

PTF & TTF CELEBRATE 70 YEARS OF PAK-TURK FRIENDSHIP IN ISTANBUL

The Pakistan Tennis Federation and the Turkey Tennis Federation joined hands to mark the “70 Years of Pak – Turk Friendship” through organizing matches between the leading tennis players of both countries. Aqeel Khan, Mohd. Abid Mushtaq and Yousaf Khalil, the 18U top-ranked youngster, represented Pakistan, while Turkey played Marsel Ilhan, Cem Ilkel, Tuna Altuna and Sarp Agabiguin - not only the top ranked players in their country but also highly placed in international rankings.

The event was planned by the President of the PTF, Salim Saifullah Khan, who is also the Turkish Counsel General in Peshawar, and the President of the TTF, Cengiz Durmus, a great friend of Pakistan and its people. To make it all possible, the Turkish Ambassador in Pakistan, HE Ambassador Babur Girgin, and the gracious host in Istanbul, Mr. Sukru Ilkel, the Chairman of the Garanti Koza Group, owners and operators of the famous Koza World of Sports Complex in Istanbul, which boasts some 60 tennis courts, an academy, on-site hotels and related facilities, and is the proud host to the annual Istanbul Open Championships. The Koza WOS is providing our team complimentary stay for two weeks at their hotel and complete access to our players to practice at the academy and to other facilities. The Turkish Airlines, joining in to celebrate the festive occasion, offered complimentary air travel to Team Pakistan.

Both the singles played on day one, 30th October, were won by Turkish players, with scores of 6-2, 6-1, and 6-3, 6-3, a mark to their top form and world rankings. The Turkish team was victorious, also, in the doubles, 6-2, 6-2, on the 31st of Oct. All in all, both teams enjoyed the great atmosphere and good tennis for a great cause.

Commenting on the celebrations, Salim Saifullah Khan described the event as an act of further strengthening the bond of friendship and brotherhood between the two countries. He expressed his gratitude to the President of the TTF for supporting Pakistan Tennis at all international levels. Thanking the Chairman of the Koza World of Sports, and his team, he said “Mr. Ilkel’s generosity as a gracious host and his affection for us has no bounds. I am short of words to describe how he and his colleagues have always welcomed our players and officials with open arms and with great warmth. I am also most grateful to the Turkish Airlines for the gracious collaboration and support”

Team Pakistan is scheduled to return around the 7th of November when the players will head straight into playing the Annual Fed Cup National Ranking Championships – 2017.