Midterm Defeat and Pakistan's Foreign Policy Dilemma



THE defeat of U.S. President Donald Trump's political camp in the midterm elections may not immediately change realities for Pakistan, but it does create an uncomfortable diplomatic situation. In recent years, Islamabad invested considerable political capital in cultivating ties with Trump and his administration. Some Pakistani voices even proposed Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize, portraying him as a potential peacemaker. With his diminished political standing, that enthusiasm now appears politically costly. For Pakistan, the consequences are likely to be more symbolic than practical. Relations between Washington and Islamabad are shaped by institutions rather than individuals. Military cooperation, economic engagement, security concerns, and regional stability remain enduring interests for both countries. A shift in the political balance in Washington does not automatically produce a dramatic change in U.S. policy toward Pakistan. Nevertheless, perceptions matter in diplomacy. Trump's setback reduces the influence of governments that aligned themselves closely with him. Pakistani policymakers may find themselves with fewer friends in a Washington where his opponents hold greater sway. The challenge is not the prospect of hostility toward Pakistan, but the loss of access and political leverage.

One important geopolitical implication concerns Iran. Trump's policy toward Tehran was based on maximum pressure through sanctions and the threat of military action. A weakened political position, however, can restrict a leader's ability to pursue aggressive foreign initiatives. Electoral setbacks often reduce both authority and room for maneuver. As a result, the prospects for a prolonged confrontation with Iran appear less likely. Tehran may view recent developments as validation of its strategy. Iran has repeatedly used tensions around the Strait of Hormuz to highlight the economic costs of instability in the Gulf. Many analysts argue that economic pressures, including energy costs, weakened support for Trump's political movement. From Tehran's perspective, this would represent a strategic success. While Iran did not confront the United States militarily, it demonstrated how pressure on global energy markets can create political costs for a stronger adversary.

For Pakistan, however, the more significant lesson is the importance of balance in foreign policy. Islamabad cannot afford to place all its strategic bets on either Washington or Beijing. As the international system becomes increasingly fragmented, middle powers must engage multiple centers of influence. Pakistan's recent outreach to Russia reflects this approach. Islamabad has sought greater cooperation with Moscow in energy, trade, and regional security, creating additional diplomatic and economic options. Yet the strategy carries risks. European capitals have watched Pakistan's growing interaction with Russia with concern. Excessive alignment with Moscow could complicate ties with the European Union, which remains Pakistan's largest trading partner. The GSP+ framework has been vital for exports and economic growth, making European goodwill economically significant.

Pakistan must therefore assess realistically what Russia can offer. Moscow remains an important geopolitical actor, but its economic and investment capacity is limited compared to Europe, China, or the United States. Diversification is sensible; overdependence on another power is not. Afghanistan is another crucial factor. Pakistan's relations with the Taliban-led government have become increasingly strained, while Russia has expanded engagement with Afghan authorities and explored opportunities for economic and technical cooperation. Moscow's growing influence in Kabul should not be underestimated. This evolving dynamic highlights the need for a carefully balanced regional strategy. Good relations with neighbors are essential, but they should not come at the expense of ties with major global blocs. Effective foreign policy expands options rather than narrowing them. Ultimately, Trump's political setback does not fundamentally alter Pakistan's strategic environment. It does, however, serve as a reminder that foreign policy should never become overly dependent on a single leader, country, or bloc. Pakistan's interests are best served through strategic balance: maintaining ties with the United States, deepening economic relations with Europe, managing its partnership with China, exploring opportunities with Russia, and improving relations with its neighbors. In a rapidly changing world, flexibility remains more valuable than loyalty to any one power.

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.

Gallagher in Pakistan

Peace, human dignity at heart of papal diplomacy

Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher, Secretary for Relations with States, speaks at a conference in Islamabad marking the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Holy See and Pakistan, focusing on the role of religious freedom, interreligious dialogue, and the protection of fundamental rights in papal diplomacy

Diplomatic News Agency/DNA





ISLAMABAD: The Holy See's diplomacy serves human dignity, religious freedom, and peace, rather than economic or political interests, according to Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher. The Vatican Secretary for Relations with States and International Organizations addressed a conference in Islamabad on October 9 marking the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Holy See and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Sardar Yousaf was the chief guest while a number of guests hailing from various walks of life attended the reception. Almost the entire diplomatic corps turned up to be part of the event. Holy See Ambassador to Pakistan Archbishop Christphe El-KASSIS also delivered speech on the occasion. In his speech he mentioned about excellent relations between the Vatican City and Pakistan.

The event took place during Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher visit to the Pakistan, which aimed to strengthen ties of friendship and cooperation. In his address on the Holy See's diplomacy, with particular reference to several Asian countries, Archbishop Gallagher highlighted the distinctive nature of its international engagement, rooted in the Church's spiritual mission and the defense of fundamental human rights.

Positive neutrality: The Archbishop noted that the Holy See maintaines diplomatic relations with 184 states and participates in the work of the United Nations as a Permanent Observer. Its engagement with the international community, he explained, seeks to promote the common good and integral human development through a diplomacy of "positive neutrality." This approach avoids alignment with ideologies or political systems while allowing the Holy See to speak out on issues concerning peace and human rights. Such impartiality, he said, enables the Holy See to mediate in international conflicts in certain circumstances, giving priority to the protection of the most vulnerable over national interests.

Religious freedom and dialogue in Asia: Archbishop Gallagher devoted particular attention to diplomatic relations with Asian nations, where Christianity's roots stretch back nearly two millennia.

He recalled how bilateral agreements with several countries on the continent have helped protect freedom of religion, conscience, and expression, enabling Catholic communities to carry out their pastoral, educational, and charitable activities.

Alongside these religious concerns, the Archbishop highlighted the importance of cultural and humanitarian cooperation.

He cited agreements on the recognition of academic qualifications, the protection of artistic heritage, and support for charitable institutions—areas in which the Church could make a tangible contribution to the development of local societies.





Ties with Pakistan and witness of the Popes: Turning to Pakistan, Archbishop Gallagher noted that its relations with the Holy See have been marked by significant gestures of closeness and fraternity. He first recalled Pope Paul VI's stop in Dhaka, then part of East Pakistan, on November 27, 1970, following a devastating natural disaster that had claimed thousands of lives.

The Pope sought to share in the people's grief and draw international attention to a tragedy that risked being forgotten.

"I have come to you as a friend among friends, as a brother among brothers," Pope Paul VI said. His words expressed an understanding of solidarity grounded in the conviction that all people belonged to one human family, regardless of their faith.

On February 16, 1981, Pope John Paul II visited Karachi, reaffirming the Catholic Church's respect for Islam and recalling Abraham as a figure shared by the Christian, Muslim, and Jewish traditions.

According to Archbishop Gallagher, the visit helped strengthen dialogue and mutual trust among religious communities.

Sister Ruth Pfau and the "diplomacy of life": Among the most significant examples the Archbishop cited was Sister Ruth Pfau, who devoted more than half a century to caring for people with leprosy in Pakistan.

He described her work as an example of the "diplomacy of life," expressed through quiet, selfless service. She did more than treat a disease, he noted: she helped restore dignity, visibility, and a place in society to people who were often marginalized. When she died in 2017, Pakistan honored her with a state funeral, recognizing the universal value of her work, which transcended religious, ethnic, and national differences. Her witness, Archbishop Gallagher said, demonstrates that the Holy See's diplomatic activity extended beyond institutional relations to find expression in practical care for the most vulnerable.

Peace as a shared responsibility: In his concluding remarks, Archbishop Gallagher reiterated that papal diplomacy seeks to promote universal values rather than pursue political expediency.

This approach rests on the conviction that the exercise of authority must always be grounded in moral law and respect for every person's inherent dignity. Marking 75 years of diplomatic relations with Pakistan, the Archbishop expressed his certainty that the relationship rests on deeply shared values: "the dignity of every human person, religious freedom, peace, and social justice." These principles, he concluded, belong to both the Islamic tradition and the Christian vision and provide a foundation for cooperation that could help build a more just and peaceful society.

75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Holy See and Pakistan




























Romanian Ambassador highlights security, defense cooperation

A.M. Bhatti

ISLAMABAD: Marking Romania's Armed Forces Day, Romanian Ambassador Dan Stoenescu paid tribute to the courage, professionalism, and dedication of the Romanian Armed Forces while reaffirming Romania's commitment to collective security, regional stability, and international partnerships. Addressing distinguished guests, including Air Marshal Shakeel Ghazanfer, Deputy Chief of Air Staff (Projects) of Pakistan, the Ambassador noted that October 25 is one of Romania's most significant national celebrations, dedicated to honoring the achievements and sacrifices of servicemen and women throughout the country's history and those currently serving under the Romanian flag.

The Ambassador emphasized that, as a member of both NATO and the European Union, Romania considers the transatlantic partnership a cornerstone of peace and security in Europe. He underlined that more than seven decades of cooperation between North America and Europe have contributed significantly to stability, freedom, and democratic development across the continent.

Discussing the evolving security environment, Ambassador Stoenescu highlighted the profound impact of Russia's military aggression against Ukraine on European defense policies. He noted that Romania has responded by pursuing an ambitious defense modernization agenda and aims to increase investments in defense and security over the coming years.

He outlined Romania's ongoing efforts to strengthen its military capabilities through investments in air and missile defense systems, combat aviation, naval and land forces, military infrastructure, logistics, and emerging technologies, including unmanned and counter-drone systems. He also welcomed the support offered through the European Union's Security Action for Europe (SAFE) instrument, which is intended to help accelerate modernization programs and industrial cooperation within the defense sector.

The Ambassador stressed the growing geostrategic importance of the Black Sea region, describing it as a critical area for Euro-Atlantic security. He referred to recent security challenges arising from the conflict in Ukraine, including drone-related incidents near Romania's borders, which have highlighted the need for vigilance and enhanced collective defense mechanisms. Reaffirming Romania's role within NATO, Ambassador Stoenescu stated that the country remains committed to strengthening deterrence and defense measures while actively contributing to missions and operations conducted under the framework of the European Union's Common Security and Defence Policy. He also reiterated Romania's strong support for the Republic of Moldova's European aspirations and its efforts to maintain stability in the Eastern Neighborhood and the Western Balkans.
























Serena Hotels celebrates sporting excellence at Serena Polo Cup 2026





Saifullah Ansar

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels, under its Sports Diplomacy Initiative and its continued commitment to promoting community engagement through sports, hosted the much-anticipated Serena Polo Cup 2026 at the Islamabad Club Polo Grounds.

The event was attended by members of the diplomatic community, government officials, corporate leaders, media representatives, and polo enthusiasts, bringing together distinguished guests for a celebration of sporting excellence, friendly competition, and international camaraderie.

The final match of the Serena Polo Cup 2026 featured an exciting contest between Team HN and Team Asean. Both teams displayed great skill and teamwork, keeping the audience excited throughout the match. Following an intense contest across four chukkers, Team Asean emerged victorious with a score of 10, securing the prestigious Serena Polo Cup 2026 title.

Serena Hotels extended its congratulations to both teams for their outstanding performance and sportsmanship. The tournament reaffirmed Serena Hotels commitment to encouraging athletic excellence and strengthening community ties through sports. Beyond polo, Serena Hotels continues to support a range of sporting disciplines across Pakistan, including tennis, squash, golf, and women's cricket, as part of its efforts to promote youth engagement, gender equality, and national pride while strengthening bonds within local and international communities.

Scores:
Serena Challenge Polo Cup 2026 (Final)
HN vs Asean
HN scored 6.5 goals.
Asean scored 10 goals.
Asean won by 3.5 goals.
Asean Team:
Eulogio- 04 goals
Maisam Baloch- 02 goals
Haider Asad-02 goals
Abdullah Faisal -02 goals
Total: 10
HN Team:
Haider Naseem:01
Ibrahim Khalil: 02
Syed M Turab Rizvi: 01
Saqib Khakwani: 02
Handicap:1/2
Total: 6.5





SERENA







Serena Hotels celebrates sporting excellence at Serena Polo Cup 2026












Serena Hotels hosts Raabta panel discussion on breast cancer awareness

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels, under its Public Diplomacy initiative, hosted a panel discussion on breast cancer awareness titled "Every Story Is Unique, Every Story Matters." The session brought together medical experts, a mental health professional, a corporate leader and a breast cancer survivor to highlight the importance of early detection, timely medical consultation, emotional well-being and support for those affected by breast cancer.

The discussion aimed to encourage open conversations about breast cancer, address common misconceptions and emphasize the importance of awareness in helping women make informed decisions about their health. It highlighted the role of accurate medical information, timely diagnosis and appropriate treatment in improving health outcomes, while also recognizing the emotional and psychological challenges that patients and their families may face.

The panel featured Dr. Kamran Rashid, Oncologist and President of the Society of Medical Oncology Pakistan; Prof. Dr. Shela Alvi, Psychiatrist, Psychotherapist and Mental Health Advocate; Fauzia Ahmed, Chief Human Resource Officer at Mari Energies; and Ms. Shams Aijaz Akram, Breast Cancer Survivor. Drawing on their professional expertise and personal experience, the panelists explored the medical, psychological and social aspects of breast cancer, highlighting the importance of a comprehensive and compassionate approach to care.

















Serena Hotels celebrates 5 Years of Mehfil-e-Sukhan

Saifullah Ansar / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels hosted the fifth edition of Mehfil-e-Sukhan on Saturday evening, bringing together some of Pakistan's most distinguished poets for its annual mushaira at the Islamabad Serena Hotel. Held under Serena's Cultural Diplomacy Initiative, the evening honoured one of the region's oldest literary traditions, and the enduring power of Urdu verse to bring people together across generations, regions and backgrounds.

Presided over by Abbas Naqvi and Shakeel Jazaib, the mehfil featured Kishwar Naheed, Iftikhar Arif, Anwar Shaoor, Abbas Tabish, Izhar ul Haq, Hamid Ateeq Sarwar, Haris Khaleeq, Ahmed Salman, Wasi Shah, Adnan Baig, Shakeel Jazib, Ashfaq Nasir, Saima Aftab, Rehman Faris, Zarnigar Abbas and Saba Uddin Hunzai. Spanning the classical and the contemporary, their readings reflected the range of Urdu poetry and its continuing ability to speak to the present.

"Poetry has always been a meeting place. For five years, Mehfil-e-Sukhan has opened Serena's doors to the poets who give voice to Pakistan, and to the audiences, from Pakistan and beyond, who come to listen. At its heart, cultural diplomacy is simply that: an invitation to sit together and share in something enduring," said Mr. Aziz Boolani, Global CEO of Serena Hotels.











MEHFIL-E-SUKHAN







MEHFIL-E-SUKHAN




Mövenpick Hotel Islamabad, Dr. Abrar Associates sign MoU

Addressing the ceremony, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan congratulated both organizations on the partnership and welcomed Dr. Abrar Associates into the Mövenpick and Centaurus family of partners; Nicolas Verdun, General Manager of Mövenpick Hotel Islamabad, welcomed Dr. Abrar Associates as a valued partner and expressed confidence that the collaboration would benefit both organizations and their clients

Saifullah Ansar / DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a significant step toward enhancing healthcare support and guest services, Mövenpick Hotel Islamabad and Dr. Abrar Associates, one of Pakistan's leading dental healthcare institutions, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Tuesday to provide quality medical and dental services to hotel guests, staff, and associated clients. The signing ceremony was witnessed by Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, Chief Executive Officer of Centaurus Group and the Prime Minister's Coordinator on Tourism. The event brought together senior representatives from both organizations and marked the beginning of a strategic partnership aimed at improving access to healthcare services through collaboration between the hospitality and medical sectors.

Addressing the ceremony, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan congratulated both organizations on the partnership and welcomed Dr. Abrar Associates into the Mövenpick and Centaurus family of partners. He emphasized the importance of collaboration between different sectors to improve service standards and promote Pakistan as a modern and welcoming destination. "As Prime Minister's Coordinator on Tourism, I can assure you that the government is taking all possible measures to promote tourism in Pakistan. The country possesses immense tourism potential, and partnerships such as this contribute positively to enhancing visitor confidence and improving service delivery," he said. Sardar Yasir further noted that international-standard hotels and quality healthcare facilities play an important role in creating a favorable environment for tourists, business travelers, and investors.

Speaking on the occasion, Nicolas Verdun , General Manager of Mövenpick Hotel Islamabad, welcomed Dr. Abrar Associates as a valued partner and expressed confidence that the collaboration would benefit both organizations and their clients. "We are delighted to enter into this partnership with Dr. Abrar Associates. At Mövenpick Hotel Islamabad, guest comfort, well-being, and safety remain our highest priorities. This agreement will help us further strengthen the services available to our guests and employees. We look forward to a successful and long-term partnership," he said. Nicolas added that the hotel would continue to remain committed to providing world-class hospitality standards while ensuring that quality healthcare support is available whenever needed.

Meanwhile, Dr. Abrar-ul-Hasnain, representing Dr. Abrar Associates, thanked the management of Mövenpick Hotel Islamabad and Centaurus Group for their trust and cooperation. He said the partnership reflects a shared commitment to excellence and customer care. "We are honored to collaborate with one of Pakistan's premier hospitality brands. Through this MoU, we aim to provide high-quality dental and medical services while ensuring convenience, professionalism, and patient-centered care for all beneficiaries," he said. He highlighted the importance of preventive healthcare and professional medical support in the hospitality sector, adding that Dr. Abrar Associates would strive to deliver the highest standards of healthcare services under the agreement.

The ceremony concluded with the formal exchange of documents and a commitment from both organizations to work closely in implementing the agreement. Participants expressed optimism that the partnership would serve as a model for future collaborations between Pakistan's healthcare and hospitality sectors, ultimately benefiting customers, employees, and visitors alike.


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Victory Day of Azerbaijan



















CTORY DAY









PM Shehbaz Sharif Reaffirms Commitment to Strengthening Pakistan-Türkiye Friendship






D N A

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening its longstanding friendship with Türkiye, stressing the need to transform bilateral relations into concrete joint projects and shared prosperity. Addressing a ceremony marking the 103rd anniversary of the Republic of Türkiye in Islamabad, the Prime Minister congratulated Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the Turkish government and people on their National Day.

The Prime Minister noted that the Republic of Türkiye was founded on October 29, 1923, under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, and said that under President Erdo an's visionary leadership, Türkiye has emerged as a strong global power with significant achievements in the economy, defense technology, and modern infrastructure development. Highlighting the deep historical bond between the two nations, Shehbaz Sharif said the friendship between Pakistan and Türkiye is rooted in history. He recalled the support extended by Muslims of the subcontinent to their Turkish brethren during the Khilafat Movement.

The Prime Minister said Türkiye has consistently stood by Pakistan during difficult times. He noted that Türkiye was among the first countries to assist Pakistan following the devastating 2005 earthquake and recalled President Erdoğan's visit to Pakistan during the catastrophic floods of 2010. He praised Türkiye's humanitarian contributions, including the establishment of a modern hospital in Muzaffargarh and support for flood victims. He also acknowledged the compassion shown by Turkish First Lady Emine Erdoğan, saying her humanitarian efforts won the hearts of millions of Pakistanis. He added that the Recep Tayyip Erdoğan Hospital and Emine Erdoğan School continue to play an important role in providing health and education services.

Referring to the devastating earthquakes that struck Türkiye in February 2023, the Prime Minister said the people of Pakistan shared the grief of their Turkish brothers and sisters and expressed strong solidarity with the earthquake victims. Shehbaz Sharif also appreciated Türkiye's support for Pakistan during periods of regional tension, saying the Pakistani nation would always remember Türkiye's sincere backing.

He observed that cooperation between the two countries is expanding across various sectors, including politics, trade, and defense. The Prime Minister said the Pakistan-Türkiye-Saudi Arabia Makkah Joint Defense Agreement was an important milestone reflecting both countries' capabilities and their commitment to regional peace and stability. Emphasizing economic cooperation, he said Pakistan and Türkiye must elevate their economic partnership to new heights. He announced that a President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan Special Economic Zone is being established in Karachi. The Prime Minister urged Turkish investors to take advantage of the vast economic opportunities available in Pakistan and reiterated the need to translate bilateral relations into practical projects and mutual prosperity.

Speaking on the occasion, Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan Irfan Neziroğlu said Pakistan and Türkiye are bound by enduring ties of history, faith, and shared values. He paid tribute to the Turkish nation's struggle for independence under Mustafa Kemal Atatürk and acknowledged the support extended by Muslims of the subcontinent during Türkiye's War of Independence.

The ambassador said Pakistan and Türkiye have always supported each other in challenging times and are not merely friends but brothers linked by history and faith. He emphasized the importance of transforming bilateral relations into economic diplomacy and expanding strategic cooperation between the two countries. At the conclusion of the ceremony, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar, and Ambassador Irfan Neziroğlu cut a cake to mark the occasion. Federal ministers and other dignitaries also attended the event.






TIKA








KP Governor says Pakistan values ties with Hungary

Saif Ullah Ansar

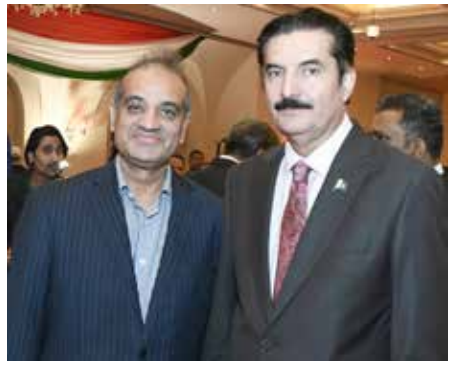
ISLAMABAD: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has said that Pakistan highly values its relations with Hungary and is keen to further strengthen bilateral cooperation. He expressed these views while addressing a ceremony held to mark the National Day of Hungary, where he attended as the chief guest. The governor said Pakistan and Hungary enjoy excellent relations based on mutual respect and cooperation. He expressed confidence that ties between the two countries would continue to grow in the years ahead.

Faisal Karim Kundi noted that Hungarian companies are performing well in Pakistan and contributing to various sectors of the economy. He said there is significant potential to expand cooperation in trade, investment and other areas of mutual interest. State Minister for Education Wajiha Qamar also spoke on the occasion and termed the bilateral relations from cordial to excellent. She thanked Hungarian government for offering scholarships to Pakistani students on a regular basis. The Ambassador of Hungary also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the friendly relations between the two countries. He reaffirmed his country's commitment to further enhancing bilateral cooperation and strengthening people-to-people contacts.

















Minister says

Pakistan reaffirms resolve to solidify ties with Korea

Ambassador Han Sungho welcomed guests and highlighted the friendly and growing ties between Pakistan and the Republic of Korea

D N A

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Tariq Fazal Chaudhry has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening its longstanding partnership with the Republic of Korea, highlighting the growing scope of cooperation in trade, investment, technology, education, and human resource development. Addressing a reception hosted by Han Sungho, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Pakistan, on the occasion of Korea's National Foundation Day, the minister extended warm felicitations to the Government and people of Korea and praised the country's remarkable transformation into a global economic and technological powerhouse.

The minister noted that Pakistan attaches great significance to its relations with the Republic of Korea and greatly values Korea's experience in industrial development, innovation, infrastructure, skills development, and human resource development. He said Pakistan sees considerable potential for expanding cooperation and knowledge-sharing in these areas.

He expressed Pakistan's desire to elevate the relationship to new heights, particularly through enhanced economic and investment cooperation and stronger business-to-business linkages.

The minister also appreciated the development cooperation provided by the Republic of Korea through the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), acknowledging its contribution to Pakistan's development efforts and institutional capacity-building.

On the occasion, Ambassador Han Sungho welcomed guests and highlighted the friendly and growing ties between Pakistan and the Republic of Korea, expressing confidence in further strengthening bilateral cooperation in the years ahead.

Japan Self-Defense Forces Day Celebrated

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Japan in Pakistan hosted a reception on Thursday to commemorate the 72nd anniversary of Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) Day. The event was hosted by Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. AKAMATSU Shuichi, and Mrs. AKAMATSU Yumiko, while Defense Attaché Colonel TOYODA Takeshi represented the JSDF. The ceremony was attended by Federal Minister for Defence H.E. Khawaja Muhammad Asif as the Chief Guest and H.E. Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Member of the National Assembly and former Prime Minister of Pakistan, as Special Guest representing President Asif Ali Zardari. The dignitaries joined Ambassador Akamatsu in cutting the commemorative cake following the national anthems of Japan and Pakistan and the delivery of official speeches.

A video message from Japan's Minister of Defense, H.E. Mr. KOIZUMI Shinjiro, was also presented during the reception. The event drew a distinguished gathering of military officials, government ministers, parliamentarians, senior civil servants, diplomats, and representatives from the public and private sectors.

In his address, Ambassador Akamatsu highlighted that the history of the Japan Self-Defense Forces embodies Japan's enduring "Will to Seek Peace." He noted that the JSDF continues to uphold the principles of Pacifism and Exclusive Defense, which remain central to Japan's security policy. "The peace we seek is not of silence but of dialogue, not division but of cooperation, and not one governed by force but one underpinned by the rule of law," Ambassador Akamatsu stated.

Emphasizing the importance of diplomacy, the Ambassador stressed that preserving peace requires more than military capability and calls for continuous efforts to build bridges of dialogue and mutual understanding among nations. Praising Pakistan's role on the international stage, Ambassador Akamatsu remarked that the country's diplomatic ability to transform disputes into dialogue deserves the highest recognition and appreciation from the global community. The Ambassador also recalled several notable examples of cooperation between Japan and Pakistan involving the JSDF. These included educational exchanges through the acceptance of international students at the Ground Self-Defense Force's Fuji School, humanitarian airlift assistance during the devastating 2010 floods in northwestern Pakistan, and the participation of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force destroyer Murasame in the multinational naval exercise AMAN-25.





























Envoys of Azerbaijan, Norway, Switzerland, Saudi Arabia, France present credentials

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassadors-designate of the Kingdom of Norway, Republic of Azerbaijan and Switzerland presented their credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr today. The President felicitated the ambassadors on their appointments and wished them successful tenures in Pakistan. He discussed opportunities to strengthen bilateral relations, with particular emphasis on economic cooperation, trade and investment, alongside areas of shared interest.

In his meeting with Ambassador-designate of Norway, Sigvald Hauge, the President reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening its longstanding friendly relations with Norway. He expressed appreciation for Norway's support during Pakistan's devastating floods in 2022 and welcomed the bilateral MoU on climate cooperation signed in April 2026. He highlighted opportunities for cooperation in renewable energy, maritime affairs, technology, trade and investment, and acknowledged the Pakistani diaspora's contribution to relations between the two countries.

Talking to Ambassador-designate of Azerbaijan, Irfan Shakiroglu Davudov, the President reaffirmed the close and fraternal ties between Pakistan and Azerbaijan and stressed the need to translate strong political relations into greater trade and investment. He highlighted the potential for cooperation in energy, regional connectivity and defence, welcomed progress in defence-industrial cooperation and noted the contribution of direct air links to tourism and people-to-people contacts.

During his meeting with Ambassador-designate of Switzerland, Stéphane Laurent Rey, the President appreciated Switzerland's role in mediation and peace efforts, including its facilitation of technical talks between the United States and Iran at Bürgenstock. He emphasised the importance of continued cooperation for regional peace and highlighted opportunities in trade, investment, pharmaceuticals, IT and cybersecurity, renewable energy, water management and tourism.

Senator Sherry Rehman, Senator Saleem Mandviwalla and Secretary Foreign Affairs Asim Iftikhar Ahmad were also present during the meetings. President Asif Ali Zardari received the credentials of the newly appointed ambassadors of France and Saudi Arabia during separate ceremonies held at Aiwan-e-Sadr in Islamabad. The President welcomed Jean-Noël Poirier,



Ambassador of Saudi Arabia



Ambassador of France

Ambassador-designate of France, and Dr. Rajeh Tami Albugamy, Ambassador-designate of Saudi Arabia, and congratulated them on their appointments. He expressed confidence that both diplomats would play an important role in further strengthening Pakistan's relations with their respective countries and expanding cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

During his meeting with the French envoy, President Zardari reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to deepening its longstanding ties with France through regular dialogue and enhanced bilateral cooperation. He stressed the importance of multilateralism, high-level exchanges, and maintaining an independent and constructive bilateral relationship.

The President also highlighted the potential for greater collaboration in trade, investment, parliamentary exchanges, education, culture, and defence cooperation.

In a separate meeting with the Saudi ambassador-designate, President Zardari underscored the close strategic partnership between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. He reiterated Pakistan's commitment to the Kingdom's security and defence and emphasized the importance of institutional mechanisms and the Makkah Alliance for Defence in strengthening bilateral cooperation. The President appreciated Saudi Arabia's continued financial assistance and support through oil supply arrangements, while also acknowledging the valuable contribution of the Pakistani community residing in the Kingdom. He expressed confidence that Pakistan-Saudi Arabia relations would reach new heights during Ambassador Albugamy's tenure.

The credential ceremonies reflected Pakistan's commitment to strengthening diplomatic engagement and promoting mutually beneficial partnerships with both France and Saudi Arabia.



Ambassador of Azerbaijan



Ambassador of Norway



Ambassador of Switzerland

Armed Forces Day of Egypt







Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen...,

- It gives me great pleasure and honor today, on the anniversary of days etched forever in the conscience of the Egyptian people, to extend my thanks and appreciation for your presence and participation in our celebration of the 53rd anniversary of the glorious October Victory. This victory embodied Egypt's will, affirmed the steadfastness of its people, and demonstrated the Armed Force's ability to achieve their objectives and safeguard the nation's sovereignty.
- Throughout history, this victory will remain a testament to the greatness of a people and the pride of a nation. It stands as a landmark battle in the history of the Egyptian military, proving its capacity to confront challenges and hardships, while the great Egyptian people maintained unwavering confidence in their Armed Forces' ability to achieve victory and reclaim the land.
- A salute of esteem and appreciation goes to the men of the Armed Forces who restored the nation's land and dignity through their determination, courage, and heroism, setting the finest examples of sacrifice and selflessness for the sake of this purpose.
- A salute of reverence to the souls of our righteous martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the homeland, ensuring that Egypt remains proud, strong, and secure. We also recall with deep appreciation those who made the decision of war and crossing the Canal, foremost among them the late President Anwar Sadat, who made that decision with faith in God, in the people, and in the Armed Forces' ability to achieve victory and overcome the impossible.

Distinguished Guests

- The Egyptian Armed Forces are an integral part of this great people; they derive their strength from the nation and shoulder the responsibility of protecting the homeland and safeguarding its assets. Throughout their history, they have proven their ability to confront various challenges, defend Egypt's national security, and protect its borders and territory.
- The Egyptian Armed Forces, with their inherent capabilities and expertise, remain capable of confronting various challenges and threats, safeguarding Egypt's national security, and protecting the nation's assets amidst a rapidly changing world and mounting security challenges.
- Egypt, that has fought to reclaim its land is the same Egypt that consistently strives for peace. It has never sought war or conflict to pursue ambitions or to unjustly seize the assets and resources of others; rather, it has always believed that cooperation among nations is the pathway to peace, advancement, and development.
- Furthermore, Egypt believes that achieving security and stability is not solely a matter of national effort; it requires cooperation, mutual understanding, and the exchange of expertise among nations, alongside respect for states' sovereignty and territorial integrity, and non-interference in internal affairs.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- The objectives achieved in support of our mutual interests between Egypt and Pakistan , over the recent period... underscore the importance of continued military cooperation. and the exchange of expertise. These efforts contribute to building bridges of trust and understanding, Fostering a culture of peace, and countering the phenomena of violence and extremism currently affecting our region.
- Undoubtedly, the challenges arising from the evolving security interactions in the Middle East compel us to address shared issues responsibly. We must work to restore regional security and stability, and meet security requirements viewed through a comprehensive perspective, while respecting the unique characteristics of societies and peoples, and rejecting any interference in the internal affairs of states, regardless of the pretexts used.

In conclusion,

- I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the openness, complete transparency, and determination to achieve our shared goals , and further the distinguished cooperation between our two nations.

Thank you for your attention, and I wish our peoples enduring security, peace, and stability.


EGYPT







Diplomatic Outreach

New Saudi Ambassador meets Bahraini envoy in Islamabad

DNA

ISLAMABAD: As part of his initial introductory meetings with Islamabad's diplomatic community, the newly appointed Ambassador of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to Pakistan, Dr. Raajih bin Taami Al-Buqami, held a cordial meeting today with the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain and Dean of the Arab Diplomatic Corps, Professor Muhammad Ibrahim Abdul Qadir.

The meeting provided an opportunity for both dignitaries to exchange warm, friendly conversations and review various bilateral topics of mutual interest, underscoring the strong cooperative bonds shared among brotherly nations within the diplomatic corps in Islamabad.



Romanian Ambassador meets Punjab Governor to boost ties

Ambassador Stoenescu expressed appreciation for the meeting and thanked the Punjab Governor for his kind invitation to visit the province again



DNA

ISLAMABAD:: The Ambassador of Romania to Pakistan, Dr Dan Stoenescu, met with Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan to discuss ways to further strengthen relations between Romania and Pakistan, with a particular focus on cooperation at the local level. During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on expanding trade opportunities, strengthening economic ties and promoting cultural exchanges between the two countries.

The discussions also explored prospects for closer engagement between local institutions and business communities, with an emphasis on encouraging greater interaction, friendship and mutual understanding between the people of Romania and Pakistan.

Ambassador Stoenescu expressed appreciation for the meeting and thanked the Punjab Governor for his kind invitation to visit the province again. He also expressed his desire for further opportunities to advance cooperation and deepen ties between Romania and Pakistan. The governor said he was pleased to receive the Romanian ambassador adding both countries enjoyed excellent relations. He hoped, bilateral relations will further be strengthened even in the days to come. Both Pakistan and Romania maintain cordial relations. Both countries cooperate with each other on various regional and world forums.













Bangladesh Cultural Evening and exhibition

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Culture Aurangzeb Khichi, High Commissioner of Bangladesh Md. Iqbal Hussain Khan and others attending the Bangladesh culture evening. A vibrant celebration of culture and heritage at the Bangladesh Cultural Evening. Talented artists delivered mesmerizing performances, captivating the audience with music, dance, and artistic excellence. The event was organized by the High Commission of Bangladesh at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA). – DNA

Azerbaijan holds vast opportunities for trade and investment with Pak

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Emphasizing the need to translate the longstanding friendship between Pakistan and Azerbaijan into tangible economic gains, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Irfan Davudov has called for stronger trade, investment and industrial cooperation between the two countries. During his visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), he stressed the importance of structured business-to-business (B2B) meetings, sector-specific engagement and stronger private-sector linkages to unlock untapped opportunities and develop mutually beneficial partnerships in agriculture, tourism, healthcare and other key sectors.

The ambassador stated that around 4,000 companies were operating in Azerbaijan, highlighting the potential for Pakistani businesses to explore investment and commercial opportunities in the country. He identified logistics, telecommunications, oil and gas exploration, construction and other sectors as promising areas for collaboration. He reaffirmed the Azerbaijani Embassy's commitment to facilitating business contacts and supporting initiatives that could strengthen economic relations and promote closer people-to-people ties between the two countries.

ICCI President Mohammad Zikria Akbar Zia emphasized that sustained B2B engagement was essential to converting the strong bilateral relationship into practical business outcomes. He said ICCI was ready to facilitate business delegations, connect entrepreneurs and promote joint ventures between Pakistani and Azerbaijani companies. He noted that such partnerships could encourage investment, technology transfer and industrial development, adding that peace and stability in the region.



Jordanian Ambassador Receives New UNHCR Representative in Pakistan

The Jordanian envoy welcomed Mrs. Noriko Takagi to Islamabad and expressed his desire to work closely with UNHCR on matters of shared concern



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Jordan to Pakistan, Dr. Maen Khreasat, met with the newly appointed UNHCR Representative in Pakistan, Mrs. Noriko Takagi, and discussed areas of mutual interest and potential cooperation between their respective missions. According to a statement shared by Dr. Maen Khreasat, the meeting provided an opportunity for a productive exchange of views on their objectives and ways to enhance collaboration. The Jordanian envoy welcomed Mrs. Noriko Takagi to Islamabad and expressed his desire to work closely with UNHCR on matters of shared concern. The meeting underscored the importance of cooperation between diplomatic missions and international organizations in addressing humanitarian and development-related challenges in Pakistan. – **DNA**





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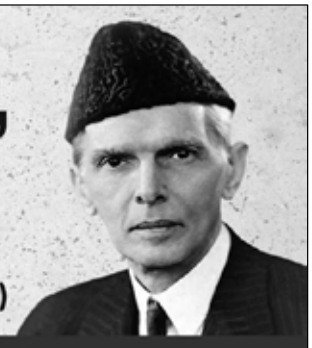

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ASEAN envoys meet new FS



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Secretary Asim Iftikhar Ahmed received the ASEAN Ambassadors. He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to deepening its partnership with ASEAN. They discussed expanding cooperation in different areas. – DNA

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Tribal affairs minister meets Romania envoy Dan Stoenescu

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Mubarak Zeb Khan, Minister of State on Tribal Affairs, Government of Pakistan, held a courtesy meeting with His Excellency Dr. Dan Stoenescu, Ambassador of Romania to Pakistan, at the Embassy of Romania in Islamabad.

The meeting focused on matters of mutual interest and opportunities to strengthen the friendly relations and cooperation between Pakistan and Romania.Pakistan travel guide

Discussions covered education and skills development; youth empowerment and employment opportunities; trade, investment and economic cooperation; agriculture and rural development; tourism and cultural exchange; and vocational training and technical cooperation. Particular attention was given to potential development projects in Pakistan's merged districts, with emphasis on expanding educational opportunities, enhancing technical skills, supporting sustainable livelihoods and creating employment opportunities



for young people. The meeting highlighted opportunities to promote trade and investment between Romania and all regions of Pakistan, including the Tribal Areas, and to explore Romania's potential as a gateway to wider European Union markets for Pakistani products and businesses. The Minister expressed appreciation to His Excellency for meeting and the opportunity to exchange views on prospects for closer cooperation between two countries.

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