

Indian envoy calls on Imran, bats for talks; Pak PM oath on Aug 18

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Resumption of India-Pakistan official talks “at the earliest” was the key issue on the table as Indian High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria called on Pakistan’s premier-in-waiting Imran Khan in Islamabad on Friday.

The meeting came on a day the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) announced that Khan’s oath-taking ceremony would be held on August 18. Fawad Chaudhry, PTI official spokesperson, former Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi and senior leaders Naim-Ul-Haq, Shireen Mazari and Shahzad



Imran Khan is presented a bat signed by the Indian cricket team.

Waseem were among those present at the meeting that lasted 30 minutes.

“Called on Imran Khan and his team for a positive, con-

structive conversation,” Bisaria tweeted, who presented Khan with a bat signed by all members of the Indian cricket team.

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Sources said a possible India-Pakistan cricket match or series was also discussed with Khan and his aides were keen on resuming cricketing ties at the earliest. India last toured Pakistan in 2006 and Pakistan played in India in 2007.

“I hope the SAARC leaders’ conference will be held in Islamabad soon,” Khan was quoted as telling Bisaria. An India-led boycott in the wake of the Uri terror attacks led to the derailment of the SAARC process in 2016 which requires compulsory presence of all heads of states/governments of the eight member-states.

Sources in Delhi said the Indian High Commissioner raised concerns about terrorism and cross-border infiltration. According to PTI officials, Khan raised the issue of alleged human rights violations in Kashmir. “Khan Sahab discussed the need to restart on all outstanding issues, including Kashmir,” tweeted senior PTI leader Mazari. PTI spokesperson Faisal Jawed told the local media that an invitation was being extended to former cricketers Kapil Dev, Navjot Sidhu as well as the entire Indian squad of 1992 for the oath-taking.