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TASHKENT URDU

ALL ABOUT SILK ROAD AND BEYOND



Tashkent Urdu is a leading international digital media platform based in Uzbekistan, dedicated to provide comprehensive and reliable coverage of both national and international news. Positioned at the crossroads of the historic Silk Road, the platform serves as a vital bridge between cultures and perspectives, bringing the stories of this vibrant and strategically significant region to a global audience. Tashkent Urdu caters to Urdu-speaking communities worldwide, featuring an inclusive perspective on events and developments. Its mission is to keep its audience informed and engaged with up-to-date breaking news, in-depth analysis, and feature stories that delve into the intricate social, cultural, and political dynamics of the Silk Road and surrounding regions. By focusing on regional and global issues, Tashkent Urdu fosters a nuance understanding of the interconnected world and the critical role of Central Asia in global scenario. Committed to high journalistic standards, Tashkent Urdu give a diverse range of content tailored to the interests and needs of its audience. From political developments and economic trends to cultural heritage and human-interest stories, the platform provides a rich blend of content that highlights the diversity and complexity of the Silk Road and its neighboring regions. Leveraging modern digital tools and a user-friendly interface, Tashkent Urdu ensures accessibility for its growing audience. Its multilingual team of experienced journalists and analysts brings authenticity and depth to its reporting, making it a trusted source for Urdu-speaking audiences seeking insightful and balanced news coverage. As a voice for the Silk Road's past, present, and future, Tashkent Urdu continues to expand its reach, celebrating the historical significance of the region while addressing contemporary challenges and opportunities.



Uzbek President
Shavkat Mirziyoyev Attends
WWII Victory Anniversary Celebrations in Moscow

Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has arrived in Moscow on an important working visit to attend commemorative events marking the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. The visit comes at the invitation of Russian President Vladimir Putin and underscores deepening ties between Uzbekistan and the Russian Federation.

President Mirziyoyev was welcomed at Moscow's airport by Deputy Chief of Staff of the Russian Presidential Administration Maksim Oreshkin and First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov. His visit is seen as both a tribute to shared history and a platform for high-level diplomatic engagement.

The 80th Victory Anniversary celebrations, held on Moscow's iconic Red Square, featured a grand military parade attended by a number of world leaders. Alongside President Mirziyoyev, dignitaries included Chinese President Xi Jinping, Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, and the presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Mongolia, Cuba, and Venezuela.

During the Second World War, Uzbekistan, then a republic of the Soviet Union, played a crucial role. Over two million Uzbek citizens were mobilised to the front lines, with more than 538,000 losing their lives. Another 158,000 were reported missing in action. Over 214,000 Uzbek soldiers were awarded military honours, with 301 receiving the title "Hero of the Soviet Union".

The Uzbek home front also played a significant part in the Soviet war effort. Over 170 industrial enterprises were relocated to Uzbekistan to support defence production, while the republic took in more than 1.5 million evacuees, including some 250,000 orphaned children. After the military parade, President Mirziyoyev joined President Putin and other global leaders in

laying wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Alexander Garden—a solemn tribute to those who perished in the war. The ceremony concluded with a minute of silence, a performance by the honour guard, and a military band.

In addition to the commemorations, President Mirziyoyev hold a series of high-level bilateral meetings with Russian officials. A potential meeting with President Putin anticipated, where the two leaders discussed economic cooperation, energy projects, regional security, and transport infrastructure. Uzbekistan and Russia have significantly expanded their economic and strategic ties in recent years, with several major agreements in energy, transportation, and scientific collaboration.

The visit takes place against the backdrop of shifting geopolitical dynamics in Central Asia, where Russia continues to play a prominent role. Strengthening Uzbek-Russian relations is viewed as critical not only for bilateral interests but also for broader regional stability and development.

President Mirziyoyev's participation in the Victory Anniversary is being seen in Uzbekistan as a powerful symbol of historical remembrance and a reaffirmation of the country's enduring partnership with Russia.



Uzbek President
Shavkat Mirziyoyev Undertakes Landmark Visit to Hungary

By Our Staff Reporter

Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev arrived in Budapest on an official visit at the invitation of Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. Accompanied by his wife, the President was welcomed at Ferenc Liszt International Airport by Hungary's Minister for National Economy Márton Nagy and other senior officials, with national flags displayed and an honour guard presented in his recognition.

The visit, aimed at deepening strategic ties between the two countries, began with high-level meetings between President Mirziyoyev and leading executives from Hungary's largest companies and financial institutions, including OTP Bank, 4iG, MVM, MOL Group, and Wizz Air. The discussions centered on expanding investment, technological cooperation, and industrial development.

In his remarks, President Mirziyoyev emphasized the symbolic importance of beginning the visit with business engagement, highlighting the growing volume of Hungarian direct investment in Uzbekistan. Particular attention was paid to OTP Bank's entry into the Uzbek financial sector and its role in joint initiatives such as auto financing and poultry cluster development in Syrdarya.

Plans were also announced for the creation of a special industrial zone in the Tashkent region, to be managed by Hungarian operator Inpark, aimed at facilitating European companies' entry into Central Asian markets.

The leaders explored opportunities for increasing air connectivity and logistics cooperation, while several new agreements were signed covering infrastructure, transport,



pharmaceuticals, textiles, and digital technologies. Notably, joint efforts to export Uzbek-manufactured goods to third countries were also discussed.

President Mirziyoyev also held talks with the Speaker of Hungary's National Assembly, László Kövér, where both sides pledged to strengthen inter-parliamentary ties and ensure the implementation of previously signed agreements. Discussions included expanding cooperation in areas such as regional development, social welfare, taxation, and digitalisation.

The central event of the visit was formal talks between President Mirziyoyev and Prime Minister Orbán at Budapest's historic Carmelite Palace. The two leaders reviewed the full spectrum of bilateral relations, reaffirming their commitment to strategic partnership and enhanced cooperation across multiple sectors.





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Uzbek President
Shavkat Mirziyoyev Historic State Visit to Slovenia





Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev made a landmark state visit to Slovenia, marking the first high-level visit between the two countries in over two decades. The visit is widely seen as a new chapter in bilateral relations, focused on strengthening political dialogue, expanding economic cooperation, and promoting cultural and educational exchange.

President Mirziyoyev was warmly welcomed in Ljubljana by Slovenian President Nataša Pirc Musar during a formal ceremony held at Congress Square. National anthems were played, an honour guard was presented, and both leaders greeted members of their respective delegations.

Following the ceremony, the Uzbek President laid a wreath at the Memorial to the Victims of All Wars in the city's Star Park—a symbolic tribute to peace and shared humanitarian values.

Formal talks were held at the Presidential Palace, where both sides expressed a strong commitment to deepening ties across a broad range of sectors. President Mirziyoyev described the visit as a "new beginning" in Uzbek-Slovenian relations, praising the hospitality and underscoring the significance of the occasion.

Key outcomes of the meeting included agreements to strengthen cooperation in trade, education, healthcare, agriculture, energy, and technology. The two leaders noted that bilateral trade had tripled in recent years and set an initial target to raise the volume to €500 million. Uzbekistan plans to boost exports of textiles, fruits and vegetables, copper, and fertilisers, while Slovenia is expected to increase supplies of pharmaceuticals, high-tech equipment, and industrial machinery.

The possibility of utilising Slovenia's Port of Koper as a logistics hub for Central Asian goods entering the European market was also explored.



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Industrial cooperation, joint agricultural and pharmaceutical production, energy infrastructure development, and smart technology initiatives featured prominently in the discussions. Both sides agreed to



Pakistan and Uzbekistan Propose "Green Corridor" Linking the Indus Valley to Central Asia

Pakistan and Uzbekistan have agreed in principle to explore the creation of a "Green Corridor" stretching from Uzbekistan's green zones to Pakistan's Indus Valley, in a bid to strengthen regional cooperation on climate resilience and environmental sustainability.

The proposal emerged during a meeting between Pakistan's Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr Musadiq Malik, and the Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, Alisher Tukhtaeav. The two sides discussed a range of collaborative initiatives to address shared climate challenges and foster ecological cooperation.

During the meeting, Ambassador Alisher emphasised the importance of the growing strategic partnership between Uzbekistan and Pakistan. He proposed the establishment of a bilateral working group on climate issues, the launch of joint environmental projects, and further engagement in multilateral climate platforms.

Commending Pakistan's active role in international climate forums, the Uzbek envoy noted that both countries could play a leading regional role in tackling climate change. He also praised Pakistan's ongoing efforts under the "Living Indus" initiative and other climate adaptation programmes.

Minister Malik welcomed the proposals and reaffirmed



Pakistan's commitment to enhancing regional cooperation on environmental issues. He highlighted Pakistan's plans to establish a "Green University" focused on climate education, research, and international collaboration. The institution, he noted, would facilitate student and faculty exchanges and create opportunities for joint research with partner countries like Uzbekistan.



One of the meeting's key highlights was Dr Malik's proposal to develop a "Green Corridor" linking Uzbekistan's "Green Valley" afforestation programme with Pakistan's Indus Valley ecosystem. This corridor, he said, could serve as a regional platform for reforestation, biodiversity conservation, climate-smart agriculture, and sustainable development.

The corridor would align with Pakistan's Green Pakistan Programme and complement Uzbekistan's tree-planting and land restoration efforts, potentially expanding across South and Central Asia as a model for cross-border environmental collaboration.

Both parties agreed to continue dialogue through technical channels and to advance the proposal through future bilateral and multilateral forums. The meeting marks a significant step toward establishing a regional climate cooperation framework between South and Central Asia.

Uzbekistan and Pakistan could play a leading regional role in tackling climate change.

- Uzbek Ambassador to Pakistan

Tashkent:
Pakistani Community Welcome Ceasefire between Pakistan and India



The Pakistani Embassy in Tashkent, in collaboration with the Pakistani community, organised a special 'Day of Gratitude' and a peace rally to celebrate the recently announced ceasefire agreement between Pakistan and India.

The events brought together a large number of Pakistani expatriates, embassy officials, and their families, united under the spirit of patriotism and commitment to regional peace.

The day's proceedings began at the Embassy with a formal ceremony featuring the recitation of the Holy Quran and the national anthem of Pakistan. The Defence Attaché provided a detailed briefing, underlining the strength and resolve demonstrated by Pakistan's Armed Forces in defending national sovereignty against external aggression.

Members of the Pakistani community also took to the stage to express their deep appreciation for the sacrifices of the military and to reiterate the diaspora's unwavering support for Pakistan's defence and stability.

Following the formal programme, the community staged a peaceful 'Pakistan Zindabad' rally outside the embassy premises, chanting patriotic slogans and welcoming the ceasefire as a step towards lasting peace in the region. Participants raised placards calling for a just resolution of the Kashmir issue, which they described as essential to sustainable peace and improved bilateral relations between Pakistan and India.

Speaking on the occasion, Pakistan's Ambassador to Uzbekistan, Mr Ahmad Farooq, praised the unity shown by the Pakistani nation during times of crisis and lauded the role of the diaspora in promoting national solidarity abroad.

"The people of Pakistan have stood shoulder to shoulder with their armed forces. The unity and resolve demonstrated in defence of the nation is truly commendable," the Ambassador said.

He also paid tribute to the community in Tashkent for organising the event and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to peace, stability, and regional cooperation.

The day concluded with a collective singing of the national anthem and a special prayer for Pakistan's security, peace, and prosperity.





Uzbekistan Welcomes Over **One Million Foreign Tourists in a Month**

Uzbekistan has set a historic new record in its tourism sector, welcoming over one million foreign visitors in a single month for the first time in April 2025. This milestone marks a significant breakthrough for the country's travel and hospitality industry and reflects the growing global appeal of Uzbekistan as a leading cultural and historical destination.

According to the State Committee for Tourism, this unprecedented achievement is the result of sustained reforms and proactive international engagement under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. His administration has introduced a series of transformative measures aimed at positioning tourism as a strategic sector of the national economy.

These measures include streamlined visa-free policies, increased investment incentives, participation in major international tourism forums, and promotional campaigns showcasing Uzbekistan's rich heritage, historic cities like Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva, and diverse natural landscapes.





Experts attribute this success to the government's focus on enhancing infrastructure, adopting digital solutions for travellers, and ensuring the ecological sustainability of key tourist sites. Uzbekistan has also made notable progress in aligning its tourism services with international standards, improving visitor experiences, and building confidence among global travellers.

The Tourism Committee has set ambitious goals for the future, including expanding eco-tourism, upgrading tourism services, and strengthening Uzbekistan's competitiveness in the global tourism market.

Analysts say that Uzbekistan's ability to leverage its cultural legacy—alongside modern innovation and openness—has been key to its recent success. The growth in tourism not only brings direct economic benefits, such as increased revenue and job creation, but also reinforces Uzbekistan's emerging identity as a vibrant and welcoming destination on the world tourism map.



Samarkand Hosts
First-Ever International Paragliding Festival

Uzbekistan's historic city of Samarkand has launched its first-ever International Paragliding Festival; a two-day event aimed at promoting adventure and extreme tourism and attracting both domestic and international visitors to the region.

The festival opened with a special ceremony attended by Governor of Samarkand, Adiz Boboev, who highlighted the potential of paragliding to become a major draw for tourism in the area.

“The development of paragliding will serve as a powerful incentive for the local tourism industry and open up new opportunities for thrill-seeking travelers,” said Boboev during his remarks.

More than 15 countries are represented at the festival, with professional paragliders participating from the UK, France, UAE, Russia, Belarus, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and others—demonstrating the event's growing international appeal.

The scenic Argut mountain range, where the festival is being held, has now been officially opened year-round to paragliding enthusiasts. The initiative is expected to give a significant boost to mountain tourism and outdoor sports in Uzbekistan.

Boboev also emphasized the importance of developing tourist infrastructure in the region. Plans are underway to build a modern cable car system and improve visitor amenities, making the area more accessible and comfortable for tourists.

Organizers hope that the festival will become an annual feature, positioning Samarkand not just as a hub of cultural heritage, but also as a rising destination for adventure tourism in Central Asia.



Afghan Delegation Gifts Marble Slab for Imam Bukhari's Mausoleum During Visit to Uzbekistan



The Presidential Palace in Kabul has announced that a senior Afghan government delegation visiting Uzbekistan has formally presented a gift of white marble intended for the renovation of the mausoleum of Imam Bukhari (RA) — a revered Islamic scholar buried in Samarkand.

The gift was handed over during an official ceremony as a symbol of spiritual and cultural solidarity between Afghanistan and Uzbekistan.

Led by Mullah Abdul Wasi, Chief of Staff in the Afghan Prime Minister's Office, the delegation held talks with Uzbek officials, including the Special Envoy for Afghanistan and the Governor of Surkhandarya Region, focusing on enhancing economic, political, and transit cooperation.

In remarks delivered at the Surkhandarya International Joint Market, Mullah Abdul Wasi stated that the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan aims to build strong and friendly relations with all regional and global partners, including Uzbekistan.

He further noted that since the Taliban's return to power, Afghanistan has achieved a level of security and stability, which the government hopes will pave the way for increased foreign investment — particularly in sectors such as agriculture, healthcare, mining, and energy.



Uzbek Ambassador
Alisher Tukhtaev
Meets KP Governor to Boost Bilateral Cooperation

Uzbekistan's Ambassador to Pakistan, Alisher Tukhtaev, held an important meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi at the Governor House Peshawar, where both sides discussed strengthening bilateral ties, trade cooperation, cultural exchange, and regional connectivity.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi warmly welcomed the Uzbek envoy and said that Pakistan and Uzbekistan share deep-rooted historical, religious, and cultural bonds. He emphasized the need to further strengthen these relations and underlined the importance of close cooperation between the two brotherly countries for lasting peace, regional stability, and shared development.

The governor noted that such interactions will help create new opportunities in various fields, especially in trade and people-to-people contacts. He appreciated Uzbekistan's active role in promoting regional harmony and economic cooperation.





Ambassador Alisher Tukhtaev conveyed greetings and goodwill from the people of Uzbekistan to the people of Pakistan, particularly those in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He expressed his country's desire to enhance cooperation in economic, educational, and cultural sectors. The ambassador also highlighted the importance of regional connectivity, especially improving partnerships in trade and transit corridors.

He further stated that Uzbekistan is committed to working closely with Pakistan to unlock the full potential of regional trade and people-to-people exchanges.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi presented traditional gifts to the Uzbek ambassador as a token of respect and friendship.



Uzbek Ambassador **Alisher Tukhtaev** Meets Senator **Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar** to Discuss Strategic Cooperation

Uzbekistan's Ambassador to Pakistan, Alisher Tukhtaev, met with Senator and former caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, in Islamabad to discuss ways to expand mutual cooperation between the two countries.

During the meeting, both sides held detailed discussions on strengthening bilateral ties, with a particular focus on enhancing academic collaboration, analytical research, and direct institutional linkages between think tanks and research organizations of both nations.

Senator Kakar warmly recalled his previous meetings with Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, praising his vision, statesmanship, and continued efforts for promoting peace and stability in the region.

A key topic of the discussion was the Trans-Afghan Railway Project, which was recognized as a major strategic initiative aimed at connecting Central and South Asia. Both sides agreed that the timely completion of the project would not only strengthen regional connectivity but also open doors to shared prosperity and development.

Senator Kakar also extended heartfelt Eid-ul-Adha greetings to the leadership and people of Uzbekistan, expressing his best wishes for peace and progress.

The meeting concluded with a shared understanding that Pakistan-Uzbekistan friendship is deepening with time, built on mutual trust, cooperation, and a common vision for a peaceful and interconnected region-



Uzbek Ambassador **Alisher Tukhtaev** and Pakistan's Maritime Minister Agree to **Boost Blue Economy and Regional Trade Connectivity**



In a significant meeting between Uzbekistan's Ambassador to Pakistan, Alisher Tukhtaev, and Pakistan's Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Mohammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry, both sides agreed to establish a Joint Working Group aimed at enhancing maritime cooperation, promoting the blue economy, green shipping, and strengthening regional trade connectivity.

During the discussion, both leaders stressed the importance of providing Uzbekistan with access to global markets through Pakistan's key port cities, Karachi and Gwadar. Minister Chaudhry invited Uzbekistan to take full advantage of Pakistan's modern ports, road infrastructure, and railway network, enabling effective linkage between Central Asia and the Arabian Sea.

Key areas of focus under the blue economy were also discussed, including fisheries, aquaculture, marine food production, and coastal tourism. The Minister suggested that by connecting Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan's dry ports with Pakistan's port network, trade exceeding $20 billion could become a reality.

The meeting also covered integrated logistics systems, bonded warehouses, multimodal transport, and smart port infrastructure. Minister Chaudhry invited Uzbek investors to explore opportunities in shipbuilding, port development, and marine energy projects in Pakistan, calling the meeting a milestone in bilateral maritime relations.

Ambassador Tukhtaev expressed interest in joint ventures in fisheries and seafood sectors, and proposed the allocation of an off-dock terminal in Pakistan dedicated to handling Uzbek cargo.

Both sides agreed that the newly proposed joint working group would serve as a platform to translate these ideas into actionable projects and long-term cooperation.



Uzbekistan and Pakistan Begin Practical Steps to Enhance Industrial and Investment Cooperation

Uzbekistan's Ambassador to Pakistan, Alisher Tukhtaev, met with Haroon Akhtar Khan, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Industries and Production, as both sides initiated practical measures to strengthen industrial and investment cooperation between the two brotherly nations.

During the meeting, the two sides held in-depth discussions on expanding collaboration in the fields of industry, trade, and investment. Key areas of focus included industrial processing, the establishment of joint ventures, enhanced logistics connectivity, and infrastructure development.

The discussions also explored potential cooperation in free economic zones, the advancement of e-commerce and digital platforms, mineral exploration and processing, and revitalizing business-to-business linkages.

Both parties emphasized that adopting new models and mechanisms of bilateral cooperation could enable Pakistan and Uzbekistan to fully capitalize on each other's economic strengths, while also contributing to regional stability and prosperity.

Ambassador Tukhtaev expressed confidence that a strong economic partnership between Uzbekistan and Pakistan would lay the foundation for a brighter and more secure future for both nations.



Uzbek Ambassador **Alisher Tukhtaev and Pakistan's** Housing Minister Discuss Strengthening Urban Development Cooperatio



Uzbekistan's Ambassador to Pakistan, Alisher Tukhtaev, held a meeting with Federal Minister for Housing and Works, Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada, to explore opportunities for enhanced collaboration in housing and urban infrastructure development between the two countries.

The discussion focused on joint housing projects for low-income and rural communities, investment opportunities through public-private partnerships, and the exchange of experience in green and smart housing models. Both sides emphasized the importance of affordable, sustainable, and inclusive urban development.

They also agreed on the value of organizing technical seminars, training programs for professionals, and exchange of delegations to deepen cooperation and share best practices in housing and construction.

A special mention was made of Uzbekistan's "New Tashkent" project, particularly the use of lightweight and modern construction materials. The conversation also covered efficient water resource management and environmentally sustainable housing solutions.

Furthermore, both parties discussed the potential for collaboration between companies from both countries in public tenders and government procurement processes.

To facilitate practical steps toward partnership, the two sides proposed establishing a joint working group focused on housing and municipal services. The working group would serve as a platform to develop concrete cooperation initiatives and long-term engagement.

Ambassador Tukhtaev and Minister Pirzada reaffirmed their commitment to deepening bilateral ties through innovative and people-centered urban development strategies.





High-Level Uzbek Business Delegation Visits Islamabad Chamber to Strengthen Trade Ties



In a significant step toward strengthening economic relations between Uzbekistan and Pakistan, an 18-member high-level Uzbek business delegation visited the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI). The visit, organized in collaboration with the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, included B2B meetings between entrepreneurs from both countries.

The delegation was led by Bahrom Yusupov, Uzbekistan's Commercial Attaché in Pakistan, and included senior representatives such as Akobirjon Tukhtayev, Vice Chairman of the Uzbek Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Muhammadjon Jumaniazov, Vice Chairman of the Uzbek Textile Association. Representatives from the Uzbek Leather Association, as well as businessmen from sectors like textiles, leather, surgical instruments, and fisheries, were also part of the delegation.

ICCI President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi warmly welcomed the delegation and highlighted the commitment of both nations to enhance trade, connectivity, and people-to-people linkages. He appreciated the fast-paced development of Uzbekistan's economy and stressed the need to raise bilateral trade volume to $2 billion. He also recommended launching direct flights to boost trade, tourism, and educational exchanges.

Speaking on the occasion, Bahrom Yusupov referred to the deep cultural, religious, and historical ties between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. He emphasized expanding cooperation in key areas such as agriculture, energy, pharmaceuticals, leather, textiles, food processing, and the digital economy. He invited Pakistani businesses to explore opportunities in Uzbekistan's emerging markets and investment-friendly environment.

Former ICCI President Mian Akram Farid, who hosted the meeting, shed light on the historical depth of Pakistan-Uzbekistan relations. Senior Vice President Abdul Rehman Siddiqui extended a vote of thanks, reaffirming ICCI's commitment to strengthening commercial partnerships with friendly nations.







Uzbekistan Airways Launches First Direct Flight from Tashkent to Islamabad, Marking a New Era in Bilateral Ties





In a landmark move to further strengthen diplomatic, trade, and cultural relations between Uzbekistan and Pakistan, Uzbekistan Airways successfully launched its first-ever direct flight from Tashkent to Islamabad.

The modern Airbus A320 NEO aircraft landed at Islamabad International Airport at 11:50 AM local time, where it received a warm water cannon salute to mark the historic occasion. The inaugural flight carried 168 passengers, and nearly the same number were onboard on the return journey to Tashkent—symbolizing a new chapter of connectivity between the two brotherly nations.

A special welcome ceremony was held at the airport, attended by the Ambassador of Türkiye, officials from Pakistan's Ministry of Aviation, Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC), local administration, diplomats from Central Asian countries, tourism experts, media representatives, and prominent civil society members. A press conference was also held to highlight the growing partnership between Uzbekistan and Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion, Uzbek Ambassador Alisher Tukhtaev said that the launch of this flight would not only reduce physical distance between the two countries but also deepen people-to-people connections and promote mutual understanding.

Aftab ur Rehman Rana, Director General of PTDC, highlighted that this was the third flight route initiated between the two countries in the last six months, and would play a pivotal role in boosting tourism, education, cultural exchange, and business interactions.

Saeed Aftab Gilani, Director of Islamabad International Airport, emphasized that the new air corridor would unlock tremendous opportunities in tourism, research, commerce, and education. He further noted that work is underway to launch direct flights from other Pakistani cities to Uzbekistan in the near future.