

PM Shehbaz encourages UK investors to explore opportunities in Pakistan

Lahore (News Desk) Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has emphasised that attracting foreign investment is the government's top priority. He made these remarks while meeting with a delegation of prominent UK business figures, led by Zuber Issa, in Lahore on Sunday. During the meeting,

the PM highlighted the government's efforts to provide optimal facilities to the business community through the Special Investment Facilitation Council's (SIFC) one-window operation. He noted that the country's economy has shown signs of improvement in re-

cent weeks, a trend he attributed to government initiatives that have bolstered investor confidence. Sharif encouraged the delegation to invest in Pakistan, underscoring the potential for fruitful ventures within the country. The discussion also covered new avenues for cooperation

and enhancing business-to-business relations between Pakistan and the United Kingdom. The visiting delegation expressed their approval of the PM's economic policies, voicing confidence in the stability and sustainable development of Pakistan's economy.



PM Shabaz Sharif: Discussion with UK business delegation also covered new avenues and enhancing

Govt's side under scrutiny

ISLAMABAD (News Desk): As Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Afridi convenes the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) meeting on Tuesday, the federal government faces limited representation during the crucial first session. The JCP meeting will be attended by 12 members, including four senior Supreme Court judges, the Pakistan Bar Council representative, five government representatives, and two opposition members. The real challenge lies in whether the four judicial members will present a unified opinion or if the government has successfully divided them before the JCP meeting. A senior official told The Express Tribune that the government does not anticipate any issues in nominating CJ Afridi as the senior judge of constitutional benches. However, it is an open secret that many government officials prefer that two senior Supreme Court judges, Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Munib Akhtar, not be included in the constitutional bench.

LESCO Installs 272 New Transformers Of 100kVA

LAHORE (News Desk) The Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) has installed 272 new transformers of 100kVA along with overloaded transformers in all its circles of work. Under the supervision of Chief Executive Officer Engineer Shahid Haider, works for system improvement and up-gradation are being carried out throughout LESCO region (Lahore, Sheikhupura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara), according to the company's spokesman here Sunday. He mentioned that considering the problems of overloading in LESCO region, 272 new transformers of 100kVA have been installed along with overloaded transformers to solve problems like transformer failure and overloading in the respective areas. He explained that eight new transformers have been installed in Northern Circle of LESCO, 44 in Central Circle, 123 in Eastern Circle, 53 in Okara Circle, one in South Circle, 25 in Sheikhupura Circle and 18 in Nankana Sahib Circle.

Punjab Govt Decides To Launch New Airline

LAHORE, (News Desk) The Punjab government has decided to launch a new airline named "Punjab Air". According to sources, the feasibility of the airline has been started. It will also have participation of private investors. Sources said that after KP, the Punjab government has also shown interest in the bidding for PIA, while it is also considering in another choice of launching its own airline.

Govt shuts primary schools in Lahore over record pollution

LAHORE:(News Desk) Lahore will close primary schools for a week over record pollution, government authorities said on Sunday, to avoid exposing millions of children to smog several times above levels deemed dangerous. For days, Lahore's 14 million people has been enveloped by smog, a mix of fog and pollutants caused by low-grade diesel fumes, smoke from seasonal agricultural burning, and winter cooling. The air quality index,

which measures a range of pollutants, exceeded 1,000 on Saturday — well above the level of 300 considered "dangerous" — according to data from IQAir. The Punjab government also recorded peaks of over 1,000 on Sunday, which it considered "unprecedented". "Weather forecast for the next six days shows that wind patterns will remain the same. Therefore we are closing all government and private primary schools in Lahore for a week," Jahangir Anwar,

a senior environmental protection official in Lahore told AFP. "All the classes" for children up to the age of 10, public, private & special education... shall remain closed for one week" from Monday until Saturday, read a local government decision seen by AFP. The decision added that the situation will be assessed again next Saturday to determine whether to extend the school closure. "This smog is very harmful for children. Masks should be

mandatory in schools. We are keeping an eye on the health of children in senior classes," Punjab senior minister Marriyum Aurangzeb told a news conference on Sunday. Smog counters have been established in hospitals, she added. Breathing the toxic air has catastrophic health consequences, with the WHO saying strokes, heart disease, lung cancer and respiratory diseases can be triggered by prolonged exposure.

Legal fraternity, journalists, and politicians react to recovery of Imran's lawyer

PTI founding chairman Imran Khan's lawyer In-tezar Hussain Panjutha — who had been missing from October 8 — was recovered by the Punjab police last night, it emerged in the early hours of Sunday. The party labelled the development as scripted and demanded that a first information report (FIR) be filed against the Attorney General for Pakistan Man-

soor Usman Awan, who claimed in the high court that Panjutha would be produced in court within 24 hours, suggesting he was aware of his whereabouts. The PTI leader was recovered by police in Attock as his kidnappers were allegedly transporting him. Police later shifted him to the hospital. Video of him sitting in a car while being tied up was

widely shared on social media by PTI, showing the lawyer visibly shaken. According to a statement issued by the District Police Office Attock spokesperson, the police had rescued Panjutha who was abducted for ransom by kidnappers. The police department said that "negative propaganda" was being concocted by "vloggers" who claimed that Imran's lawyer did not take

his full name when asked by an officer to identify himself. "After slowing down the video, it can be heard clearly that the abductee stated his full name," the spokesperson said according to a statement on the police department's Facebook page. "Some people are just trying to defame the police by spreading negative propaganda," the spokesperson said.

Three terrorists killed in Balochistan's Musakhel district: CTD

Balochistan (News Desk): The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) in Balochistan conducted an operation in the Musakhel district in the early hours of Sunday, where three terrorists were killed and two were arrested, said a CTD spokesperson. According to the spokesperson, the CTD and law enforcement agencies re-

ceived "credible information" about terrorists belonging to the proscribed Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) active in the Rarhasham area of Musakhel. "Forces [including] CTD, FC and police were deployed in general area and late at night one of the deployed force contingent came across a group of

10-12 terrorists, moving towards main road," the spokesperson said in a statement. "The terrorists were intercepted and heavy exchange of fire followed." During the gun battle, three terrorists were killed and two others were apprehended, according to the spokesperson. However, "five to seven of them

managed to flee because of night conditions", he said, adding that a search for them was underway. The spokesperson added that weapons and ammunition were seized from the terrorists during the operation, while the bodies were shifted to a hospital and the arrested terrorists were being interrogated.

CM Maryam Nawaz To Leave For London On 5th

LAHORE (News Desk) Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz is likely to visit London from Nov 5 for the treatment of throat infection. CM official sources told APP that that the Punjab CM would leave for London on Nov 5, where she would get treatment from her personal physician. She has been facing throat infection for a long time and she might get an operation for the infection, sources said. Maryam Nawaz's London visit would be the first foreign visit after assuming office of chief minister. The Punjab CM would stay in London for a one week.

AJK President Calls On Scandinavian Nations To Advocate Kashmir Peace

MIRPUR President Azad Jammu Kashmir, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has urged Sweden and Scandinavian nations to leverage their political and diplomatic influence to help resolve the long-standing Kashmir dispute, fostering lasting peace in South Asia. He expressed these views while speaking to a delegation of Kashmir Council Sweden and Stability Pakistan Overseas Forum and Member of Parliament of Sweden Anders Tiger, which called on him at the Jammu Kashmir House in the Federal metropolis on Sunday. The delegation was comprised of the Chairman of Kashmir Council Sweden and Stability Pakistan Overseas Forum Sheikh Saeed, President of Kashmir Council Sweden Sardar Taimur Aziz Kashmiri, Sheikh Usman Tahir, Raja Bilal Mustafa, Ishtiaq Khan, Hafiz Sajjad Ahmed, Sikander Sheikh, Sardar Mushtaq, Sardar Zulfikar Roshan, and others. President Azad Jammu Kashmir, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has urged Sweden and Scandinavian nations to leverage their political and diplomatic influence to help resolve the long-standing Kashmir dispute, fostering lasting peace in South Asia. He expressed these views while speaking to a delegation of Kashmir Council Sweden and Stability Pakistan Overseas Forum and Member of Parliament of Sweden Anders Tiger, which called on him at the Jammu Kashmir House in the Federal metropolis on Sunday. The delegation was comprised of the Chairman of Kashmir Council Sweden and Stability Pakistan Overseas Forum Sheikh Saeed, President of Kashmir Council Sweden Sardar Taimur Aziz Kashmiri, Sheikh Usman Tahir, Raja Bilal Mustafa, Ishtiaq Khan, Hafiz Sajjad Ahmed, Sikander Sheikh, Sardar Mushtaq, Sardar Zulfikar Roshan, and others.

Kohat Police Seize Heavy Arms, Arrest Smuggler

KOHAT, (News Desk) Kohat Police on Sunday arrested an inter-district arms smuggler in a daring operation on the Indus Highway and recovered a massive cache of weapons from a flying coach. The seized arsenal includes, one heavy machine gun, one Kalashnikov, three rifles, one pistol and 550 cartridges. According to sources of Kohat Police, under the leadership of SHO Muhammad Riaz Shaheed Mir Afzal, the police discovered the hidden compartment in the coach, foiling the smuggler's plans to transport the arms to Kurram district. The accused, Wali Khan, son of Nadir Khan, a resident of Sada Karam, has confessed to the crime during initial investigations. A case has been registered against Khan at the Muhammad Riaz Shaheed police station.

Provinces welcome to bid for PIA ownership: Privatisation minister

KPK (News Desk) Federal Minister for Privatisation, Abdul Aleem Khan, has said the government has no objection if any provincial administration wishes to acquire Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). He further added that provincial ownership could potentially lead to profitability for the struggling national carrier. Speaking at a press conference in Lahore, Khan explained that privatisation plans for

PIA had been established prior to his appointment, emphasising his mandate as focused on facilitating the airline's sale, not on reforming its structure. "The framework for PIA's privatisation was set before I assumed office, with a deficit of Rs830 billion (\$2.9 billion). Changing this framework was beyond my authority," he stated. In a sharp critique, Khan noted the extensive mismanagement PIA has

faced across various administrations. "Those who contributed to PIA's ruin should reflect on their actions," he remarked, citing a collective failure across different political tenures. He confirmed that the federal government would not object if any provincial government stepped forward with an acquisition proposal. "Whether it's the governments of KP, Punjab, or Sindh, we welcome any

provincial interest in buying PIA. If today, Punjab, KP, Sindh, and Balochistan each took a stake, PIA could actually become profitable," he asserted. Khan's comments follow recent suggestions from former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif that the Punjab government should consider purchasing PIA. Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa has also formally expressed interest in the acquisition already, proposing to out-

bid private sector offers to retain the airline under government control. The expression of interest from Punjab and K-P followed the final bidding process for the privatisation of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), which garnered only one bid of Rs10 billion for a 60% stake, according to the Privatisation Ministry on Thursday. In June, the government had pre-qualified six groups, but only

Blue World City, a real-estate development firm, submitted a bid that fell short of the government's minimum price of Rs85 billion. The Privatisation Commission requested that the bidder meet the minimum price. However, Blue World City Chairman Saad Nazir defended his bid, stating, "We wish the government all the best if they don't want to accept our bid," during the ceremony.