

The Real Time

17 August 2026 to 23 August 2026

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INTERNATIONAL

Nakheel begins handover of 892 homes at Jebel Ali Village in Dubai

The handover of 892 homes marks the community's shift from construction to occupancy near Sheikh Zayed Road.



(International Desk) Dubai: Nakheel has begun handing over 892 homes at Jebel Ali Village, marking a major milestone for the low-density residential community located near Sheikh Zayed Road. The development has been designed around family-oriented living, with landscaped parks, swimming pools, open spaces and community amenities included as part of the project. These features are expected to support a comfortable residential environment for families seeking privacy, space and access to shared facilities..

Its location near one of Dubai's main transport corridors also strengthens connectivity to key business and lifestyle districts. Better access to major routes can make daily commuting easier and improve the overall convenience of living in the community. The start of handovers signals a transition from construction to occupancy, an important stage for both residents and the wider property market. Real estate observers believe the move could further support demand for established family-focused communities in Dubai. They say timely delivery, completed amenities and strong maintenance standards will be important for sustaining buyer confidence and long-term residential value.

Experts say the handover of 892 homes can strengthen confidence in Dubai's residential delivery pipeline. For families, completed parks, pools and community facilities can improve daily living standards. The project's low-density planning may also appeal to buyers looking for more open space. Its connection to Sheikh Zayed Road can support easier movement across the city. Real estate observers believe occupancy activity may increase demand in nearby communities as well. They say smooth handover procedures and quality after-sales service will remain important for residents. If managed well, Jebel Ali Village can become a stronger family-focused address in Dubai's housing market.

Al Ain Builds 14km Green Shield to Cut Sand by 90%

The project uses 1,807 ghaf trees to reduce drifting sand, improve road safety and support environmental sustainability.

(International Desk) Dubai: Al Ain: Al Ain City Municipality has completed a 14-kilometre green barrier along Tahnoun bin Mohammed Road, planting 1,807 ghaf trees to help reduce drifting sand and improve safety for motorists and nearby communities. According to project details carried by Gulf News, the natural windbreak has been designed to slow wind speeds, limit sand movement and support native vegetation along the corridor. The project is part of wider efforts to use sustainable landscaping for environmental protection and safer urban mobility.



Technical studies cited by project manager Al Yazia Rashid Al Neyadi indicate that the barrier could reduce sand encroachment in areas behind it by 70 percent to 90 percent, depending on vegetation density and wind direction. This can help reduce visibility problems and road hazards caused by windblown sand. The project also uses a high-efficiency irrigation system to support tree growth while conserving water. Environmental observers believe the green barrier can help improve road safety, reduce noise levels and strengthen ecological balance along the route. They say such projects can become useful models for desert cities seeking practical solutions to sand movement, climate resilience and sustainable urban planning.

425,863 Dubai Homes Sold Before Completion as Demand Stays Strong

More than 425,000 under-construction homes have already been sold, showing strong absorption of Dubai's future housing supply.

(International Desk) Dubai: More than 425,000 homes currently under construction in Dubai have already been sold, highlighting strong absorption of the emirate's future housing supply and continued investor confidence in the property market. According to a market analysis by fām Properties, 425,863 of 564,072 residential units under construction, or 75.5 percent, already have buyers. Most of this development pipeline is scheduled for handover by 2028, showing that demand remains strong even for projects still moving through construction stages.

Villas are showing stronger absorption than apartments. The data shows 58,349 of 68,297 villas have been sold, equal to 85.4 percent, while 367,514 of 495,775 apartments have been sold, representing 74.1 percent of apartment supply under construction.

Demand is even stronger for homes scheduled for delivery in 2026, where 80,127 of 96,585 units, or 82.9 percent, are already sold. For 2026 deliveries alone, the reported absorption rate reaches 95 percent for villas and 82 percent for apartments. Real estate observers believe these figures reflect Dubai's strong buyer base, with villas continuing to attract higher demand because of space, privacy and family-focused living preferences.



Dubai's Iconic Toyota Building Empties Out as 70% Tenants Leave Before 2027 Demolition

Around 70 percent of tenants have moved out after electricity supply disruptions, while the landmark building is scheduled for demolition in 2027.

(International Desk) Dubai: Around 70 percent of tenants have moved out of Dubai's famous Toyota Building on Sheikh Zayed Road following disruptions to electricity supply, according to the building management. The property, officially known as the Nasser Rashid Lootah Building, is scheduled for demolition in 2027. The decision will bring an end to more than five decades of the building's presence as one of Dubai's best-known residential landmarks. Management told Gulf News that residents were not formally asked to leave and that many tenants moved voluntarily after electricity was disconnected. Tenants with valid rental contracts had earlier been told they could remain in the building until December 2026.



However, the reason for the electricity disconnections remains unclear. Management attributed the issue to Dubai Municipality, but the municipality had not responded to Gulf News at the time of publication. Urban observers believe the situation highlights the need for clear communication with tenants during redevelopment or demolition planning. They say residents should receive timely updates, legal clarity and proper support when long-standing buildings are being phased out.

Pakistan-South Korea business conference in Seoul advances trade ties as first CEPA negotiation round concludes

The business conference highlighted export opportunities, CEPA progress and new B2B agreements between Pakistani and Korean companies.

(International Desk) Seoul: Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan addressed the Pakistan-Korea Business Conference via video link, where more than 170 business representatives from Pakistan and South Korea participated to explore new trade and investment opportunities.

The conference highlighted Pakistan's export potential in several key sectors, including textiles, leather, surgical instruments, sports goods, agriculture and information technology. Delegations from Sialkot, Gujranwala and other chambers also took part, reflecting strong interest from Pakistan's export-oriented business community.

Jam Kamal urged both business communities to expand partnerships and build stronger commercial linkages. He said the conference could help bring Pakistan and South Korea closer to a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, which may create a more structured framework for bilateral trade cooperation.



Officials said the first round of CEPA negotiations has been completed successfully, while a second round is expected soon. Six important B2B memorandums of understanding were also signed between Pakistani and Korean companies. Trade observers believe stronger Pakistan-Korea cooperation can support exports, technology exchange, industrial partnerships and investment activity if followed by practical implementation and regular business engagement.

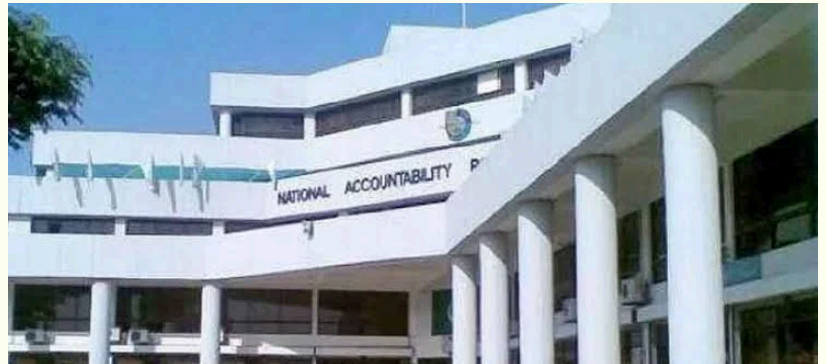
NAB Chairman Approves Rs409.6m Plea Bargain Request in Kohistan Mega Scandal

The request submitted by accused Hareeq Ahmad will now be placed before the relevant accountability court for consideration.

Kohistan: (Staff Reporter): The National Accountability Bureau chairman has approved a Rs409.6 million plea bargain request submitted by accused Hareeq Ahmad in the Kohistan mega financial scandal, according to NAB sources cited by The News. Ahmad reportedly worked as an operations manager at a private bank in Dasu, Kohistan. Investigators allege that transactions exceeding Rs400 million linked to the case passed through an account associated with him, making his role a key part of the wider inquiry.

The approved plea bargain request is now expected to be submitted before the relevant accountability court for formal consideration. Legal approval from the court will be required before the plea bargain can take effect under the accountability process.

NAB sources further claimed that more than 40 suspects have been arrested in the wider investigation. They also said around Rs30 billion has so far been recovered from an alleged financial scandal estimated at more than Rs45 billion. Legal observers believe the case remains significant because of the scale of alleged financial irregularities and recoveries involved. They say court scrutiny, transparent proceedings and further investigation will be important for determining accountability in the remaining aspects of the case.



Goods Transporters Suspend Nine-Day Nationwide Strike for 40 Days

The alliance warned that protests could resume if government assurances on toll tax, parking and axle-load limits are not implemented.

Karachi: (Staff Reporter): The All Pakistan Goods Transport Alliance has suspended its nine-day nationwide strike for 40 days after receiving assurances from the federal and Sindh governments on key demands.

Alliance President Malik Shahzad Awan said the issues discussed with authorities included toll-tax reduction, parking arrangements, petroleum pricing and axle-load limits. He said transporters decided to suspend the strike temporarily after the government agreed to review their concerns through consultation.

Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan assured transporters that a committee would examine toll taxes. Transporters were also informed that petroleum prices would be revised every 15 days or monthly instead of daily, while 10-wheeler trucks would be allowed appropriate weight limits.



Awan made it clear that the strike has been postponed, not ended. He warned that protests could resume if the commitments made by the government are not implemented within the agreed period. Business observers believe the temporary suspension can ease pressure on supply chains, markets and industries, but a lasting solution will depend on timely action, clear policy decisions and continued dialogue with the goods transport sector.

Port Qasim's 250-acre first industrial phase targets \$2.2bn in annual exports with major utility infrastructure

The 250-acre development is supported by major power, water and gas infrastructure for large-scale industrial activity.



Karachi: (Staff Reporter): The 250-acre first phase of the industrial development is projected to generate approximately \$2.2 billion in annual exports once fully operational. The target reflects the project's focus on export-oriented manufacturing and large-scale industrial activity. The development is being supported by substantial utility infrastructure designed to meet the needs of industrial units. This includes 64 MW of power capacity, around 13 million gallons of water per day and industrial gas capacity of approximately 750,000 pounds per day.

Officials and project observers believe the scale of these utilities indicates planning for high-capacity production and continuous industrial operations. Reliable electricity, water and gas supply are critical for attracting manufacturers and ensuring that export-focused businesses can operate efficiently. If the projected targets are achieved, the development could contribute to Pakistan's export growth and help attract industrial investment. Business observers say such projects can create new employment, support supply chains and strengthen manufacturing competitiveness. However, timely completion, investor facilitation, infrastructure reliability and market access will be important for turning the projected export potential into practical economic results.

PPL Makes New Gas Discovery at Dolphin X-1 Well in Sujawal

The Dolphin X-1 well flowed good-quality gas and opened a new exploration frontier in the marshy onshore area.

Karachi: (Staff Reporter): Pakistan Petroleum Limited has announced a gas discovery from its Dolphin X-1 exploratory well in District Sujawal, Sindh, marking an important development for the country's upstream energy sector.

PPL operates the Sirani Exploration Licence with a 75 percent working interest, while Government Holdings Private Limited holds the remaining 25 percent. According to the company, the Dolphin X-1 well was spudded on April 17, 2026 and drilled to a measured depth of 3,850 metres to test the Chiltan Formation.

During post-acid testing, good-quality gas with a heating value of about 1,000 Btu per standard cubic foot flowed at approximately 0.942 million standard cubic feet per day. The flow was recorded at a wellhead pressure of 211 psig, indicating commercial exploration potential that will require further technical assessment.

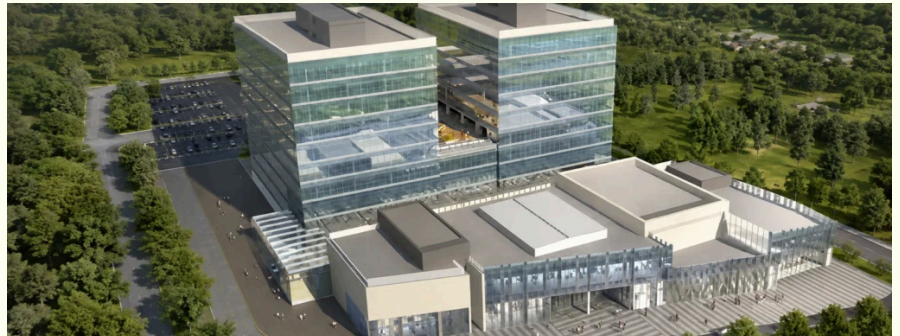


PPL said the discovery confirms the presence of a petroleum system and opens a new exploration frontier in the marshy onshore area and its possible shallow-offshore extensions. Energy sector observers believe the find can support domestic gas exploration, reduce import pressure and encourage further drilling activity if future appraisal confirms stronger reserves and production potential. Experts say even small domestic gas discoveries can become important if followed by successful appraisal and development.

PM Shehbaz orders Islamabad Technology Park's early completion, directs full outsourcing of operations

Shehbaz Sharif directed authorities to accelerate construction and fully outsource operations of the technology facility.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has expressed displeasure over delays in completing the Islamabad Technology Park and directed authorities to accelerate construction work on the project. Chairing a review meeting on reforms at the National Information Technology Board and progress on the technology park, the prime minister ordered that the facility be made operational on a priority basis. He also directed that the operations of the technology park be completely outsourced to ensure professional management and improved efficiency.



Technology sector observers say faster completion of the Islamabad Technology Park can help attract investment, create employment opportunities and expand the capital's digital infrastructure. They believe modern facilities for IT companies and startups are important for improving Pakistan's competitiveness in the regional technology market. However, timely execution, transparent outsourcing and strong operational planning will be essential for making the project successful.



National Assembly's 29th session to continue until August 28, House Business Committee decides

The House Business Advisory Committee reviewed the agenda, duration and procedural matters for the 29th session.

Islamabad: : (Staff Reporter): The House Business Advisory Committee, chaired by National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, met at Parliament House to discuss the agenda and duration of the 29th session of the National Assembly. During the meeting, the committee decided that the ongoing session will continue until August 28. Members are expected to take up Question Hour, legislative business and various matters of national importance during the session.

The committee also reviewed House business and procedural matters related to the conduct of parliamentary proceedings. Such meetings are important for setting priorities, managing legislative workload and ensuring that the session runs in an organized manner. Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar and several federal ministers and lawmakers attended the consultative meeting. Parliamentary observers believe the advisory committee plays an important role in maintaining coordination between the treasury and opposition benches. They say proper agenda planning can help improve the quality of debate, support legislative efficiency and ensure that key national issues receive attention in the House.



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GOVERNMENT POLICIES

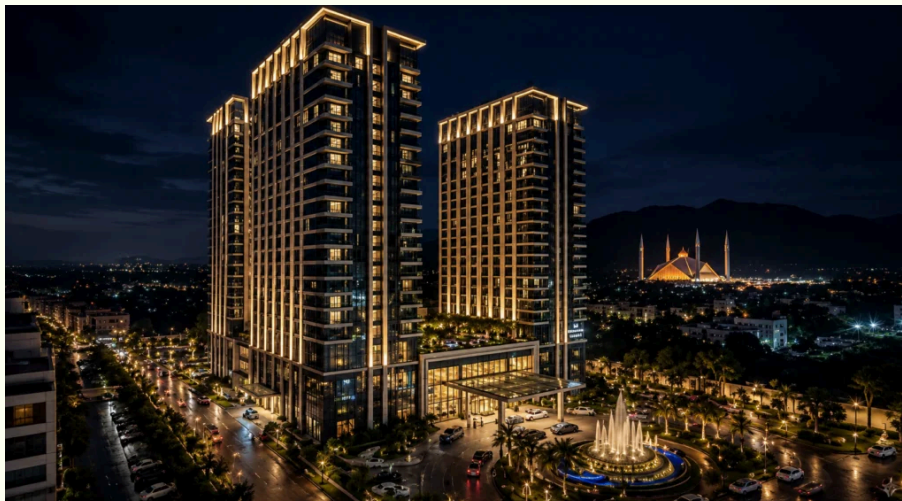
Islamabad Eyes Five-Star Hotel Conversion for Shaheed-e-Millat Building

The proposal aims to address the shortage of international-standard accommodation in the capital for major events.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has reportedly directed authorities to examine the possibility of converting selected government buildings into hotels to address the shortage of international-standard accommodation in the federal capital.

The first proposal under consideration involves converting the Shaheed-e-Millat Building into a five-star hotel. According to available details, a three-member ministerial committee comprising the interior, finance and housing portfolios has reportedly been tasked with reviewing the plan and assessing its feasibility.

The building covers around 4,400 square yards and is said to have capacity for approximately 128 rooms, including the possibility of 64 luxury suites. Officials believe such a conversion could help Islamabad host major official, diplomatic and international events more effectively.



Urban development observers say the proposal may support hospitality investment, improve visitor accommodation and make better use of underutilized public assets. However, consultations are still underway, meaning the hotel conversion has not yet been confirmed as a completed or construction-stage project. They say legal, financial, heritage, traffic and public-interest considerations should be carefully reviewed before any final decision is made.

Kasur's Ghanike village transformed into modern model village under CM Maryam Nawaz's Sohna Punjab vision

Ghanike village has received paved roads, improved drainage and upgraded civic facilities to support cleaner rural living.

Kasur: (Staff Reporter): Under Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's "Sohna Punjab" vision, Ghanike village in Kasur has been transformed into a modern model village through major civic and infrastructure improvements.

The development has replaced unpaved streets, open drains and muddy pathways with paved roads and an improved drainage system. Officials said the upgrades are aimed at making daily movement easier for residents while reducing problems linked to standing wastewater and poor street conditions. The project is also expected to improve cleanliness, public health and overall convenience in the village. Better roads and drainage can help residents, schoolchildren, elderly citizens and local businesses by creating a safer and more organized rural environment.

Development observers believe such model village projects can play an important role in reducing the gap between urban and rural civic facilities. They say extending basic infrastructure to villages and underserved communities can improve quality of life, strengthen public confidence and support balanced development across Punjab. If maintained properly, Ghanike village can become an example for similar rural improvement projects in other districts.



CM Maryam Nawaz orders Suthra Punjab workers' payments before 5th of every month, action against delays

The chief minister directed authorities to pay sanitation workers before the 5th of every month and act against delays.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has directed authorities to ensure that Suthra Punjab workers are paid before the 5th of every month, stressing that delays in worker payments will not be tolerated.

During a review meeting, officials informed the chief minister that payments to 149 out of 151 workers had been completed. Maryam Nawaz ordered immediate legal action against those responsible for any delay and directed departments to ensure a transparent and regular payment system for sanitation workers.



The chief minister also ordered action against a company accused of withholding payments to workers in Rojhan and Choubara. She said workers involved in cleanliness operations must receive their due wages on time, as their role is directly linked with public health, sanitation and civic service delivery.

Maryam Nawaz further directed that public complaints under the Suthra Punjab programme must be resolved without delay and that sanitation operations should improve every day. Citizens who consistently maintain cleanliness will be recognized with environment-friendly stickers, gifts and certificates from the chief minister. Civic observers believe timely payments, worker accountability and public participation.

KP Plans to Extend Peshawar BRT to Four Districts via Motorway

The proposed motorway-based service aims to connect Peshawar with Nowshera, Mardan, Swabi and Charsadda.

Peshawar: (Staff Reporter): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Transport Department has started planning an inter-district BRT-style bus service using the motorway, aimed at improving public transport connectivity between Peshawar and nearby districts. According to officials, the proposed service would connect Peshawar with Nowshera, Mardan, Swabi and Charsadda. A feasibility study will be initiated to determine possible routes, estimated project cost, station locations and other technical requirements before the scheme moves toward implementation.

The motorway option is being considered because authorities believe BRT-style operations could be easier there compared with the heavily used GT Road. A dedicated or better-managed route may help reduce travel delays and provide a more organized public transport option for inter-district commuters.



However, the project is still at the planning and feasibility stage and has not yet received a final route, budget or launch date. The proposal builds on KP's broader BRT expansion policy. Earlier in April, the provincial government reviewed extensions towards Charsadda, Nowshera and Khyber under its 2026-27 development planning. Transport observers believe the scheme can improve regional mobility if backed by proper feasibility, funding and operational planning.

Experts say an inter-district BRT-style service can reduce travel pressure for people who commute daily between Peshawar and nearby districts. A motorway-based route may offer faster movement compared with congested urban roads. The project can also support students, workers and business travellers if stations are planned at suitable locations. However, the feasibility study will be important for deciding cost, demand and operational design. Transport observers believe proper funding and route planning will determine the project's success. If implemented well, the service could become a major step toward modern regional public transport in KP.



Only 15.5% of Rs220.68bn Approved Housing Loans Disbursed So Far

Around Rs34.27 billion had been disbursed by July 2026 under the government's housing finance programme.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): Banks have approved more than Rs220.68 billion in housing loans under the Wazir-e-Azam Apna Ghar Program – Ghar Ho To Apna, while around Rs34.27 billion had actually been disbursed up to July 2026.

The figures show that roughly 15.5 percent of the approved financing had reached borrowers by that point. The progress was reviewed at the second meeting of the Access to Finance Steering Committee, chaired by Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb.

Officials said the government is also working on digitising land and property records, improving title-document verification and strengthening mortgage-based lending mechanisms. These steps are aimed at making property financing more transparent, secure and accessible for eligible applicants.

The meeting also reviewed continued engagement with developers, banks and regulators to make registered and verifiable properties easier to finance. Housing sector observers believe stronger mortgage systems can support home ownership, construction activity and real estate documentation if loan approvals are followed by timely disbursements. They say clear property records, reliable verification and affordable repayment terms will be essential for expanding housing finance across Pakistan.



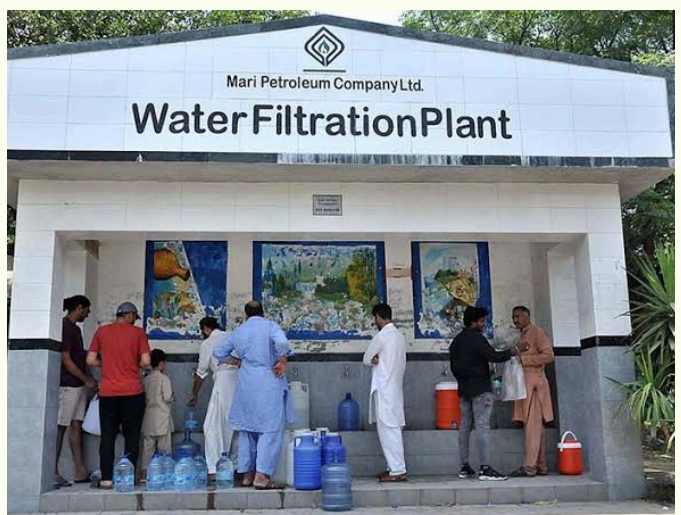
Punjab Accelerates 2,778 Water Filtration Plants in Major Clean Water Push

The clean-water programme covers 2,778 filtration plants across nine districts, including RO and ultrafiltration units for saline groundwater areas.

Lahore: Staff Reporter): Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has ordered faster completion of 2,778 new water filtration plants being established across nine districts as part of the province's clean drinking water programme. The districts under review include Bahawalnagar, Bahawalpur, Rajanpur, Talagang, Attock, Rawalpindi, Jhelum, Rahim Yar Khan and Chakwal. The chief minister reviewed progress during her sixth consecutive meeting on clean-water provision and directed officials to accelerate work without unnecessary delay.

Officials informed the meeting that 570 of 702 plants had been completed in Rajanpur and Rahim Yar Khan. In Talagang, Jhelum, Rawalpindi, Attock, Murree and Chakwal, 902 of 1,180 plants had been completed, while 749 of 892 sites had been completed in Bahawalpur and Bahawalnagar.

The programme also includes reverse osmosis and ultrafiltration plants for areas affected by saline groundwater. Public health observers believe the initiative can improve access to safe drinking water and reduce dependence on unsafe sources if plants remain functional after installation. They say regular maintenance, water-quality testing and timely completion will be essential to ensure long-term benefits for citizens in affected districts.



Experts say clean drinking water projects can directly improve public health in districts facing poor groundwater quality. They believe RO and ultrafiltration plants will be especially important in areas affected by salinity. Regular maintenance and water-quality testing will be needed to keep the plants useful after installation. The programme can also reduce the burden on families who depend on expensive or unsafe water sources. If completed on time, the initiative may become an important step toward safer civic services across Punjab.

REAL ESTATE

The Vertical Begins Elevation Construction in Liberty Market as Bookings Cross 70pc

The Vertical's premium retail development is planned over 13 kanals with more than 500 commercial spaces.



Lahore: (Staff Reporter):

The Vertical has formally moved its Elevation commercial project in Liberty Market into the construction phase, following a groundbreaking event attended by investors and industry stakeholders.

The developer describes Elevation as a premium retail development spread over around 13 kanals and planned to offer more than 500 retail spaces. The project is being marketed as a modern commercial destination within one of Lahore's most established and active business districts.

According to Momentum Pakistan, more than 70 percent of the project's retail shops have already been booked. The developer is also promoting a target of possession within one year, while The Vertical's official social channels confirm that Elevation has entered the construction phase in Liberty Market.

CEO Muteeb Siddiqi said the project is intended to bring modern retail planning and improved development standards to Lahore's commercial landscape. Real estate observers believe the project can strengthen retail activity in Liberty Market if construction progresses on schedule and promised facilities are delivered. They say buyers and investors should continue to review booking terms, payment schedules, possession timelines and legal documentation before making final decisions.





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 BAHRIA TOWN LAHORE

Punjab approves major reforms to streamline private housing scheme approvals and improve transparency

The amendments aim to improve approval procedures, reduce bottlenecks and strengthen oversight of private housing projects.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): The Punjab government has approved major reforms aimed at making the regulatory system for private housing schemes more effective, transparent and public-friendly. As part of the changes, amendments have been approved to the Punjab Development Authority Private Housing Schemes Rules 2021. Revisions have also been made to the PHATA Affordable Private Housing Schemes Rules 2020, which regulate affordable housing projects in the province.

Officials said the reforms are intended to improve approval procedures, reduce administrative bottlenecks and create a clearer framework for development and compliance. The changes may help streamline the process for legitimate developers while ensuring that housing schemes meet required planning and regulatory standards.



Real estate observers believe the reforms can support better housing-sector governance if implemented consistently. They say clearer rules can help reduce delays, improve investor confidence and protect buyers from unapproved or poorly managed schemes. Effective monitoring, transparent approvals and strict action against violations will remain important to ensure that the reforms benefit both developers and citizens seeking safe and legally secure housing options.

Etihad Town Phase II Moves Ahead as D Block Asphalt Work Progresses

Asphalt-laying work is underway in D Block as part of ongoing infrastructure completion in Etihad Town Phase II.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Etihad Town has reported continued infrastructure development in D Block of Etihad Town Phase II, where asphalt-laying work is currently progressing as part of the block's development activity. Developer-linked updates show road surfacing underway in the area, indicating further progress on internal infrastructure. Etihad Town's own project communications have described the work as another development milestone for Phase II.

According to the project website, possession has already been delivered in Blocks A, B, C, D and the Overseas Block. The developer also claims that the wider scheme is more than 95 percent developed, positioning Phase II as an advanced-stage housing project. Real estate observers believe visible infrastructure work, such as road surfacing and asphalt laying, can improve buyer confidence by showing on-ground progress. They say completed roads, possession status and basic services are important factors for residents, builders and investors planning construction or property decisions. However, buyers should still verify possession details, development charges, approved plans and transfer requirements before making any final commitment.



Experts say road development in D Block can make the area more attractive for residents planning construction. Asphalt-laying work improves access, daily movement and overall block usability. Visible infrastructure progress also helps strengthen confidence among buyers and investors. If remaining services are completed on schedule, the block can become more livable and active. However, buyers should continue verifying all official details before making property decisions.

Show-cause notice issued to former Jinnah Garden management over alleged layout plan violations

The notice concerns alleged layout plan violations and other irregularities identified during an inquiry into the housing society.



Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): The Cooperative Societies Department of the district administration has issued a show-cause notice to the former management committee of the Federal Employees Cooperative Housing Society, commonly known as Jinnah Garden Housing Scheme.

According to the notice, the action relates to alleged violations of the approved layout plan and other irregularities in the society's affairs. Officials said an inquiry was conducted to examine legal, administrative and planning-related matters connected with the former committee's management.

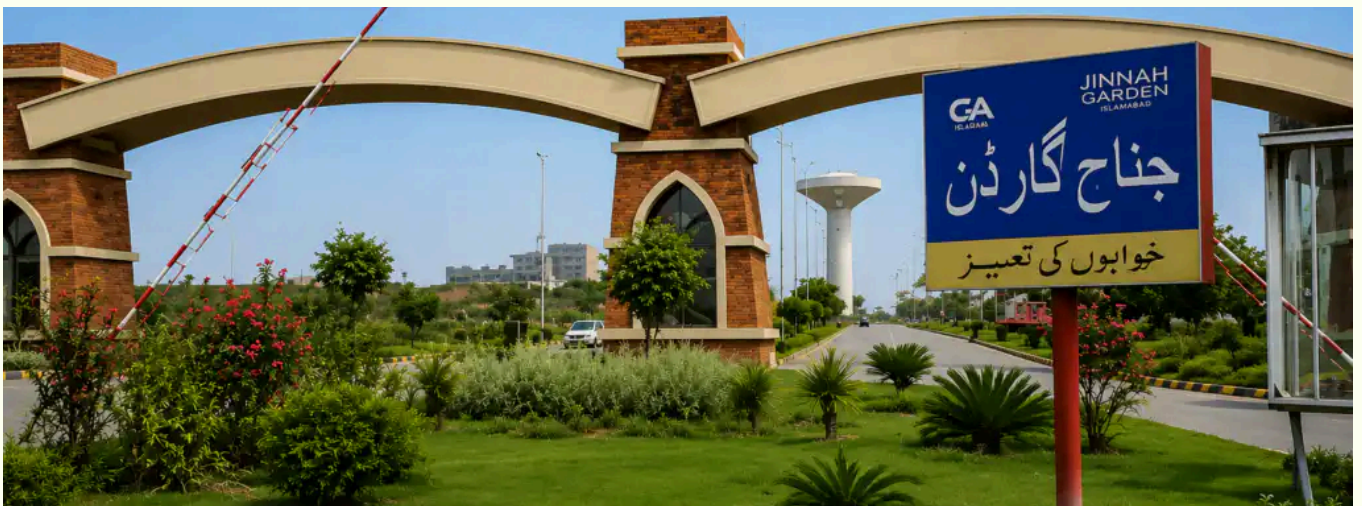
The inquiry officer submitted a detailed report on April 7, 2026, listing 11 allegations against the former management committee. The notice is expected to require a formal response from the former office-bearers through the prescribed legal and administrative process.

Jinnah Garden Faces Regulatory Action Over Alleged Land and Allotment Irregularities

The notice concerns alleged land-use violations, irregular allotments, record manipulation and financial issues in Jinnah Garden.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): The Cooperative Societies Department has issued a show-cause notice to the former management committee of the Federal Employees Cooperative Housing Society, commonly known as Jinnah Garden, over alleged violations involving land use, allotments, society records and finances. According to an inquiry report dated April 7, 2026, 11 allegations were listed against the former committee. These included alleged conversion of residential plots to commercial use, carving out plots from land reserved for parks, schools, playgrounds and graveyards, and irregular allotments and transfers.

The report also referred to alleged manipulation of official records and other administrative irregularities. During the inquiry, the former committee denied wrongdoing and is expected to respond to the show-cause notice through the prescribed legal process. The department warned that disputed allotments or transfers could face cancellation and that further legal or disciplinary action may follow after due process. Housing sector observers believe the case is important for cooperative society governance and member protection. They say transparent proceedings, proper record verification and strict enforcement of approved layout plans are essential to protect buyers and maintain public confidence in housing societies.



METRO POLITAN

Punjab Completes Bhatti Chowk Underpass, Major Lahore Traffic Relief Expected

The project near Data Darbar is expected to ease congestion and improve traffic flow through central Lahore.



Lahore: (Staff Reporter): The Punjab government has reportedly completed the Bhatti Chowk Underpass, a major road infrastructure project near Data Darbar aimed at easing traffic congestion at one of Lahore's busiest intersections.

Recent reports say the project was completed in around four months and opened around August 14, 2026. Earlier official procurement records confirm that TEPA had initiated procurement for an underpass at Bhatti Chowk to support signal-free traffic flow in the area.

Progress reports issued in May had shown that more than 40 percent of construction work had been completed at that stage. The latest development indicates that the project has now moved from construction to public use, providing relief to commuters travelling through the historic central Lahore corridor.

The underpass is expected to improve movement around Bhatti Chowk, Data Darbar and adjoining roads by reducing delays and traffic pressure. Urban development observers believe the project can support smoother daily commuting, improve access to nearby commercial and religious sites, and strengthen Lahore's road connectivity. They say proper maintenance, traffic management and service road improvements will be important for sustaining the project's long-term benefits.



Etihad Town Phase 3 New Deal Launched



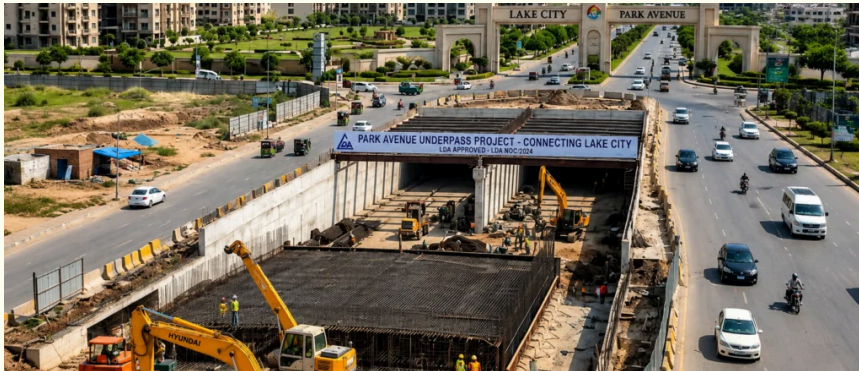
Reported LDA NOC Clears Way for Lake City–Park Avenue Underpass

The proposed underpass is expected to improve direct connectivity and traffic movement between Park Avenue and Lake City.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Park Avenue Housing Society has announced that the Lahore Development Authority has granted a No Objection Certificate for the proposed underpass connecting Park Avenue with Lake City.

According to the developer-linked announcement, the project is intended to improve direct accessibility and traffic connectivity between the two developments. Once constructed, the underpass is expected to provide residents with an easier and more convenient route between Park Avenue and the Lake City side.

The reported NOC represents an important administrative step for the proposed infrastructure link. Such approvals can help move a project closer to implementation by allowing the concerned parties to proceed with planning and further required formalities. However, the NOC does not by itself mean that construction has formally started. No detailed official timeline, construction cost or completion date was found in the latest LDA material reviewed. Real estate observers believe the underpass could improve mobility and property access if completed, but buyers and residents should wait for confirmed construction updates, approved execution plans and official progress details before treating the project as operational.



Government advances new M-10 motorway for direct Karachi-Hyderabad link, targets completion by 2028

The proposed route will provide a direct Karachi-Hyderabad connection while M-9 continues to function as an expressway.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): The federal government has informed the National Assembly that work is underway on a new M-10 motorway designed to provide a direct connection between Karachi and Hyderabad. Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Communications Gul Asghar Khan said the feasibility study for the project has been completed. He told the House that the government is working on a route that would bypass the existing corridor, while the M-9 will continue to serve as an expressway.

According to the details shared, the broader Karachi-Hyderabad motorway project has been divided into five sections of roughly 50 kilometres each to attract investment and improve implementation planning. Total financing needs for the project are estimated at more than \$400 million.



Three sections have reportedly secured financing arrangements, including support from the Islamic Development Bank, while FWO has shown interest in two sections. The government expects all five sections to be completed by 2028. Infrastructure observers believe the M-10 can improve regional connectivity, reduce travel pressure on existing routes and support trade movement between Karachi, Hyderabad and adjoining economic zones if completed on schedule.

Experts say the M-10 motorway can become an important transport link for Sindh if financing and construction progress remain on schedule. A direct Karachi-Hyderabad route may reduce congestion on existing roads and improve travel reliability. It can also support freight movement from Karachi's ports toward inland markets. Better connectivity may benefit industries, commuters and logistics companies along the corridor. However, timely completion, transparent funding and strong construction quality will be essential for long-term success.

Rs88.6bn LDA Budget Approved, New Pine Sector Gets Green Light

The governing body also approved a new Pine Sector in LDA City and commercial land development near Arfa Karim Tower.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): The Lahore Development Authority's governing body has approved an Rs88.613 billion budget for 2026-27, along with the launch of a new Pine Sector in LDA City. The meeting was held on August 19 and chaired by LDA Vice Chairman Mian Marghoob Ahmad. According to APP, the governing body also set a revenue target of Rs47 billion for the authority during the new financial year.

A major allocation of Rs12.5 billion has been approved for development works in LDA City. The new Pine Sector will include commercial plots of different sizes and one-kanal residential plots, adding another planned development component to the housing project. The governing body also approved solar lights in various LDA City blocks, which can improve public convenience, security and energy efficiency. Separately, approval was granted for the development and marketing of commercial plots on 118 kanals near Arfa Karim Tower for a proposed LDA Tech Park. Urban development observers believe these decisions can support housing, commercial activity and technology-focused investment if implemented transparently and completed within planned timelines.



Nawaz Sharif visits Bhati Gate Underpass as Rs1 billion project opens for traffic in Lahore

The newly opened underpass has improved traffic flow around Bhati Gate, while beautification work continues in nearby areas.

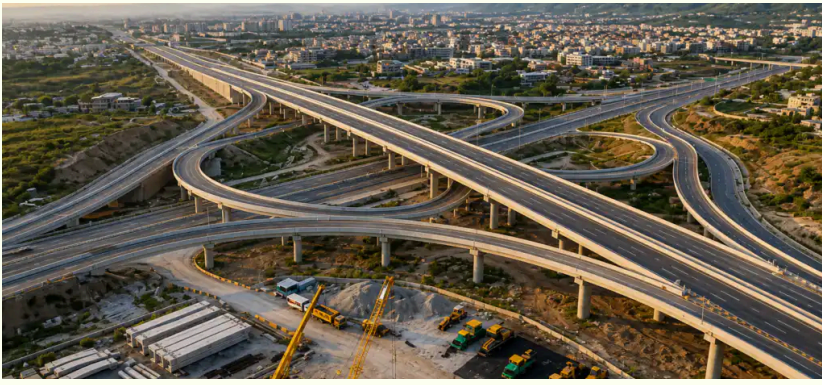
Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Pakistan Muslim League-N President Muhammad Nawaz Sharif visited the newly opened Bhati Gate Underpass and reviewed ongoing development work in the surrounding area.

During the visit, officials briefed him on progress at the Data Darbar Complex, Neela Gumbad, Nasir Bagh Parking Plaza, Mochi Gate and other important city projects. The review focused on infrastructure improvement, restoration work and public convenience in some of Lahore's busiest and historically significant locations.

The 400-metre-long Bhati Gate Underpass has been completed at a reported cost of around PKR 1 billion and has now been opened to regular traffic. Authorities say the project has improved traffic flow around Bhati Gate and adjoining roads, reducing congestion and making daily commuting easier for motorists.

Beautification work around the underpass is still continuing to improve the overall appearance of the area. Urban development observers believe the project can support smoother mobility and better access to religious, commercial and historic sites around central Lahore. They say proper maintenance, traffic management and quality finishing work will be important to ensure long-term benefits for citizens, visitors and businesses using this corridor.





Rs47 Billion Rawalpindi Ring Road Misses 6th Completion Deadline

The main 38.3-kilometre route has been completed, but toll infrastructure and Thallian Interchange work remain unfinished.

Rawalpindi: (Staff Reporter): The Rs47 billion Rawalpindi Ring Road project has missed its sixth completion deadline after the latest August 14 target passed without the road opening to traffic.

According to the available project update, the 38.3-kilometre main route from Banth Mor on GT Road towards Thallian has been completed. However, unfinished toll booths and the electronic tolling system are holding back the start of regular traffic operations on the corridor.

Four of the five interchanges — Banth, Chakbeli Khan, Adiala and Chakri — have been completed, while work at Thallian Interchange remains unfinished. The delay means commuters, transporters and businesses will have to wait longer before benefiting from the new road link.

Once the remaining toll infrastructure is completed, the project is expected to be transferred to the Punjab Ring Road Authority and opened for traffic. Infrastructure observers believe the ring road can ease pressure on Rawalpindi's internal roads, improve freight movement and support regional connectivity. However, repeated deadline misses highlight the need for stronger project monitoring, timely finishing work and clearer public communication.

Experts say the Ring Road can become a key transport corridor once fully opened to traffic. It may help divert heavy vehicles away from Rawalpindi's congested city roads. Better connectivity can support housing areas, logistics activity and regional trade movement. However, the repeated delays have created frustration among commuters and nearby residents. Authorities will need to complete toll systems and remaining interchange work without further delay.

Lahore CBD Takes Shape with Rs120bn Investment, 150,000 Jobs Claimed

The project has completed major infrastructure works around the former Walton Airport site, while several developments remain underway.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): Lahore: Central Business District Punjab has entered its fifth year as a major urban-development project on and around the former Walton Airport site. The project was officially groundbreaking on February 26, 2021, when it was presented as Pakistan's first Central Business District.

Other residential, commercial and office projects remain under development as part of the wider business district vision. Urban development observers believe CBD Punjab can support Lahore's commercial growth if future phases are completed with transparent planning, strong infrastructure management and clear investment documentation. They say verified progress reporting will remain important for maintaining public and investor confidence in the project.

A circulating video now claims that the project has attracted Rs120 billion in private-sector investment, received around Rs40 billion in government-backed infrastructure and generated 150,000 jobs. However, these three cumulative figures could not be independently verified from current CBD Punjab disclosures reviewed.

What is confirmed is substantial physical development in and around the project area. CBD Punjab says the Kalma Chowk project, Walton Road upgrade and Route 47 infrastructure have been completed, improving access and road connectivity around the development zone.



WEATHER

Five-day monsoon spell brings heavy rain and thunderstorm risk to Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa until August 21

Rain and thunderstorms from August 17 to 21 may trigger urban flooding in low-lying cities and landslides in hilly areas.

Lahore/Peshawar: (Staff Reporter): A five-day monsoon spell from August 17 to 21 is expected to bring rain and thunderstorms to several districts of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, prompting authorities to advise caution in vulnerable areas. According to disaster-management guidance, isolated heavy downpours may cause urban flooding in low-lying cities, especially where drainage systems come under pressure during intense rainfall. Hilly regions could also face landslide risks if heavy rain continues over unstable slopes.

Districts likely to be affected include Lahore, Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Murree, Peshawar, Swat, Abbottabad and Mansehra. Residents in these areas have been advised to remain alert and avoid unnecessary movement during heavy showers, particularly near flooded roads, rivers and steep terrain.

Officials have also warned citizens to stay away from electricity infrastructure, weak structures and fast-moving water channels during the active monsoon period. Local administrations and emergency response teams remain on alert to manage possible flooding, road disruptions and rescue needs.



Lahore Weather Turns Pleasant After Cloudy Conditions

Clouds, humidity and scattered rain chances may keep the city's weather changeable during the day.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Weather conditions in the city turned relatively pleasant as clouds covered several areas and humidity remained noticeable during the day. After recent rainy spells, the change in weather provided some relief to residents from intense heat, although warm and humid conditions continued in parts of the city.

Citizens have been advised to remain cautious while travelling, particularly on wet or slippery roads. Motorcyclists should avoid speeding, while pedestrians are also urged to use safe crossings and stay away from accumulated water near electric poles or weak structures.

Weather observers said cloudy conditions may persist in Lahore, while scattered rain or drizzle cannot be ruled out in some localities. The changing weather pattern is expected to affect daily movement, especially during evening hours when traffic pressure usually increases on major city roads.

Civic teams may also need to remain active in areas where temporary water accumulation usually occurs after rain. Urban observers believe timely drainage, traffic management and public awareness can help reduce inconvenience for commuters.
