

## Dhaka-Karachi direct flights likely from January

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Dhaka: Pakistan's High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Imran Haider, has expressed hope that direct flights between Dhaka and Karachi will be launched in January.

He shared this optimism during a courtesy meeting with Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus at the State Guest House in Dhaka on Sunday (Dec 28).

During the meeting, both sides discussed ways to further strengthen bilateral relations between the two South Asian countries by expanding cooperation in trade, investment, and aviation, as well as enhancing cultural, educational, and medical exchanges.

The Pakistani high commissioner noted that bilateral trade has increased by 20pc compared to last year, and that the business communities of both countries are actively exploring new investment

opportunities.

Highlighting a significant rise in cultural exchange, he said Bangladeshi students have shown strong interest in pursuing higher education in Pakistan, particularly in medical sciences, nanotechnology, and artificial intelligence.

Haider also mentioned that the number of patients traveling to Pakistan for liver and kidney transplants at leading hospitals has increased, adding that Pakistan is ready to offer training and academic opportunities in transplant-related medical fields.

Chief Adviser Professor Dr Muhammad Yunus welcomed the growing interaction between the two countries and emphasized increasing travel among Saarc member states, along with strengthening cultural, educational, and people-to-people exchanges.

Professor Yunus emphasized the need to further strengthen Bangladesh-Pakistan trade and expressed hope that during High Commissioner Haider's tenure, both countries would explore new avenues for investment and joint venture businesses.

SDG Coordinator and Senior Secretary Lamiya Morshed was also present at the meeting.

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