

The Real Time

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INTERNATIONAL

Loudi and Gujrat Sign Sister-City Pact to Boost Trade and Investment

The agreement aims to expand cooperation in trade, agriculture, technology, education, tourism and industrial investment.

(International Desk) Lahore: China's Loudi City in Hunan province and Gujrat have signed a sister-city and mutual economic cooperation agreement to strengthen collaboration across multiple sectors. The agreement covers agriculture, trade, economy, science and technology, culture, education, tourism and other areas of mutual interest.

The agreement was signed by Punjab Industries and Commerce Minister Chaudhry Shafay Hussain and Loudi Deputy Mayor Yang Wei during a ceremony attended by Chinese Consul General Sun Yan, Punjab investment officials and a high-level Chinese delegation. Officials said the partnership reflects growing interest in expanding city-level cooperation between Punjab and Chinese regions.



A joint working relationship group will be formed to ensure regular coordination, business linkages and delegation exchanges between the two sides. The mechanism is expected to help identify investment opportunities, promote institutional contacts and support practical cooperation in industrial and commercial sectors.

Officials believe the agreement can bring new Chinese investment to Gujrat, create local employment opportunities and strengthen Punjab's industrial growth. Economic observers say such city-to-city partnerships can help open new investment corridors, encourage technology transfer and improve business confidence if followed by active implementation and sustained engagement.



Raiwind Road, Lahore

Dar and Miliband reaffirm Pakistan–UK partnership during ARF 2026 meeting in Manila

The meeting in Manila focused on partnership, diaspora contributions, regional security and the need for dialogue and restraint.

(International Desk)

Manila: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar met the United Kingdom's Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband on the sidelines of the ASEAN Regional Forum 2026 in Manila, where both sides discussed bilateral relations and regional developments.

During the meeting, Dar congratulated Miliband on his appointment and wished him success in his new role. Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the longstanding Pakistan–UK partnership, which covers diplomacy, trade, education, development cooperation and people-to-people links.



The UK foreign secretary appreciated the important role of the Pakistani diaspora in supporting relations between the two countries. Officials said the Pakistani community in the United Kingdom continues to serve as a strong bridge for cultural, social and economic cooperation.

The meeting also covered regional and international developments, including the security situation and recent tensions in the region. Both sides emphasized that dialogue, restraint and de-escalation remain essential for lasting peace and stability. Diplomatic observers believe stronger Pakistan–UK coordination can support regional confidence, encourage economic engagement and help both countries work together on shared priorities in security, development and international cooperation.

Dar and Miliband Reaffirm Pakistan–UK Partnership during ARF 2026 Meeting in Manila

The meeting focused on tariff reforms, digitalization, export growth and turning trade dialogue into a structured economic framework.

(International Desk) Islamabad:

Federal Commerce Minister Jam Kamal met British High Commissioner Jane Marriott to discuss strengthening Pakistan–UK trade relations and expanding business cooperation. Both sides reviewed ways to make bilateral trade engagement more structured, practical and result-oriented.

During the meeting, the possibility of converting the Pakistan–UK Trade Dialogue into a stronger institutional economic framework was discussed. Officials said such a framework could include clear sectors, timelines and follow-up mechanisms to support trade growth and investment facilitation.

Jam Kamal said Pakistan is pursuing tariff reforms, digitalization and regulatory improvements to create a more predictable business environment. He added that stable tariffs and affordable industrial raw material can support small and medium enterprises, exporters and local manufacturers.

The meeting also highlighted emerging markets for Pakistani products in Africa and Central Asia. Both sides discussed cooperation in standards, certification, environmental requirements and value addition to help Pakistani products become more competitive internationally. Trade observers believe structured Pakistan–UK cooperation can improve exports, strengthen industrial confidence and encourage commercial growth if supported by practical reforms and consistent policy follow-up.



Ishaq Dar and Belarus Foreign Minister Agree to Expand Trade and Defence Cooperation

Both sides discussed trade, defence, agriculture, technology and preparations for the upcoming Joint Ministerial Commission in Islamabad.

(International Desk) Cholpon-Ata: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar met Belarusian Foreign Minister Maxim Ryzhenkov on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Council of Foreign Ministers meeting in Kyrgyzstan.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed Pakistan-Belarus relations and reaffirmed their commitment to expanding cooperation in several key sectors. These included trade, economy, defence, agriculture, technology and workforce exchange, reflecting the wider scope of bilateral engagement between the two countries.



Both ministers also discussed preparations for the 9th Pakistan-Belarus Joint Ministerial Commission, scheduled to be hosted by Pakistan in Islamabad on 11-12 August 2026. The commission is expected to provide an important platform for reviewing progress, identifying new opportunities and strengthening institutional cooperation.

The two sides reiterated support for the Roadmap for Comprehensive Cooperation 2025-2027 and exchanged views on regional developments and matters of mutual interest. Diplomatic observers believe regular high-level engagement can help Pakistan and Belarus convert political goodwill into practical economic and technical cooperation, especially in areas linked to agriculture, industry, technology and skilled workforce development.

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb Meets IMF Officials ; Reviews Progress on Economic Reforms

The talks focused on fiscal stability, tax reforms, energy restructuring, privatization and export-led economic growth.

(International Desk) Islamabad: Muhammad Aurangzeb held important meetings with International Monetary Fund officials to discuss Pakistan's economic progress, reform agenda and implementation under the EFF and RSF programmes. The discussions focused on the country's policy commitments and the broader direction of economic stabilization.



During the talks, IMF representatives reviewed Pakistan's progress on key reform measures, while the finance minister highlighted steps linked to fiscal stability, foreign exchange reserves and overall economic improvement. Officials said continued engagement with the IMF remains important for maintaining policy discipline and supporting external confidence.

Detailed discussions were also held on tax reforms, energy sector restructuring, privatization and export-led growth. These areas are considered central to reducing fiscal pressure, improving public finances and creating a stronger foundation for sustainable economic recovery.

Economic observers believe consistent implementation of reforms can help restore investor confidence, improve financing conditions and support business activity. They say stronger IMF engagement may also influence construction costs, market sentiment and investment planning. However, long-term recovery will depend on timely reforms, stable policies and measures that encourage exports, industrial growth and private sector confidence.



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NEPRA Upholds Rs10 Million Fine on HESCO over Safety Directorate Failure

The regulator rejected HESCO's review motion over failure to establish a mandatory safety directorate within its service structure.

Islamabad: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority has rejected Hyderabad Electric Supply Company's review motion and maintained a Rs10 million fine imposed on the company for failing to establish a mandatory Safety Directorate or Department.

According to NEPRA's order issued on July 20, 2026, HESCO did not present any new evidence or legal grounds that could justify reconsidering the regulator's earlier decision of February 3, 2025. The penalty had been imposed after the company allegedly failed to comply with the requirement despite receiving notices, hearings and opportunities to establish the required safety setup.

The regulator said a dedicated safety directorate is essential for monitoring safety standards, improving internal compliance and reducing workplace risks in the power distribution system. Such a department is expected to help prevent fatal and non-fatal electrical accidents within the company's service area.

Power sector observers believe the decision reflects NEPRA's stricter approach toward safety compliance and institutional accountability. They say distribution companies must strengthen safety systems, staff training and field monitoring to protect workers and consumers. Effective enforcement can also improve public confidence in electricity service providers and reduce risks linked to unsafe electrical infrastructure. The case also highlights the need for distribution companies to move beyond paperwork and create active safety systems at field level. Regular inspections, proper reporting of accidents, protective equipment for staff and clear emergency response procedures are essential for reducing risks in electricity operations. Experts say stronger safety governance can help prevent avoidable incidents and improve service reliability for consumers. If companies establish dedicated safety departments with trained personnel and clear monitoring powers, it could lead to better compliance, safer workplaces and fewer electrical accidents across service areas.



Pakistan Approves National Gemstone Policy 2026–2030 to Boost Mineral Exports

The policy aims to formalize Pakistan's gemstone trade, improve value addition and raise exports to around \$500 million by 2030.



Islamabad: The Federal Government has approved the National Gemstone Policy 2026–2030, aimed at transforming Pakistan's gemstone industry into a modern, regulated and export-oriented sector. The policy is designed to bring structure to a largely undocumented trade and improve the country's ability to earn foreign exchange from its natural gemstone reserves.

According to officials, the policy will focus on formalizing gemstone trading, encouraging value addition through local cutting and polishing, improving certification standards and attracting domestic and foreign investment. It also includes measures to modernize mining practices and reduce the dependence on raw gemstone exports.

The government plans to establish a statutory authority to oversee implementation of the policy and coordinate reforms across the sector. One of the key targets is to increase annual gemstone exports to around \$500 million by 2030 through better regulation, processing and marketing.

Pakistan possesses significant gemstone reserves, particularly in Gilgit-Baltistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Azad Jammu & Kashmir. Industry observers believe the sector has remained underdeveloped due to weak regulation, limited processing capacity and lack of formal market systems. If implemented effectively, the new policy could unlock export potential and create jobs in mining and value-added processing.

Pakistan Approves National Gemstone Policy 2026–2030 to Boost Mineral Exports

The association has given the federal government 72 hours to address operational and regulatory concerns.



Karachi: The Pakistan Oil Tankers and Contractors Association has given the federal government a 72-hour ultimatum, warning that a nationwide strike may begin if its demands are not addressed. Association leaders issued the warning during a joint press conference, saying oil transporters have been facing several long-standing operational and regulatory issues.

The association urged the Ministry of Petroleum and the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority to begin immediate negotiations with tanker operators. Leaders said timely talks are necessary to resolve concerns before the situation turns into a wider supply crisis.

A nationwide shutdown of oil tanker operations could affect the transportation of petrol and diesel to fuel stations across Pakistan. Any disruption in fuel movement may create difficulties for commuters, transport businesses, industries and commercial activity, especially if supplies are delayed for an extended period.

The association said responsibility for any crisis would rest with the relevant government authorities if talks fail. Market observers believe the issue requires urgent engagement because fuel supply chains are highly sensitive. They say both sides should avoid confrontation and focus on a negotiated settlement to prevent pressure on consumers and the wider economy. Experts warn that even a short disruption in oil tanker operations can quickly affect fuel availability in major cities. They said timely talks could help prevent panic buying, long queues at filling stations and unnecessary pressure on daily transport. A practical settlement would also protect businesses, commuters and supply chains from wider disturbance.

OGDCL Plans Large-Scale Shale Gas Drilling across Sindh

The N-25 project aims to improve road safety, reduce travel time and strengthen connectivity between Karachi, Balochistan and the Chaman border.

Islamabad: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said construction and upgradation work is underway on the Karachi–Chaman National Highway, also known as N-25, a major transport corridor linking Karachi with several cities of Balochistan and the Chaman border.

The federal government plans to transform the route into a high-standard, four-lane expressway to improve road safety, reduce travel time and strengthen interprovincial connectivity. The project is being viewed as an important step for improving travel conditions on one of the country's key road links.

Officials said the upgraded highway is expected to support freight movement, regional trade and access to markets for communities living along the route. Better road infrastructure can also help transporters, traders and passengers by making long-distance travel safer and more efficient.

Official procurement records also show continued activity related to different sections of the N-25 project. Infrastructure observers believe timely completion of the highway can strengthen economic links between Sindh and Balochistan, improve access to border trade routes and support development in areas connected with the corridor.



Saudi NWC completes Khulais water pipeline project benefiting 10,000 residents

The 8,000-meter pipeline project will improve water distribution, reduce filling time and benefit around 10,000 residents.

Khulais: Saudi Arabia's National Water Company has completed a major water infrastructure project in Khulais Governorate to improve supply services for residents. The project connects the water reservoir in Ghran city with the Al-Ashyab water filling station through an 8,000-meter-long pipeline.

Officials said the initiative will benefit around 10,000 people by improving water distribution efficiency and ensuring more reliable services for local communities. The project is also expected to reduce operational delays and strengthen the water supply network in the area.

According to officials, the new pipeline has reduced reservoir filling time from three to four days to less than 24 hours. It has also decreased reliance on water tankers, which can help improve service continuity and reduce pressure on manual supply arrangements.

Urban development observers believe improved water infrastructure can support residential growth, public services and sustainable planning in Saudi regions. They say the Khulais project may become a model for efficient water supply if similar systems are expanded to other areas facing distribution delays or growing demand from communities.



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EVS/EP Exhibition Opens with Strong Public and Business Interest

The exhibition is promoting electric mobility, energy solutions, clean technology and future business opportunities in Pakistan.

Lahore: The EVS / EP Exhibition has opened with strong interest from the public, business community, industry professionals and technology enthusiasts. The event is providing a platform for companies, investors, exhibitors and visitors to explore new developments in electric mobility, energy solutions, modern technology and future business opportunities.

Different stalls, product displays and networking activities are giving participants an opportunity to learn about emerging technologies and market trends. The exhibition is also helping promote awareness about clean transport, energy innovation and sustainable development at a time when businesses and consumers are showing growing interest in efficient and environment-friendly solutions.



Industry observers believe such events can support market growth by connecting manufacturers, service providers, investors and potential buyers under one platform. They say exhibitions focused on electric vehicles and energy solutions can encourage technology adoption, improve business confidence and highlight new investment opportunities.

The event is also being viewed as part of Pakistan's broader move toward modern infrastructure and clean technology. If supported by policy continuity, investment and consumer awareness, such platforms can play an important role in strengthening the country's future mobility and energy sectors.



FC Hospital Turbat Inaugurated to Provide Advanced Healthcare in District Kech

The hospital will provide modern diagnostic and treatment facilities, reducing the need for patients to travel to Karachi or Quetta.

Karachi: Turbat: Federal Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi officially inaugurated FC Hospital Turbat, established under the supervision of FC Balochistan South. The ceremony was attended by Kech district administration officials and doctors from different civil hospitals in Turbat.

During the visit, the minister met doctors, paramedical staff and hospital administration, while also reviewing various departments of the hospital. Officials said the facility has been built with modern healthcare services to improve access to quality medical treatment for people in the region.

The hospital includes CT scan, MRI, ultrasound and other diagnostic and treatment equipment. These services previously required many patients to travel to Karachi or Quetta, creating financial and physical difficulties for families in southern Balochistan.

Healthcare observers believe the project can become an important milestone for Kech if services remain consistent, affordable and well-managed. They say the hospital can improve healthcare access, strengthen regional confidence and support social infrastructure in Turbat and surrounding areas. Better local medical facilities may also reduce pressure on major hospitals in other cities.

GOVERNMENT POLICIES

Punjab Police Meesaq Centers serve over 90,000 minority citizens this year

The centres are providing priority assistance, issue resolution and Khidmat Markaz-linked services to minority communities across Punjab.



Lahore: Punjab Police Meesaq Centers continue to provide dedicated services to minority communities across the province, with 90,479 minority citizens benefiting from these centres so far this year. The initiative is aimed at improving access to police-related services and strengthening trust between law enforcement and minority communities.

According to the Punjab Police spokesperson, 23,199 minority citizens had their issues resolved through Meesaq Centers, while 63,547 people received services linked to Police Khidmat Markaz facilities.

Officials said the centres are designed to provide quick support, guidance and facilitation to citizens who may otherwise face difficulty in accessing routine public services. In Lahore alone, 24,404 minority citizens have benefited from Meesaq Centers. These include 8,067 citizens whose issues were resolved and 12,156 who received related facilitation services. The figures reflect the growing use of these centres for community support and public service delivery.

Officials say Meesaq Centers are helping promote interfaith harmony by ensuring priority-based assistance for minority citizens. Social observers believe such initiatives can strengthen inclusive policing, improve neighbourhood safety, promote social stability and build greater public confidence in law enforcement across Punjab.

Punjab Police Meesaq Centers Serve over 90,000 Minority Citizens This Year

Shehbaz Sharif directed ministries to ensure timely completion of nationally important schemes while maintaining quality standards.



Islamabad: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held a meeting with Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal to review major development projects and progress under the Public Sector Development Programme.

During the meeting, the planning minister briefed the prime minister on the implementation status of ongoing schemes, completed milestones and the future course of action. The review focused on ensuring that key national projects continue to move forward according to approved timelines and development priorities.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif directed all ministries and institutions to complete nationally important projects within their scheduled timeframes while maintaining high quality standards. He said timely execution of development schemes remains a government priority because such projects directly support public welfare, job creation and sustainable economic growth.

The prime minister also called for stronger coordination among relevant departments and faster implementation of approved plans so citizens can benefit from development projects without unnecessary delays. Development observers believe improved monitoring and timely completion can strengthen public confidence, support infrastructure growth and ensure better use of public funds across the country.

Punjab's Apni Chhat Apna Ghar Programme Completes 134,343 Homes, Loans Disbursed to 170,000 Families

The meeting reviewed progress on ML-1, ML-3 and Thar Coal Railway Connectivity projects under the wider railway reform roadmap.



The government's wider railway reform roadmap also focuses on track upgrades, digitisation, private-sector participation and financial sustainability. Transport observers believe timely completion of these projects can strengthen freight logistics, reduce pressure on roads and support industrial and energy-sector movement. If implemented effectively, the transformation plan could improve Pakistan Railways' operational capacity and long-term economic contribution.

The railway projects are also expected to support regional trade, reduce transportation costs and improve access to industrial and mineral-rich areas. Experts say stronger railway infrastructure can help Pakistan shift more freight from roads to rail, lowering fuel use, easing highway congestion and improving the overall efficiency of the national transport system.

Islamabad: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chaired a review meeting on the Pakistan Railways Transformation Plan and directed authorities to complete all major railway development projects within their approved timelines and according to the highest quality standards.

During the meeting, officials reviewed progress on key projects, including the ML-1 Karachi-Rohri section, ML-3 Rohri-Nokundi upgradation and the Thar Coal Railway Connectivity project. The prime minister emphasized that railway modernization remains important for improving transport efficiency, freight movement and national connectivity.

Officials informed the meeting that detailed engineering design for the Karachi-Rohri section of ML-1 has been completed. They also briefed that 60 percent work on the 112-kilometre Thar coal railway track up to Chhor Railway Station has been finished, with the project targeted for completion by December 2026.

PDMA Punjab DG Reviews Flood and Emergency Preparations in Jhelum

Relief camps, drainage systems and rescue arrangements were inspected to strengthen emergency response during possible flood situations.

Jhelum: On the directions of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, DG PDMA Punjab Umar Abbas Mela visited Jhelum to review monsoon preparedness and emergency response arrangements. The visit focused on relief camps, rescue planning, urban flooding risks, drainage, desilting and overall readiness for possible flood situations.

During the inspection, DG PDMA assessed the preparedness of field teams and directed all concerned departments to remain fully alert in view of ongoing monsoon rains. Officials were instructed to ensure timely coordination, active response teams, functional drainage systems and proper facilities at relief camps.



The review also covered steps needed to reduce risks in vulnerable areas where heavy rainfall or rising water levels could affect citizens, roads, housing areas, agriculture and local infrastructure. Authorities said early planning and field-level monitoring are essential to prevent delays during emergencies.

Disaster management observers believe timely inspections can help identify weak points before a serious situation develops. If departments maintain coordination and response teams remain active, Jhelum may be better positioned to reduce flood-related losses and protect communities during the monsoon season.



Punjab Launches First Drone-Based Flood Monitoring System for Monsoon Preparedness

The system will support early warning, aerial surveillance and faster emergency response during the monsoon season.

Lahore: Punjab has launched its first drone-based flood monitoring system to strengthen early warning, field surveillance and emergency preparedness during the monsoon season. The initiative is aimed at improving the province's ability to monitor vulnerable areas before and during possible flood situations.

Officials said drone surveillance will help authorities observe river flows, low-lying settlements, drainage conditions and other flood-prone locations through aerial technology. The system can provide real-time visual assessment, allowing departments to identify risks more quickly and plan response measures with better accuracy.

The technology is also expected to support timely alerts for citizens, rescue teams and local administrations. By using drones, disaster management authorities can monitor areas that may be difficult to access during heavy rain or rising water levels.

Experts believe improved flood monitoring can reduce risks to housing areas, roads, agriculture and public infrastructure. They say drone technology can make Punjab's flood response faster and more effective if it is linked with strong coordination among rescue, irrigation, local government and disaster management departments. Timely monitoring may also help protect communities and reduce damage during future monsoon spells.



Punjab Plans Mandatory Recharge Wells for New Homes to Restore Groundwater

The proposed rule aims to restore groundwater levels and improve rainwater management in future housing construction across the province.

Lahore: Punjab WASA is planning to make recharge wells mandatory for all newly constructed homes across the province to help restore groundwater levels and improve rainwater management. The proposed policy is aimed at reducing pressure on underground water resources by allowing rainwater to absorb back into the soil instead of being wasted through drains.

If implemented, the rule could become an important part of future housing approvals and construction planning. Homeowners, developers, architects and housing societies may be required to include recharge wells in building designs to support better water conservation and urban drainage.



Urban planning observers believe the decision can make Punjab's housing sector more sustainable if supported by clear technical standards, inspection systems and public awareness. Proper implementation may also reduce urban flooding pressure, promote responsible construction practices and help protect water resources for future generations.

Experts consider groundwater recharge essential for cities facing rapid urban expansion, falling water tables and drainage challenges during heavy rain. They say recharge wells can help collect rainwater, reduce surface runoff and improve the natural replenishment of underground water reserves.

Shehbaz Sharif Says Work Underway on Karachi–Chaman Highway

The N-25 project aims to improve road safety, reduce travel time and strengthen connectivity between Karachi, Balochistan and the Chaman border.



Islamabad: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said construction and upgradation work is underway on the Karachi–Chaman National Highway, also known as N-25, a major transport corridor linking Karachi with several cities of Balochistan and the Chaman border.

The federal government plans to transform the route into a high-standard, four-lane expressway to improve road safety, reduce travel time and strengthen interprovincial connectivity. The project is being viewed as an important step for improving travel conditions on one of the country's key road links.

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Official procurement records also show continued activity related to different sections of the N-25 project. Infrastructure observers believe timely completion of the highway can strengthen economic links between Sindh and Balochistan, improve access to border trade routes and support development in areas connected with the corridor.

The upgraded corridor can improve access for emergency services, local businesses and passenger transport. Experts say a safer and wider highway may reduce accident risks on long-distance routes. They believe the project will be more effective if construction quality and timely completion are ensured.

Islamabad Police Review Major Crime Investigations to Ensure Timely Justice

SSP Investigation directed officers to complete investigations on merit, ensure timely arrests and avoid delays in challan submission.

Islamabad: An important meeting was held under the chairmanship of SSP Investigation Islamabad Muhammad Usman Tariq Butt to review major crime cases and the progress of ongoing investigations. Relevant SHOs and investigating officers attended the meeting and presented updates on different cases.

During the meeting, officials discussed case progress, effective use of evidence, timely arrest of suspects and completion of challans. SSP Investigation directed officers to ensure that every investigation is completed on merit, with transparency and professional standards.

He made it clear that negligence or delay will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Officers were instructed to focus on prompt justice for affected parties and ensure that investigation procedures are handled responsibly in every case.

Law enforcement observers believe stronger investigation standards can improve public trust, neighborhood safety and confidence in police performance. They say professional case handling, timely evidence collection and transparent challan completion are essential for effective justice delivery. If these directions are implemented consistently, Islamabad Police can improve the quality of investigations and strengthen public confidence in law enforcement institutions.



CDA Invites E-Bids for Rs3.2bn Capital House Project in Islamabad

The electronic bidding process aims to support transparency, competition and faster progress on Islamabad's public infrastructure development.



Islamabad: The Capital Development Authority has invited electronic bids for the construction of the Rs. 3.2 billion Capital House project in Islamabad, marking fresh movement on a major public infrastructure scheme. The bidding process is expected to promote transparency, competition and improved administrative efficiency in the project's execution. Officials believe the use of electronic bidding can help streamline procurement, reduce delays and encourage wider participation from qualified contractors. Digital procurement systems are increasingly being adopted in public-sector development to improve documentation, monitoring and accountability.

Capital House is being viewed as an important civic development that can strengthen government infrastructure and add value to Islamabad's institutional landscape. Such projects often generate construction demand, create opportunities for contractors and support related economic activity in surrounding areas. Urban development observers believe the project may also influence commercial activity, planning confidence and the long-term development profile of the capital. If implemented on time and according to transparent procedures, the Capital House project could improve Islamabad's civic infrastructure and support better administrative capacity for future government operations.

The project is also expected to create activity in the construction supply chain, including demand for materials, labour, engineering services and project management expertise. For Islamabad, such public infrastructure schemes can support organized development while improving the working environment for government departments and related administrative functions.

Experts say the electronic bidding process will be important for ensuring fair competition and timely execution. If the project is awarded transparently and completed within schedule, it could strengthen public confidence in CDA's development planning and encourage more digitally managed procurement for future civic projects.

The project may also help set a stronger example for public-sector construction standards in Islamabad. Proper planning, transparent monitoring and quality execution can ensure that the facility delivers long-term administrative value while also supporting confidence among contractors, investors and citizens.

An advertisement for the Dubai Twin Towers project. The ad features the project name "DUBAI TWIN TOWERS" in large, bold letters. Below it, it says "LIMITED TIME Offer" and "BOOKING START FROM 3 LAC ONLY". The ad also mentions "FOR ALL APARTMENTS & COMMERCIAL UNITS". At the bottom, there is contact information: "Contact Us: +92 323 0173020 | auzberconsultants@gmail.com" and "2A sector E Iqbal Block Bahria Town Lahore". The ad also includes the AUZBE logo.

Lahore DC Office Revenue Kachehri Hears Nearly 40 Public Cases

Around 40 revenue-related cases were presented as officials aimed to provide citizens with direct hearing and faster administrative support.

Lahore: A Revenue Citizens shared Officials said open Urban and administrative Kachehri was held at problems linked to hearings like Revenue observers believe timely the DC Office Lahore to revenue matters and Kachehri are aimed at resolution of revenue cases is provide direct relief and requested quick to improving public access important for public confidence, hearing opportunities to resolution of their to administrative property transactions and land record transparency. Regular citizens facing revenue-related issues. complaints often delays in revenue-related matters. They Revenue Kachehri can help identify recurring issues, improve service delivery and ensure that Additional Deputy involve land records, related matters. They pending matters are addressed Deputy Commissioner Revenue property transfers, also help strengthen more efficiently. If continued Hafiz Karim Dar heard ownership verification, coordination between consistently, the initiative may complaints from mutation entries and citizens and revenue provide meaningful relief to different applicants at other administrative officers by allowing citizens and support better Nadir Hall, where processes that directly applicants to present governance in Lahore. around 40 cases were affect citizens and their concerns directly before senior officials. presented for review. property holders.





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Barren Land in Fatehpur Transformed into Green Family Park

Dr Hammad Zaheer Family Park has been developed in Fatehpur under a public-private partnership to provide safe recreational space.

Layyah: An unused piece of land in Fatehpur, District Layyah, has been transformed into a landscaped family park under Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's green development vision. Official updates from the Layyah district administration state that the project was completed through a public-private partnership to improve recreational and green-space facilities for local residents.

The newly developed Dr Hammad Zaheer Family Park was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Layyah Asif Ali Dogar, along with another upgraded public park in Fatehpur. District officials said the initiative is aimed at beautifying urban areas and creating safe, accessible and family-friendly spaces for citizens.

The project is being viewed as part of broader efforts to improve community facilities in smaller cities and towns of Punjab. Public parks play an important role in supporting healthy lifestyles, social interaction and better urban living conditions, especially in areas where recreational spaces are limited.

Urban development observers believe converting unused land into public parks can improve local surroundings, raise civic value and strengthen community confidence in public-private development models. However, the project's total cost, land area and detailed construction timeline have not yet been publicly disclosed.



Lahore to Get 32km Modern Underground Sewerage Network

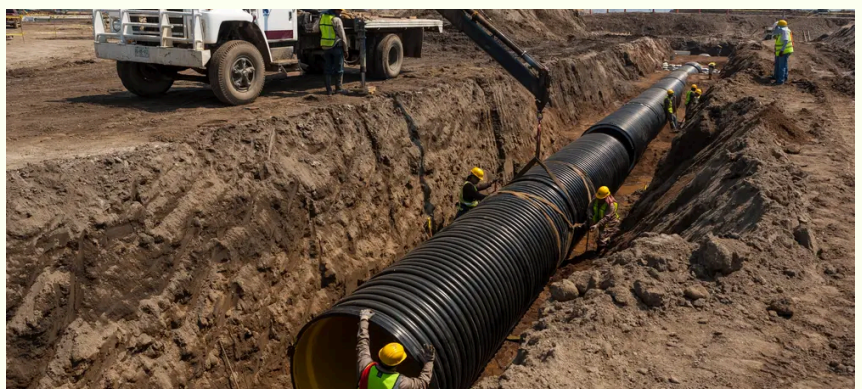
The project will use trenchless tunnel boring technology to install sewer lines without major road excavation.

Lahore: The Punjab Government has moved forward with a major urban infrastructure initiative to construct more than 32 kilometres of new sewerage lines in Lahore using Tunnel Boring Trenchless Technology. The project was reviewed during a meeting chaired by Housing Secretary Noor-ul-Amin Mengal.

During the meeting, WASA Lahore Managing Director Ghufuran Ahmed briefed officials on the implementation plan and technical scope of the project. According to the briefing, the new sewer network will extend from Dharampura to Gulshan Ravi and is expected to benefit more than 2.5 million residents.

Officials said the trenchless construction method will allow underground sewer installation without large-scale road excavation. This approach is expected to help maintain traffic flow, reduce inconvenience for citizens and limit environmental disruption during construction work.

Housing Secretary Noor-ul-Amin Mengal directed that all legal and technical requirements be completed before the start of construction. He also emphasized strict quality standards throughout the project. Urban development observers believe the new sewerage network can improve drainage capacity, reduce sewerage-related issues and support better living conditions in densely populated areas of Lahore.



Private flour brands keep 5kg bags costly despite cheaper wheat in Lahore

Citizens say 5kg flour bags remain expensive despite changes in wheat prices, adding pressure on household budgets.

Lahore: Consumers have complained that 5kg flour bags of private companies have not become cheaper despite changes in wheat prices. In the open market, private flour brands are reportedly selling 5kg packs between Rs. 900 and Rs. 1,030, which citizens say is too high compared to the current wheat rate.

Buyers have appealed to Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz to take notice of the situation and ensure that flour prices are fixed according to wheat costs. Citizens said flour is a basic household item, and any increase or delay in price reduction directly affects daily kitchen expenses.

Consumers also complained that whenever wheat prices decrease, flour prices do not fall at the same pace. They said this creates additional pressure on low- and middle-income families already struggling with rising living costs and other food expenses.

Market observers believe food price control is directly linked to public confidence, household stability and fair market practices. They say authorities should review private flour pricing, monitor open market rates and ensure that any reduction in wheat costs is passed on to consumers in a timely and transparent manner.



Private Flour Brands Keep 5kg Bags Costly despite Cheaper Wheat in Lahore

The buses are part of a transport commitment announced during the PML-N election campaign in Muzaffarabad.

Islamabad: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has dispatched 10 electric buses to Azad Jammu and Kashmir, fulfilling a transport commitment announced alongside PML-N President Nawaz Sharif during the party's election campaign in Muzaffarabad.

The buses departed from Islamabad and are intended to provide modern, environmentally friendly public transport services in AJK. Officials said the initiative is aimed at improving mobility for citizens while supporting cleaner and more sustainable public transport in the region.

During the election rally, the PML-N leadership had promised to introduce Punjab-style development initiatives in Azad Kashmir. These commitments included electric buses, healthcare services and youth support programmes, with the electric bus service forming part of the wider development agenda.

Transport observers believe the initiative can improve daily travel options if the buses are operated through a proper route plan, regular maintenance system and affordable fare structure. They say modern public transport can reduce pressure on private vehicles, support environmental goals and improve connectivity for residents. Effective implementation will be important to ensure the promised benefits reach commuters across the region.



Bhatti Chowk Underpass Nears Completion to Ease Lahore Traffic Congestion

The project is expected to improve traffic flow, reduce congestion and support smoother movement around one of Lahore's busiest intersections.

Lahore: The Bhatti Chowk Underpass project has entered its final phase and is now nearing completion, marking an important step in Lahore's ongoing efforts to improve urban mobility. The project is expected to open for traffic soon and provide major relief at one of the city's busiest intersections.

Once operational, the underpass can help reduce traffic congestion by allowing smoother movement of vehicles through a high-pressure traffic point. Commuters, businesses and nearby residents are expected to benefit from improved travel efficiency and reduced delays during peak hours.



The project is also significant for commercial activity around the area, as better road connectivity can improve access to markets, workplaces and nearby residential localities. Urban infrastructure projects of this nature often support property access, business movement and overall city development when completed with proper traffic planning.

Officials and urban observers believe the Bhatti Chowk Underpass can contribute to a more connected road network in central Lahore. The project is expected to reduce pressure on nearby intersections, improve access to surrounding markets and make daily travel easier for commuters using this route. Its long-term success, however, will depend on timely opening, effective traffic management, regular maintenance and coordination with adjoining roads to ensure smooth vehicle flow during peak hours.

WEATHER

Lahore rain brings relief after intense humidity, but waterlogging slows traffic

Rain made the weather pleasant in several areas, but water accumulation in low-lying locations disrupted traffic movement.

Lahore: Citizens experienced intense humidity and uncomfortable heat from the morning as rising temperatures and high moisture levels made weather conditions difficult soon after sunrise. The humid spell affected daily movement, outdoor work and routine public activity across different parts of the city. However, heavy rainfall later changed the weather situation and brought noticeable relief from the heat. Intermittent rain continued in several areas, making the weather pleasant and reducing the overall intensity of the hot and humid conditions. Many residents welcomed the rain after hours of discomfort caused by moisture-heavy weather.



Despite the relief, rainwater accumulated in low-lying locations and disrupted traffic flow on multiple roads. Commuters faced delays in areas where drainage was slow, while pedestrians and motorcyclists also faced difficulties due to standing water and slippery road conditions.

According to the Meteorological Department, more rain is expected in the coming hours. Citizens have been advised to avoid unnecessary travel, stay away from flooded routes and follow precautionary measures. Urban observers believe timely drainage clearance and active field teams will be important if the rain spell continues, as prolonged rainfall could increase pressure on Lahore's drainage system.



Lahore Rain Brings Relief after Intense Humidity, but Waterlogging Slows Traffic

Two to two-and-a-half feet of rainwater disrupted traffic, damaged shop goods and raised safety concerns in the commercial area.

Lahore: Heavy rain across the city has left several main roads and commercial areas under water, with Kareem Block Main Market facing severe water accumulation. According to citizens, around two to two-and-a-half feet of rainwater gathered in the market area, creating serious difficulties for motorists, pedestrians and shopkeepers.

The accumulated water disrupted traffic flow and made movement difficult for motorcyclists, car drivers and visitors to the market. Several motorcycles reportedly stalled while passing through the flooded area, while pedestrians also struggled to move safely due to standing water and slippery road conditions.

Shopkeepers said rainwater entered several businesses, including mobile phone and clothing shops, causing damage to goods and disrupting trade activity. The situation created financial concerns for traders, especially in a busy commercial market where daily business depends on smooth customer access and safe movement.

Citizens also raised concerns over electric poles standing near accumulated water, warning that the situation could create a serious safety risk if not addressed immediately. Urban observers believe the flooding has once again highlighted the need for better drainage planning, timely desilting and rapid field response before future heavy rain spells affect Lahore's commercial and residential areas.

Local traders urged the administration to clear drainage points, remove standing water and inspect electric poles on priority. They said immediate action is necessary to protect businesses, prevent accidents and restore normal market activity.
