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فرمان رسول

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بکارت رائس ملز (پرائیویٹ) لمیٹڈ

RAWALPINDI



## Punjab CM Maryam to 'depart' for London on Nov 5

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz likely to depart for London for medical treatment on November 5, citing sources. This would be Maryam's first foreign visit since assuming office as CM of Punjab. Sources revealed that Maryam is set to receive medical treatment in London for a persistent throat infection. Her week-long stay in London will include consultations with her personal physician.



## Pak-Uzbekistan direct flights from November

Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan Alisher Tukhtaev announced that direct flight operations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan will start at the end of the current month of November 2024, describing it as important for the business community of both countries. At present, the businesses of both countries, including the Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCC), want to take advantage of the direct flight operation.

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## Japanese, Korean, Chinese firms looking at bringing in more high-end vehicles: Mashood Khan

News Desk

Mashood Ali Khan, an auto parts maker, exporter and industry expert said Japanese assemblers usually take vendors on board two years before rolling out a new locally assembled model.

New entrants need to interact with the vending industry to improve localisation before the expiry of incentives under the Auto Policy 2021-2026.

He talking to media during the launching ceremony of expensive hybrid electric vehicles in Karachi

"For bigshots in trade and industry, bureaucrats, landlords, growers, etc, money is not a serious issue and saving any penny from petrol and diesel-



driven vehicles is not their target. They may also not hesitate in buying new HEVs and EVs," said Mashood

He opined that buyers of costly sedans like Honda Civic and SUVs will mainly switch to electric vehicles. However, the buyers of double cabin

vehicles (fossil fuels) may avoid EVs and HEVs as they have a culture of moving in style with two or three guards sitting on the back.

"With no liquidity issue, they may purchase NEVs as a second option", Mashood said.

The total market size of double cabins, SUVs, a few luxury cars, etc, of new and old entrants (Japanese, Koreans and Chinese) in Pakistan hovers between 25,000 and 35,000 units a year. The new buyers of EVs and HEVs will emerge from these volumes.

"It is really hard to estimate how these limited sales of EVs and HEVs will help curtail import bills of diesel and petrol," he said.