

OPENING CEREMONY - 1ST CNS INTERNATIONAL SAILING REGATTA 2023

1. Pakistan Navy, in coordination with Pakistan Sailing Federation (PSAF), hosted 1st Chief of the Naval Staff International Sailing Regatta from 15-20 March in waters off Karachi. Aim of this competition was to bring together national and international sportsmen to have a healthy competition for friendship and sportsmanship.
2. Teams from following countries (with 32 players/ coaches), in addition to Pakistan, arrived and participated in ILCA-7, ILCA-4 and Windsurfing RSX class of boats:
 - a. Australia
 - b. Bahrain
 - c. Egypt
 - d. Malaysia
 - e. Oman
 - f. Singapore
 - g. Sri Lanka
 - h. Thailand
3. In addition, 4 x International Technical Officials from Croatia, Malaysia, Singapore and Turkey are also facilitating the conduct of event.
4. The opening ceremony of the event was held at PN Aquatic Club, PN Dockyard on 15 Mar 23. Rear Admiral Muhammad Saleem HI (M), Commander Karachi & President Pakistan Sailing Federation (PSAF), graced the occasion as Chief Guest.
5. The ceremony commenced with recitation of Holy Quran which was followed by opening remarks by Commodore Muhammad Khalid SI (M), Patron PN Sailing, in which he presented an overview of the activities of the regatta. Thereafter, address by the Chief Guest was held, during which he highlighted the significance of the conduct of the event and welcomed the participants and officials, especially those coming from abroad and wished them fair winds during the regatta. Towards the end, he formally declared the regatta 'Open', which was symbolized with hoisting of flags of participating countries with Pakistan National Anthem.
6. During the ceremony, a colourful display of exhibition race was also witnessed by the invitees. The event was given wide coverage by electronic (12 media houses) and print (5 media houses) media.
7. Post refreshment, a media brief was held at the venue. In his opening remarks, COMKAR highlighted Pakistan Navy's contribution towards promotion of sport of sailing in the country, besides emphasizing upon the objective of conducting this event. In response to questions raised by media personnel, the panel of Patron PN Sailing and Secy General PSAF, headed by COMKAR, appraised that it is the first event of this kind in Pakistan with significant international participation. The panel dilated that the scope of the event will be gradually expanded in terms of classes of boats and

conduct of seminar during the regatta. It also expressed PN's desire to use services of reputed coaches for better training of Pakistani sailors in order to be able to regain Pakistan's lost glory in this sport.