China announces measures to attract Foreign Businesses to Hainan free trade port

XINHUA

Beijing

China has announced 16 measures to facilitate business for foreign companies and professionals at the Hainan Free Trade Port, the world's largest free trade port by area. According to a government announcement issued Thursday, the measures cover energy trading, medical services, duty-free storage and trade facilitation. Foreign doctors holding valid overseas medical licences will be eligible for permits to diagnose and treat patients in Hainan for up to three years, with extensions subject to regulations. The policies will also simplify work permits, visas and residence permits for foreign nationals. Additional measures include allowing foreign companies to store goods duty-free at Hainan's liquefied natural gas (LNG) receiving terminals, expanding duty-free repair services, promoting foreign trade and yuan-denominated barter trade, facilitating the entry of eligible remanufactured products into mainland pilot free trade zones, and strengthening economic and trade cooperation with Hong Kong.



US bans imports from Chinese genomics companies over forced labour concerns

Web Desk

WASHINGTON

The United States banned imports from three Chinese genomics companies over claims they collected genetic material used to track persecuted ethnic minorities in China's Xinjiang region.

The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said BGI Genomics, MGI Tech and Shenzhen BGI Technology, also known as BGI Group, had been added to the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act Entity List.









North Korea fires 'around a dozen' ballistic missiles into East Sea

WEB DESK

North Korea

North Korea fired "around a dozen" short-range ballistic missiles off its east coast , Seoul's defence ministry said, less than a week after South Korea proposed talks over a growing border row.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said its military detected "around a dozen short-range ballistic missiles fired from the Wonsan area of North Korea towards the East Sea", the body of water also known as the Sea of Japan.

"Our military has stepped up surveillance and vigilance against possible additional launches," it added in its statement.

The Japan Coast Guard separately said that "an object that appears to be a ballistic missile launched from North Korea seems to have already fallen", urging ships to be vigilant.

North Korea has tested a slew of weapons recently, including a new precision-guided torpedo system and an intermediate-range hypersonic missile, both of which were said to employ AI technology.

Thursday's flurry of missiles comes against the backdrop of growing tensions over a landmine explosion along the heavily fortified border between the two Koreas that saw three South Korean soldiers wounded.

A joint Seoul-UN investigation earlier this month concluded that North Korea planted the landmines over a year ago.

Seoul accused Pyongyang of "a clear violation of the Armistice Agreement" and called for the North to return to dialogue.

- No response -

Pyongyang has since ridiculed South Korean President Lee Jae Myung's overture, with Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of the North's leader, dubbing it "the climax of the farce".

US fires top army general in latest ouster

Web Desk

UAE



The United States has fired its top military planner, The Atlantic reported in a surprise shake-up as President Donald Trump appears to be preparing to resume large-scale strikes against Iran.Army Lieutenant General Brett Sylvia was removed this week from his role as head of strategy, plans and policy on the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the magazine reported, citing unidentified defense department officials.

Sylvia's ouster would be the latest in a series of high-profile departures from the military since Trump returned to power a year ago.

Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth said last month that the United States has slashed the number of its generals and admirals by 20 percent, in a move he said is aimed at "accountability."

He suggested the cuts targeted officers who failed to get on board with his efforts to ensure the military is focused on war-fighting rather than the "woke" policies of previous administrations, describing the reductions as an "accomplishment."

No reason was given for Sylvia's departure and no replacement has been named, The Atlantic said.

SC disposes of petitions challenging reinstatement of FIA officers in Libya boat tragedy case



WEB DESK

Libya

The Supreme Court has disposed of petitions challenging the reinstatement of Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) officers in connection with the Libya boat tragedy, observing that any allegations against the officials must be investigated through a regular inquiry in accordance with the law.

A three-member bench headed by Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar heard the petitions and observed that Article 10-A of the Constitution guaranteed every citizen the fundamental right to a fair trial and an opportunity to defend themselves. During the hearing, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar observed that a person holding a valid passport and visa could not be prevented from travelling abroad.

"If the travel documents are in order, what fault lies with the officer " Justice Mazhar asked, questioning the responsibility of immigration officials in the incident.

China-Zimbabwe bilateral trade surges 51.6 Percent to $5.01B

XINHUA

Beijing

Bilateral trade between China and Zimbabwe rose 51.6 percent year-on-year to $5.01 billion in the first three quarters of 2026, according to Chinese customs data cited by the Chinese Embassy in Zimbabwe in a post on X. Zimbabwe's tobacco exports to China reached $860 million, up 9.3 percent, while Zimbabwean blueberries entered the Chinese market for the first time in July. China extended zero-tariff treatment from May 1 this year to all 53 African countries with which it maintains diplomatic relations.

Iran Guards says three oil tankers on fire after hitting mines in Hormuz

Web Desk

TEHRAN

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said that three oil tankers had caught fire after hitting mines while attempting to cross the Strait of Hormuz.

"Over the past 24 hours, three violating oil tankers exploded and caught fire after striking mines while attempting to pass through the unauthorised southern route of the Strait of Hormuz," the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said in a statement.The vessels had "switched off all their radar and navigation systems" and disregarded warnings from the IRGC navy, the statement said. It was not immediately clear when the incidents occurred or which flags the tankers were flying.Since the outbreak of the war on February 28, Iran has severely restricted traffic through the strategic waterway, which normally carries about one-fifth of global oil and gas consumption. The United States has in response imposed a blockade on Iranian ports.

Iran's armed forces have repeatedly accused US Central Command (CENTCOM), which oversees US military operations in the region, of encouraging vessels to use a southern corridor near the Omani coast that Tehran considers unauthorised.

"The IRGC Navy states that the unauthorised route through the Strait of Hormuz is mined, and that vessel owners and crews are responsible for transiting these routes and should not pay attention to CENTCOM's delusions on social media," the statement said.

Earlier on Thursday, the British maritime agency UKMTO said it had received a report of a ship on fire in the strait but gave no details about the cause or any casualties.

It was not immediately clear if it was one of the three ships referred to by the Guards.

The organisation also said it had captured a US reconnaissance drone during an operation in the Strait of Hormuz in a separate statement.

"The IRGC Navy announced that its electronic warfare unit had successfully captured a US MQM-170 drone during an offensive operation in the western Strait of Hormuz," the statement said.

ISLAMABAD ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

DISPOSAL NOTICE

Disposal of following items through **E-Bids** on **"AS IS WHERE IS"** basis will be held in the office of Chief Engineer (Material Management) IESCO Islamabad. The details are mentioned below:

Sr #	Tender No.	Lot No.	Description	QTY	Bid Security (Rs.)
1.	91	40/2026	100 KVA PAD MOUNTED TRANSFORMER (Damaged) unserviceable	13 No	565,000/-
2.			11 KV METERING PANEL (Damaged)	04 No	
3.		Nil	MAZDA PICKUP MODEL 1991 (IDE-5267)	01 No	30,000/-

Date of opening: E-bids shall be received via E-PADs v2.0 till 10.11.2026 10:30am and shall be opened on the same date at 11:00am.

The tenders will be opened & evaluated by Disposal Committee. The result shall be evaluated and communicated via PPRA / IESCO websites.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. Only bids through E-Bidding system of E-PADS v2.0 are acceptable. All the interested bidders are directed to apply through E-Pak Acquisition & Disposal Systems (E-PADS) version 2.0 Portal Online (http://www.vendor.epads.gov.pk/login) and upload all the mandatory information as required in the bidding documents.
2. The bidder shall submit sealed earnest money / bid security in original in shape of CDR / Bank Guarantee as mentioned against each LOT valid for 120 days and issued by any scheduled bank of Pakistan (having rating A+ or above) in favour of Chief Executive Officer IESCO Islamabad **before bid closing time.**
3. This E-Bidding is being held on "as is where is" basis. The bidders may inspect the material on their own at IESCO Regional Store Bakramandi, Rawalpindi and the vehicle at IESCO Motor Pool Near 132kV Grid Station Rawal Kashmir Chowk Islamabad during office hours till **09.11.2026.**
4. The bid shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of E-Bids opening.
5. Period for depositing the total amount for material is 21 working days and the vehicle is within 10 working days from the date of issuance of LOA.
6. The successful bidder shall be liable to lift the material / vehicle within 15 working days from the date of issuance of Release Order.
7. Registration with FBR is mandatory for participation in the E-Bids.
8. Advance 18% GST (if applicable) and 10% Income Tax or any other tax levied by Govt. shall be applicable on offered bid (if accepted) during contract of auction.
9. CEO IESCO reserves the right to accept / reject / cancel this tender or a part thereof, at any stage.
10. Payment for the successful Lot of material / vehicle shall be submitted to Finance Directorate IESCO in the form of CDR in favour of Chief Executive Officer IESCO. Payment in any other form shall not beentertained / accepted.
11. The bidder(s) is / are required to submit & upload the undertaking on Rs. 100 judicial stamp paper **(Annexure-A)** duly signed / stamped along with sealed bid security **before bid closing time.**

PID(I)3974/26

Chief Engineer
(Material Management)
IESCO Head Quarters, Islamabad

Qatar presents Iran with new draft deal to end ME war, Tehran calls ideas unacceptable

Web Desk

TEHRAN

Qatari mediators have presented Iran with a new draft deal to end the war with the US and Israel, an official briefed on the negotiations said, but a senior Iranian official said Doha had only put forward unacceptable ideas that did not amount to an offer.

The official briefed on the negotiations, who is not from Iran, said a new draft peace proposal for the eight-month-old conflict was presented and was being considered by Tehran, with a response expected by the end of the week.

Qatar, along with Pakistan, has led mediation to end the war, which has disrupted global shipping and oil supplies and recently spread to Saudi Arabia and Yemen.The proposal presented by Qatar sets a seven-day timeline addressing both Tehran's and Washington's concerns, laying out daily confidence-building steps that each side must take, the official briefed on the negotiations said. The timeline could begin early next week and several countries would act as guarantors of the deal, the official added.Shortly afterwards, a senior Iranian official involved in the talks said Qatar had presented only "unacceptable ideas and not an offer", and that Tehran's policy on showing no flexibility over the nuclear issue remained unchanged.Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said on Wednesday that Tehran remained in close contact with intermediaries to review ideas that could ensure the implementation of its own seven-day proposal aimed at ending the war in the Middle East.He said Iran continued to give diplomacy a chance to succeed, adding that Tehran's seven-day plan could be implemented in less than a week.

PAKISTAN SPORTS BOARD
Srinagar Highway, Aabpara, Islamabad

CORRIGENDUM

With reference to our previous advertisement regarding Supply of Food / Grocery Commodities to PSB Hostels at PSB (HQ) Islamabad, PSB Coaching Centres Lahore, Karachi, Quetta and Peshawar published on 8th October, 2026, vide PID, I,3148/26. The date of submission and opening of technical bid is 03-11-2026 at 1100 hours and 1130 hours.

2. This Corrigendum may be treated as an integral part of the original advertisement.
3. All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

PID(I)3942-26

(KHURRAM SHAHZAD)
Director (Procurement)