

The Real Time

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INTERNATIONAL

Abu Dhabi's ADNOC Sets 24-Hour 6,428-Foot AI Drilling Benchmark

The company drilled 6,428 feet in 24 hours using artificial intelligence, live data and advanced analytics.



(International Desk) Abu Dhabi: Abu Dhabi National Oil Company has established a new well-delivery performance benchmark after drilling 6,428 feet within 24 hours through the UAE's complex carbonate rock formations.

According to ADNOC, its teams are now routinely completing well sections longer than one mile in a single day by combining artificial intelligence, live operational data, advanced analytics and specialist field experience. The achievement highlights the growing role of technology in improving drilling performance and operational decision-making.

Engineers and subsurface experts at ADNOC's Real-Time Intelligence Centre monitor drilling operations around the clock. This real-time supervision allows teams to assess performance, identify technical challenges and make faster decisions to optimise well delivery during active operations.

ADNOC Onshore and ADNOC Drilling said the technology-led approach is supporting safer operations, faster well delivery and improved efficiency. Energy sector observers believe such performance gains can help bring new production capacity online more quickly while reducing delays and improving resource planning. The benchmark also reflects the UAE's continued focus on using digital tools and advanced engineering to strengthen its energy sector competitiveness.

Industry experts say ADNOC's performance also shows how digital transformation is reshaping traditional oil and gas operations. By using real-time monitoring and predictive insights, companies can improve safety, reduce operational risks and make drilling campaigns more cost-effective. Such advancements may strengthen Abu Dhabi's position as a leading energy hub while supporting more reliable and efficient production planning.

Pakistan-US Trade Expands as American Imports Surge 39% to \$3.27 Billion

Exports to the United States posted modest growth, while imports increased sharply during fiscal year 2025-26.

(International Desk) Islamabad: Pakistan's imports from the United States increased by 38.93 percent to \$3.265 billion during fiscal year 2025-26, compared with \$2.350 billion in the preceding year, according to trade data compiled by the State Bank of Pakistan. Pakistan's exports to the US recorded comparatively modest growth of 1.55 percent, reaching \$6.125 billion from \$6.031 billion. Despite the slower export growth, the United States remained Pakistan's largest export destination in North America.



According to the data, the US accounted for nearly 94 percent of Pakistan's exports to the North American region. Overall exports to North America rose 1.32 percent to \$6.503 billion, while regional imports increased 6.52 percent to \$3.822 billion. Trade observers believe the sharp rise in imports from the United States reflects changing trade flows between the two countries. The increase comes amid efforts to expand bilateral trade and narrow Pakistan's trade surplus with the US. Experts say stronger export diversification, value addition and market access will be important for maintaining a balanced and sustainable trade relationship in the coming years.

Pakistan and Denmark sign strategic energy cooperation agreement

The visit is expected to support discussions on Punjab's ongoing and future cooperation with Japan in key public sectors.

(International Desk) Islamabad: Pakistan and Denmark have signed a memorandum of understanding under the Strategic Sector Cooperation Programme to strengthen government-to-government collaboration in the energy sector.

The agreement was signed by the Secretary Power Division and the Danish Ambassador in the presence of Federal Energy Minister Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari. Officials said the partnership is aimed at supporting Pakistan's transition toward cleaner, more efficient and better-planned energy systems.

Under the agreement, Denmark will provide technical assistance to Pakistan for long-term energy planning and effective integration of renewable energy into the national grid. The cooperation will also focus on improving energy efficiency in the industrial sector, where better technology and planning can help reduce waste and operational costs.



Energy sector observers believe the initiative can support cleaner power generation, modern grid management and sustainable industrial growth if implemented through practical reforms. They say international technical cooperation can help Pakistan improve system reliability, manage renewable energy more effectively and reduce pressure on conventional power resources. The agreement may also encourage future collaboration in green energy, policy planning and energy-sector modernization. Timely implementation will be important to turn the partnership into practical improvements for consumers and businesses.

Dubai villa sells for record AED110 million in Jumeirah Golf Estates

The luxury Jumeirah Golf Estates deal reflects strong demand from high-net-worth buyers in Dubai's premium property market.

(International Desk) Dubai: A six-bedroom luxury villa in Jumeirah Golf Estates has reportedly sold for a record AED110 million, or about \$29 million, setting a new benchmark for the prestigious Dubai community. The off-market transaction was completed by BXB Estates and nearly doubled the previous sales record for the area. The deal highlights the continuing strength of Dubai's luxury real estate segment, where high-net-worth buyers are showing strong interest in exclusive, spacious and amenity-rich homes.

Spread across more than 21,700 square feet, the villa includes nine bathrooms, four living areas, a private cinema, gym, sauna, rooftop terrace, bar lounge and wellness facilities. These features reflect the growing demand for lifestyle-focused properties that offer privacy, comfort and resort-style living. Property observers believe record transactions of this scale can lift pricing expectations and investor confidence across nearby premium communities. They say Dubai's luxury market continues to benefit from global buyer interest, strong infrastructure, tax advantages and the city's reputation as a safe investment destination. The sale further reinforces Dubai's position as one of the world's strongest luxury property markets.



Ajman records AED1.65bn real estate transactions in July as investor activity stays strong

The emirate recorded 1,517 real estate transactions, reflecting continued investor confidence in its accessible property market.

(International Desk) Ajman : The emirate's real estate market recorded 1,517 property transactions worth AED1.65 billion in July, reflecting continued activity across residential and investment segments. The figures indicate that Ajman remains an active property destination within the UAE, particularly for buyers seeking comparatively accessible investment options. Of the total transactions, 1,296 were trading deals valued at AED1.08 billion, while 138 mortgage transactions reached AED341 million. The data shows steady movement in both direct property sales and financing-linked activity, suggesting continued interest from end-users and investors.

Ajman Uptown emerged as the most-traded project during the month, followed by Ajman One and Emirates City. Al Helio 2 recorded the highest neighbourhood trading activity, highlighting demand in developing residential and investment areas across the emirate. The biggest individual transaction was worth AED22.5 million in Al Jurf Industrial 1. Real estate observers believe the July performance reflects sustained investor confidence and growing interest in Ajman as a more affordable UAE property market. They say competitive prices, expanding communities and improved infrastructure can continue to support transaction growth in the emirate's real estate sector. They believe steady demand in residential projects can attract more first-time buyers and small investors. Continued infrastructure improvement may further strengthen Ajman's position as a competitive property destination.



NATIONAL

Pakistan's Major Dams Reach 72% Storage, Tarbela Nears Capacity

Tarbela and Chashma recorded strong recovery, while Mangla remained lower due to weaker rainfall in the Jhelum catchment.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter) : Islamabad: Pakistan's major reservoirs collectively held 9.466 million acre-feet of water as of August 2, reaching about 72 percent of their combined storage capacity of 13.149 million acre-feet, according to official figures reported by national media.

Tarbela Dam led the recovery with 5.063 million acre-feet of water, equivalent to 90.72 percent of its reported capacity. Chashma reservoir also showed a strong position at 91.64 percent, reflecting improved water availability in key parts of the Indus River System.

Mangla reservoir, however, remained comparatively lower at 56.74 percent because of weaker rainfall in the Jhelum catchment area. Water availability at Mangla is important for irrigation planning and seasonal supply management, especially during the Kharif crop period. According to the figures, total inflows across the Indus River System reached 401,600 cusecs against regulated outflows of 304,700 cusecs. Authorities were diverting 354,600 cusecs into the irrigation network to support Kharif crops, including rice, cotton and sugarcane. Water sector observers believe the improving reservoir position can support agriculture, but continued monitoring will remain important during the monsoon season.



PM Shehbaz Sharif visits Bahawalpur to condole death of former minister Malik Iqbal Channar

Shehbaz Sharif paid tribute to Malik Muhammad Iqbal Channar for his public welfare services and political role.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Bahawalpur: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visited the residence of Punjab Assembly Deputy Speaker Malik Zaheer Iqbal Channar and his brother Malik Munir Iqbal Channar to express condolences over the death of Member of the National Assembly and former provincial minister Malik Muhammad Iqbal Channar.

During the visit, the prime minister met members of the bereaved family and expressed deep sorrow over the passing of the senior political figure. He paid tribute to Malik Muhammad Iqbal Channar for his public welfare services and longstanding role in Pakistan Muslim League-N.

Shehbaz Sharif said the deceased remained committed to serving people and contributed to public life through his political and social work. He prayed for the departed soul and for patience and strength for the family during this difficult time.

Federal ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Azam Nazeer Tarar, Sardar Awais Leghari and Attaullah Tarar were also present on the occasion. Political observers believe such condolence visits reflect respect for senior public representatives and help maintain political and community connections at the local level. The visit was also seen as a gesture of solidarity with the Channar family and their supporters in Bahawalpur. Observers say Malik Muhammad Iqbal Channar's political and public service role will be remembered in the region.



Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi meets ASPs returning from China and Türkiye training

The officers briefed the interior minister on professional training courses completed in China and Türkiye.



Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met Assistant Superintendents of Police who recently returned after completing professional training courses in China and Türkiye. The meeting focused on their training experience and the role of international exposure in strengthening modern policing skills. During the interaction, the officers shared details of their training programmes and described the courses as valuable opportunities for improving professional capacity. They said exposure to advanced policing systems, operational methods and leadership practices can help officers perform their duties more effectively.

Officials said such international training programmes can support improved investigation techniques, technology-based policing and better public safety strategies. The experience can also help young police officers understand modern law enforcement models and apply relevant practices within Pakistan's policing system. The meeting reflected the government's focus on building a better-trained and professionally capable police service through international cooperation. Security observers believe continuous training, global exposure and institutional learning are essential for improving police performance, public confidence and response standards. They say trained officers can play an important role in strengthening investigation quality, operational discipline and citizen-focused policing.

National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq announces more internships for Balochistan students

The National Assembly speaker met AI bootcamp students and highlighted digital reforms, education and parliamentary modernization.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq met students participating in the Digital Balochistan AI Launchpad Bootcamp and announced that students from Balochistan would be given more internship opportunities at the National Assembly on a priority basis. During the interaction, the speaker said internship and training programmes are already being offered to students from 21 universities. He emphasized the importance of education, reading habits and continuous learning for young people, especially those preparing for professional and public-sector roles. Ayaz Sadiq also highlighted Balochistan's importance and referred to the economic potential of Reko Diq. He said young students from the province should benefit from modern learning opportunities, skill development and institutional exposure to play a stronger role in national progress.



The speaker also said Pakistan's first AI-enabled parliamentary system has been introduced in the National Assembly, where agendas, bills, reports and parliamentary documents are being digitized. Officials said practical measures are also underway to increase women's representation in National Assembly employment to 30 percent. Education observers believe such initiatives can support digital learning, youth inclusion and institutional modernization.

SIFC facilitates Pakistan-China agreement for world-class sports footwear production

Forward Sports and Zhongzi Huaxin Group will jointly work on world-class sports footwear manufacturing in Pakistan.



Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): A technical and investment cooperation agreement has been signed at the Special Investment Facilitation Council between Pakistan's Forward Sports and China's Zhongzi Huaxin Group for the joint production of world-class sports footwear in Pakistan.

The agreement brings together Forward Sports' manufacturing expertise and the Chinese group's experience in industrial development, footwear and apparel parks, and investment management. Officials said the partnership is aimed at strengthening Pakistan's local manufacturing base and creating new opportunities in the export-oriented footwear sector.

The initiative is expected to support technology transfer, improve production standards and expand Pakistan's capacity to manufacture high-quality sports footwear for international markets. It may also help create employment opportunities through new industrial activity and related supply chains. The signing ceremony was attended by Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, the DG SIFC and senior representatives of both companies.



Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi sets September 30 deadline for Islamabad Safe City expansion

Mohsin Naqvi directed authorities to complete the project by September 30 and accelerate work on the modern Fusion Center.

Islamabad: : (Staff Reporter): Pakistan Railways has decided to suspend Shalimar Express, operating between Lahore and Karachi via Faisalabad, for one month after the Lahore-Faisalabad rail track was affected by floodwater near the Sheikhpura railway bridge area. Islamabad: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, accompanied by Minister of State Talal Chaudhry, visited the Safe City Headquarters and chaired a special meeting to review progress on the Islamabad Safe City Expansion Project. Officials informed the meeting that 85 percent of the overall project has been completed, including installation of 85 percent of the planned new cameras. Around 415 kilometres of optical fibre has also been laid to support the expanded surveillance and communication network.

The meeting was further briefed that work on the data centre, cyber architecture and cybersecurity components has reached 80 percent. These systems are expected to strengthen digital monitoring, data protection and technology-based response capacity in the federal capital. Mohsin Naqvi directed authorities to complete the Safe City Expansion Project by September 30 and also set a three-month deadline for the modern Fusion Center. Security observers believe the project can improve surveillance, citizen safety and rapid response if completed on time. They say advanced cameras, strong cyber systems and integrated monitoring can help Islamabad develop a more modern and effective public safety infrastructure.



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Pakistan Makes Digital Payment Facility Mandatory at Petrol Pumps

Banks and payment service providers have been directed to expand digital payment acceptance at petrol pumps nationwide.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): The State Bank of Pakistan has directed banks, microfinance banks and payment service providers to expand Raast QR-based payment acceptance at fuel stations across the country. Under the new framework, charges on card payments for fuel have been capped to reduce costs for petrol-pump operators. The Merchant Discount Rate for card-present transactions will not exceed Rs1 per litre, while the Interchange Reimbursement Fee has been capped at Rs0.20 per litre. According to the circular, these arrangements will remain effective until January 31, 2027. The move is expected to encourage wider use of digital payments at fuel stations and make it easier for operators to accept payments through formal banking channels.



Customers may increasingly be able to pay through Raast QR codes and bank cards as payment infrastructure expands. However, the official circular does not state that customers must stop using cash or that every petrol pump has already activated digital payments. Financial observers believe the step can support digital transactions, reduce payment costs and improve documentation in the fuel retail sector if implemented gradually and effectively.



Islamabad High Court Stops 50% Extra Toll on Vehicles Without M-Tags

The court restrained NHA from collecting an additional 50 percent motorway toll from vehicles without M-Tags or sufficient balance.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): Islamabad High Court Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir extended the interim order restraining the National Highway Authority from collecting an additional 50 percent motorway toll from vehicles without M-Tags or with insufficient account balances. During the August 3 hearing, NHA's counsel informed the court that implementation of the earlier order had begun and that the disputed additional toll and penalties were no longer being collected. The statement indicated that the authority had moved to comply with the interim direction while the matter remains under judicial consideration.

The case originated from a petition filed by Advocate Muhammad Jalal Haider, challenging the legality of NHA's May 30, 2025 notification. The petitioner maintains that the NHA Act permits the authority to levy tolls but does not empower it to impose the disputed surcharge as a penalty.

The court sought further arguments and continued the interim relief pending subsequent proceedings. Legal observers believe the case is important for clarifying the scope of NHA's toll-collection powers and the legality of additional charges. The outcome may affect motorway users, toll policy and future enforcement mechanisms linked with M-Tag compliance. Legal experts say the case may set an important precedent for how toll-related penalties are imposed in future. They believe any additional charge must have clear legal backing to protect motorists from disputed enforcement.

GOVERNMENT POLICIES

Punjab Expands Juvenile Driving Permits Through e-Khidmat Centers

Teenagers aged 16 to 18 can now apply through e-Khidmat Markaz centers across the province.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): The Punjab Information Technology Board has expanded access to the province's Juvenile Driving Permit scheme by making the application facility available through e-Khidmat Markaz centers across Punjab. Teenagers aged between 16 and 18 can apply for the permit using a valid NADRA B-Form or Smart Card along with written consent from a parent or legal guardian. Applicants must also pass the prescribed traffic-signs examination and practical driving test before receiving approval.

According to details attributed to PITB, successful candidates will be permitted to operate motorcycles, scooters and qualifying electric bikes with a capacity of up to 125cc. Officials said the process is designed to bring young riders into a legal and regulated driving system rather than leaving them outside formal road safety rules. PITB Chairman Faisal Yousaf said the service aims to improve access to government facilities while promoting legal, responsible and safety-conscious driving among young motorists. Road safety observers believe the initiative can help improve compliance if testing remains strict and awareness campaigns are conducted for both parents and teenagers across Punjab.



Pakistan High Commission Enables Digital Punjab Property Transfers in London

Eligible overseas owners can complete property transfer through the Pakistan High Commission without travelling to Pakistan.

London: (Staff Reporter): The Pakistan High Commission in London has made digital transfer of Punjab properties available for British Pakistanis, allowing eligible owners to complete the process without travelling to Pakistan.

According to the latest announcement, applicants can visit the High Commission for identity verification, after which the transaction is processed through Punjab's digital land-record system. The process has been designed to reduce travel difficulties and make property transactions easier for overseas Pakistanis.



The High Commission said the facility does not require a power of attorney, agent or third-party representative. This can help reduce delays, extra costs and risks linked with property documentation through intermediaries.

The service is part of land-record facilities developed jointly by the Punjab Land Records Authority and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The wider system includes online sale deeds, Fard, e-Girdawari, mutation entries and document attestation. Officials also confirmed that a digital property transfer had been completed for an overseas Pakistani family. Property observers believe the initiative can improve transparency, protect overseas owners and strengthen confidence in Punjab's digital land-record services.

Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir Reviews National Disaster Preparedness at NDMA

The briefing focused on NEOC operations, Disaster Lens 2026, multi-hazard monitoring and coordinated emergency response arrangements.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir visited the National Emergencies Operation Centre at NDMA Headquarters to review Pakistan's preparedness for the ongoing monsoon season. Field Marshal Asim Munir appreciated NDMA's efforts and emphasized the importance of readiness, effective coordination among institutions and rapid action during emergencies. He said timely decisions and strong response systems are essential for protecting lives, public infrastructure and critical national assets.



Chairman NDMA Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik briefed him on the operational capabilities of the NEOC, technology-based response systems and coordinated arrangements for managing natural disasters. The briefing also covered Disaster Lens 2026, prevailing monsoon conditions and multi-hazard monitoring mechanisms being used to assess risks across the country.

He also assured that Pakistan's Armed Forces were prepared to support NDMA and civil administrations in rescue, relief and rehabilitation operations. Disaster management observers believe close coordination between military, civil and emergency institutions can improve response efficiency, reduce delays and strengthen public confidence during floods, landslides and other monsoon-related emergencies.

Punjab reviews flood preparedness amid rising monsoon and river flood risks

Officials assessed urban flooding risks, hill torrent threats and expected water levels in the Indus and Chenab rivers.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Chairman of the Cabinet Committee on Disaster Management and Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafiq chaired a high-level online meeting to review Punjab's preparedness for the ongoing monsoon season. During the meeting, officials assessed the latest flood situation, urban flooding risks and possible flash floods in hill torrents, also known as Rod Kohis. The anticipated water levels in the Indus and Chenab rivers were also reviewed as part of the province's emergency planning.



Officials briefed the meeting on emergency response plans, coordination among relevant departments, rescue preparedness and preventive measures needed to minimize the impact of potential flooding. The discussion focused on ensuring that vulnerable areas remain under active monitoring throughout the monsoon period. The government emphasized maintaining full readiness for a swift response in case of any emergency. Disaster management observers believe timely coordination, functional control rooms, rescue teams, drainage clearance and public alerts can help reduce losses during heavy rainfall and flood situations. They say advance planning is essential to protect lives, homes, roads, crops and public infrastructure in areas exposed to monsoon-related risks.



Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz rejects water charges, orders free clean drinking water supply

The chief minister directed authorities to ensure free and timely access to safe drinking water for citizens across Punjab.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif chaired a special meeting on the Punjab Saaf Pani Authority, where officials presented a detailed briefing on the Clean Drinking Water Project.

During the meeting, the chief minister rejected the initial proposal to impose charges on bottled drinking water. She directed authorities to ensure that citizens receive free and timely access to clean drinking water as part of the government's public welfare priorities.

Maryam Nawaz also ordered officials to accelerate household water delivery arrangements and complete water filtration projects across Punjab at the earliest. The initiative is aimed at improving access to safe water in both urban and rural areas where many families continue to depend on unsafe or unreliable sources.

Public health observers believe the decision can provide relief to citizens and improve confidence in basic civic services if implemented effectively. They say clean drinking water is directly linked to public health, household wellbeing and disease prevention. Strong monitoring, regular quality testing and efficient distribution will be essential to ensure the project benefits citizens across the province without delay.



Punjab Cabinet approves Rs1.1bn weapons and safety equipment for Katcha police

The cabinet also approved hard area allowance for police officers and personnel serving in difficult riverine areas.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): The Punjab Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif in its 36th meeting, approved Rs1.1 billion for weapons and protective equipment for police personnel deployed in the Katcha areas. The cabinet also approved a hard area allowance for officers and personnel serving in these difficult and high-risk locations. Officials said the decision is aimed at strengthening police operational capacity and improving the safety of teams working in challenging law-enforcement environments.

Katcha areas are considered difficult for policing due to riverine terrain, criminal hideouts and operational risks faced by security personnel. Better weapons, protective gear and logistical support can help police respond more effectively to criminal activity and protect local communities. Law and order observers believe the approval of funds and allowances can improve morale among police personnel posted in high-risk areas. They say proper equipment, financial incentives and consistent operational planning are essential for improving performance in difficult field conditions. If implemented effectively, the decision can support stronger policing, safer operations and better public confidence in areas affected by organized criminal activity.



Experts say the decision can also help strengthen the state's presence in riverine regions where police often face difficult terrain and security challenges. They believe modern protective equipment can reduce risks for personnel during operations and improve their confidence in the field. The hard area allowance may also encourage officers to perform duties with greater commitment in high-risk locations. If funds are used transparently and equipment is provided on time, the move can improve policing standards and support safer communities in Katcha areas.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Announces Workplace Healthcare for Punjab Workers

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz says workers and daily-wage labourers will receive medical treatment directly at their places of employment.



Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has announced that workers and daily-wage labourers will receive medical treatment directly at their workplaces through mobile hospitals.

The initiative is aimed at ensuring that workers can access timely healthcare without repeatedly travelling to hospitals or losing their daily earnings. According to the chief minister's official update, mobile medical facilities will reach workers at their places of employment, allowing them to receive treatment while protecting both their health and livelihood.

Officials said the workplace-based healthcare approach can particularly benefit labourers who often delay medical check-ups because of financial pressure, work schedules or limited access to hospitals. Mobile hospitals can provide basic treatment, consultation and early diagnosis closer to where workers spend most of their day.

Punjab Safe Cities Uses AI Technology Against Fake Number Plates

AI-powered cameras are identifying fake, cloned, tampered and concealed vehicle plates for police action across Punjab.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): The Punjab Safe Cities Authority has intensified its AI-powered crackdown on vehicles using fake, cloned, tampered or concealed number plates. The action is aimed at improving traffic enforcement, vehicle verification and public safety through modern surveillance technology.

According to officials, advanced surveillance cameras automatically identify suspicious plates, including those whose numbers have been altered or hidden with tape, cloth or other methods. Once detected, the system immediately generates alerts for further action.

Vehicle details are then shared with the nearest field police teams, enabling them to intercept suspicious vehicles and take legal action. Officials said the AI-based monitoring system helps reduce manual delays and supports faster identification of vehicles involved in illegal plate use.



METRO POLITAN

Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz inaugurates Nestlé biomass steam plant in Sheikhpura to curb smog

The Sheikhpura plant will use biomass for steam generation to reduce industrial emissions and support cleaner production.



Sheikhpura: (Staff Reporter):

Sheikhpura: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif digitally inaugurated Nestlé's biomass steam plant in Sheikhpura as part of efforts to reduce environmental pollution and smog across the province.

The plant is designed to replace conventional fuel with biomass for steam generation, helping lower industrial emissions and promote cleaner production methods. Officials said the initiative reflects the growing focus on adopting environmentally responsible technologies in the industrial sector.

The project also highlights cooperation between the Punjab government and private industry in supporting sustainable development. Cleaner energy use in factories can help reduce dependence on fossil fuels and encourage other industrial units to explore low-emission alternatives.

Environmental observers believe wider use of clean energy technologies can play an important role in improving air quality and addressing Punjab's recurring smog challenge. They say industries must gradually shift toward cleaner fuels, better emission controls and modern production systems. If more factories follow this model, the province can move toward sustainable industrial growth while reducing pressure on the environment and public health.





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BAHRIA TOWN LAHORE

Islamabad to get two new underpasses as CDA reviews development projects

The Kashmir Chowk and Faisal Mosque underpasses aim to ease traffic congestion and improve public convenience in the capital.

Islamabad: : (Staff Reporter): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi chaired a meeting at the CDA Headquarters to review ongoing and upcoming development projects in the federal capital. The meeting focused on infrastructure schemes aimed at improving public convenience, easing traffic congestion and strengthening Islamabad's road network.

During the meeting, CDA officials briefed the minister on progress made on key development projects and future plans for urban mobility improvement. The participants reviewed traffic pressure points and discussed measures needed to ensure smoother movement on major routes.

It was decided that construction of two new underpasses at Kashmir Chowk and Faisal Mosque will begin next month. These projects are expected to improve traffic flow, reduce travel delays and provide relief to commuters using busy routes around the federal capital. Urban development observers believe the planned underpasses can support Islamabad's broader development strategy if completed within the announced timeline. They say better road infrastructure can improve daily commuting, reduce bottlenecks and enhance access to important public, commercial and institutional areas. Effective execution, traffic diversion planning and construction quality will be important for ensuring long-term benefits for citizens.



CDA Receives Rs13.8 Billion Bids for Four Islamabad Commercial Plots

Four commercial plots attracted major bids on the opening day of CDA's three-day auction at Jinnah Convention Centre.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): The Capital Development Authority received bids totalling Rs13.806 billion for four commercial plots on the opening day of its three-day auction held at the Jinnah Convention Centre. According to CDA details, Plot No. 18 in Blue Area attracted the highest bid of Rs9.134 billion, reflecting strong investor interest in one of Islamabad's prime commercial locations. Blue Area Plot C-1 received a bid of Rs3.513 billion, further highlighting demand for commercial real estate in the capital's main business district.

Other bids included Rs529.575 million for Plot No. 2-G1 in I-9 Markaz and Rs629.32 million for Plot No. 2 at the G-6 I&T Centre in Aabpara Market. The auction will continue until August 6, with more commercial properties expected to attract investor attention. CDA said proceeds from the auction would support infrastructure projects, civic services and efforts to address Islamabad's water-supply challenges. Urban development observers believe successful commercial auctions can help generate revenue for public development if the funds are used transparently and efficiently. However, the bids remain subject to scrutiny and final approval by the CDA Board.



Experts say strong investor response in commercial auctions can indicate confidence in Islamabad's property market and future business activity. They believe timely board approval, clear payment procedures and transparent project spending will be important to ensure the auction revenue directly supports public infrastructure, water supply improvement and better civic facilities.

PML-N Lahore President Saif-ul-Malook Khokhar and DG LDA review city development projects

Officials inspected Nasser Bagh, Neela Gumbad, Data Darbar and parts of the old city to review ongoing work.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): PML-N Lahore President Saif-ul-Malook Khokhar, MPA Malik Shehbaz Ali Khokhar and DG LDA Tahir Farooq visited different development and restoration projects across the city to review the pace and quality of ongoing work. The delegation inspected Nasser Bagh, Neela Gumbad, Data Darbar and parts of the old city, where officials briefed them on progress and remaining development tasks. Directions were issued to ensure faster completion of the projects without compromising construction standards.

Saif-ul-Malook Khokhar praised the restoration work in Lahore's historic areas and thanked Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, DG LDA and other concerned institutions for the progress made so far. He said such projects are important for preserving the city's identity and improving public spaces. Urban development observers believe timely completion of these projects can improve public convenience, support heritage preservation and enhance Lahore's overall urban appearance. They say restoration work in historic and high-traffic areas must balance modern civic needs with protection of cultural character. Strong monitoring and quality control will be essential to ensure long-term benefits for citizens and visitors.

Experts say restoration work in areas such as Nasser Bagh, Neela Gumbad, Data Darbar and the old city can also strengthen Lahore's cultural and tourism value. These locations attract daily visitors, worshippers, traders and tourists, making better infrastructure and cleaner surroundings important for public experience. If the projects are completed with proper planning, they can improve pedestrian movement, traffic management and commercial access. Observers believe consistent maintenance after completion will be necessary to preserve the beauty and usefulness of these restored urban spaces.



Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi Orders Two New Islamabad Underpasses

Kashmir Chowk and Faisal Masjid underpass projects are expected to improve traffic flow at key intersections.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has announced two new underpass projects at Kashmir Chowk and Faisal Masjid to reduce traffic congestion at important intersections in the federal capital. According to officials, the Capital Development Authority has already floated a tender for the Kashmir Chowk Underpass near Islamabad Club. The project has an estimated cost of Rs1.69 billion, while tender opening is scheduled for August 12

The second underpass is planned at the Faisal Avenue-Margalla Road junction near Faisal Masjid and is currently in the design stage. Construction on both projects is expected to begin next month. Urban development observers believe the projects can improve daily commuting, reduce bottlenecks and strengthen Islamabad's road infrastructure if completed on time with proper traffic diversion planning and construction quality.

The Kashmir Chowk Underpass will provide direct movement towards Rawal Dam Chowk, while traffic heading towards Murree will pass above it. Officials said the design is aimed at reducing delays and improving vehicle movement around one of Islamabad's busy traffic points.



KP CM Sohail Afridi pushes Dala Zak Chowk Underpass under Peshawar Revitalization Plan

The project aims to reduce congestion, improve traffic flow and upgrade a key urban corridor under the Peshawar Revitalization Plan.

Peshawar: (Staff Reporter):

Work on the Dala Zak Chowk Underpass is progressing rapidly under the Peshawar Revitalization Plan, aimed at improving traffic movement and upgrading important urban routes in the provincial capital.

The project is being led by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi and supervised by Local Government Minister Mena Khan Afridi. Officials said the underpass is an important part of ongoing efforts to modernize Peshawar's road infrastructure and improve daily commuting for citizens.

Once completed, the Dala Zak Chowk Underpass is expected to reduce congestion at a busy traffic point and provide smoother movement for motorists. The project can also improve connectivity around Hazar Khwani and nearby areas, where traffic pressure often affects residents, businesses and commuters.



Roots Garden Schools development advances rapidly in New Metro City Gujar Khan

The school project aims to provide modern learning facilities and strengthen family-oriented amenities within the housing community.

Gujar Khan: (Staff Reporter): Development work on Roots Garden Schools in New Metro City Gujar Khan is progressing rapidly, reflecting the project's focus on high-quality educational infrastructure as part of a broader integrated community vision. The school development is expected to provide modern learning facilities, a supportive academic environment and easier access to quality education for families living within and around the housing project. Officials and project observers say access to nearby schooling is one of the most important factors for families when choosing a residential community. Educational institutions of this scale can also strengthen the long-term appeal of housing developments by adding essential family-oriented amenities. A well-planned school facility can support population growth, improve community life and reduce travel challenges for students and parents.

Real estate observers believe the progress of Roots Garden Schools can increase confidence in New Metro City Gujar Khan by showing that social infrastructure is being developed alongside residential and commercial areas. They say quality education facilities can also support nearby housing demand, commercial activity and the overall value of the community if completed and operated effectively. Experts say the addition of a reputed school network can also help create a more complete and livable community for residents. If the institution is developed with proper facilities, trained staff and strong academic standards, it can benefit students while also enhancing the overall credibility of New Metro City Gujar Khan as a family-focused housing project.

WEATHER

Lahore receives light to heavy rain as pleasant weather returns across the city

Light to heavy showers were reported in different parts of the city, making weather conditions pleasant for residents.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Different parts of the city received light to heavy rainfall, bringing a noticeable change in weather and providing relief from heat and humidity. The rain turned the atmosphere pleasant in several areas, while cloudy conditions further reduced the intensity of the summer heat. Some parts of Lahore experienced brief heavy showers, while lighter rain was reported in other localities. Residents welcomed the change in weather, especially after humid conditions had made daily movement and outdoor activity uncomfortable.



However, motorists and motorcyclists have been advised to remain cautious on wet roads. Rain can reduce road grip and visibility, increasing the risk of slipping, especially for two-wheelers and vehicles moving at high speed. Temporary water accumulation may also occur at low-lying points, underpasses and busy road sections if drainage slows down. Weather observers say citizens should drive carefully, avoid unnecessary speed and follow traffic instructions during rain. Timely drainage clearance and field response by civic teams can help reduce inconvenience and keep traffic movement smooth across the city.



Heavy monsoon rain lashes Lahore as authorities warn of further urban flooding risks

Weather and disaster-management agencies have warned of more rain, thunderstorms and localized flooding during the active monsoon spell.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Heavy The Pakistan Meteorological Department's regional setup for Punjab is continuing to monitor Lahore through dedicated city forecasts, rainfall observations and weather warnings. Officials said such monitoring is important for tracking changing conditions and issuing timely alerts for vulnerable urban areas. According to the latest hazard projection by the National Disaster Management Authority, the ongoing monsoon situation covers the August 6–11 period. The advisory highlights the need for preparedness in areas where heavy rainfall can create urban flooding, traffic disruption and drainage pressure.

Weather observers believe continued rainfall can increase risks for low-lying localities, underpasses and busy road sections if drainage systems remain under stress. Citizens have been advised to remain cautious during intense showers, avoid unnecessary travel through flooded roads and follow official safety instructions. Strong coordination among civic departments, rescue teams and local administrations will be essential to reduce public inconvenience and manage any localized flooding during the spell.

