

The Real Time

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INTERNATIONAL

Khorfakkan Port launches direct China shipping route outside Strait of Hormuz

The new route connects Sharjah's east coast port with Shenzhen and supports faster vehicle and heavy-equipment movement.



(International Desk)
Sharjah: Khorfakkan Port has launched a new direct maritime shipping service linking the UAE's east coast with Xiaomo International Logistics Port in Shenzhen, China. The service strengthens a strategic trade gateway located outside the Strait of Hormuz. The inaugural service involves a roll-on/roll-off vessel carrying 6,068 BYD new-energy vehicles from China. The shipment highlights growing demand for electric and new-energy vehicles in regional markets and the role of UAE ports in supporting automotive trade.

According to Gulf News, the direct connection is expected to reduce vehicle and heavy-equipment transit times by around three to five days. Khorfakkan Port is operated by the Sharjah Ports, Customs and Free Zones Authority, while its commercial terminal is managed by Gulftainer. The port had handled 24,675 vehicles by August 2026, reflecting its growing importance in vehicle logistics. Reuters separately confirmed that Khorfakkan has already been used as a Hormuz-bypass gateway, with cargo transferred onward by road to Gulf destinations. Trade observers believe the new China-UAE route can improve shipping efficiency, strengthen supply chains and support Khorfakkan's position as a regional logistics hub.

Experts say the direct Khorfakkan-Shenzhen service can help improve trade connectivity between China and the UAE by reducing dependence on longer or more congested shipping routes. They believe faster vehicle movement can benefit importers, dealers, logistics companies and end buyers, especially as demand for new-energy vehicles continues to grow in Gulf markets. The route may also strengthen Khorfakkan Port's role as a strategic alternative for regional cargo movement outside the Strait of Hormuz. If regular services continue, the port can attract more international shipping activity, support road-based distribution across the Gulf and create wider business opportunities for logistics and transport companies.

Emaar property sales hit Dh26.6bn as backlog rises to Dh164.9bn

The Dubai developer reported strong revenue, profit growth and a major sales backlog during the first half of 2026.

(International Desk) Dubai: Emaar Properties PJSC recorded property sales of approximately Dh26.6 billion during the first half of 2026, reflecting continued demand across its development portfolio in Dubai and international markets. According to the company's official results, Emaar's revenue backlog from property sales reached Dh164.9 billion as of June 30, showing a 13 percent year-on-year increase. The backlog represents contracted sales expected to be recognised as projects move forward and properties are delivered.



Emaar also launched 11 projects across major Dubai communities in the first half of the year. Real estate observers believe the company's strong sales, revenue growth and Dh135.7 billion UAE development backlog reflect continued investor confidence in Dubai's property market. They say steady project launches and strong buyer demand can support long-term development activity, although future performance will depend on delivery timelines, market conditions and global investor sentiment.

The group's revenue increased 21 percent to Dh23.9 billion, while net profit before tax rose 23 percent to Dh12.8 billion. UAE build-to-sell property sales accounted for Dh22.4 billion, while international property sales reached Dh4.2 billion during the same period. Experts say Emaar's strong backlog gives the company clear revenue visibility for coming years. They believe timely project delivery will be important to maintain buyer confidence and market momentum.

Russia, Pakistan Advance First Moscow–Karachi and Faisalabad Freight Rail Service

The proposed rail corridor would connect Moscow with Faisalabad and Karachi for cargo movement in both directions.

(International Desk) Islamabad: Russian Ambassador to Pakistan Albert Khorev has said Russia and Pakistan are working to establish their first freight rail service connecting Moscow with Faisalabad and Karachi in both directions. According to an official statement published by the Russian Embassy on August 8, the two sides are finalising a service contract and identifying companies interested in moving cargo through the proposed corridor. Belarus is also being considered as a possible participant in the project.

Khorev said the freight rail initiative had faced repeated delays during 2025 and early 2026 because of heightened geopolitical tensions. No formal launch date has yet been announced, indicating that commercial and operational arrangements still need to be completed before the service can begin.

Trade observers believe the proposed rail link could strengthen overland logistics and improve cargo connectivity between Russia and Pakistan if implemented successfully. They say such a corridor may support bilateral trade, reduce dependence on longer shipping routes and create new opportunities for exporters, importers and logistics companies. However, its success will depend on route coordination, customs procedures, cargo demand and stable regional conditions.



Dubai to launch zero-interest ‘Rent Now, Pay Later’ scheme for tenants from September

The service is expected to allow eligible tenants to spread annual rent across monthly instalments at zero interest.

(International Desk) Dubai: A new “Rent Now, Pay Later” service is expected to launch in September 2026, allowing eligible tenants to spread annual rent across up to 12 monthly instalments at zero interest, according to recent reporting. The initiative reportedly involves the Dubai Land Department and a local bank and is designed to reduce the burden of large upfront rental payments. In Dubai’s rental market, tenants often face significant financial pressure when annual rent is paid through a limited number of cheques, making flexible payment options increasingly important..



Dubai has already moved toward more flexible rental payments through the DLD’s Flexi Rent programme, launched in June. That programme enables tenants of participating real estate companies to choose monthly, quarterly and other payment schedules, depending on available arrangements.

Real estate observers believe the Rent Now, Pay Later model could make renting more manageable for residents and improve affordability in a fast-moving property market. They say flexible rent payment systems can also support tenant stability, improve landlord collections and modernise Dubai’s rental sector. If implemented effectively, the service may become an important step in making housing payments more convenient and predictable for eligible tenants.

Dubai Opens 700-Metre Al Qudra Bridge, Cuts Wait From 7 to 1 Minute

The 700-metre, four-lane bridge is expected to ease traffic flow and reduce waiting time at a key intersection.

(International Desk) Dubai: The Roads and Transport Authority has opened a new 700-metre, four-lane bridge at the intersection of Al Qudra Road and Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street, marking another step in Dubai’s ongoing road infrastructure expansion. According to RTA, the bridge can accommodate around 6,000 vehicles per hour and will improve traffic movement towards Al Qudra City. The project is part of a wider intersection upgrade designed to increase capacity and reduce congestion on one of the emirate’s important mobility corridors.

The wider Al Qudra Road development aims to cut journey time along the upgraded corridor from 9.4 minutes to 2.8 minutes. Additional ramp bridges are scheduled to open during the fourth quarter of 2026, further improving connections towards Jebel Ali, Downtown Dubai and Dubai International Airport. Transport observers believe the project can support smoother mobility, reduce delays and strengthen Dubai’s urban connectivity.

Officials said the broader upgrade will raise total intersection capacity from 7,800 to 19,400 vehicles per hour. Average waiting time is also expected to drop by around 85 percent, from nearly seven minutes to about one minute, improving daily travel for motorists. Experts say the new bridge will be especially useful for residents, visitors and businesses linked with Al Qudra City and nearby development areas. They believe faster traffic movement can improve access to residential communities, tourism spots and major business districts. If the remaining ramp bridges open on schedule, the upgraded corridor can further reduce congestion and support Dubai’s long-term transport planning.



The project may also improve access for daily commuters using routes linked with Al Qudra Road. Better traffic flow can reduce fuel waste, travel stress and delays during peak hours. Transport experts say such upgrades support Dubai’s goal of faster and more efficient urban mobility.

Pakistan cement industry's capacity utilisation rises to 64pc in July

Domestic demand improved in July 2026, while exports declined despite higher overall cement dispatches.

Karachi: (Staff Reporter) : Pakistan's cement industry recorded 64 percent overall capacity utilisation in July 2026, supported by improving domestic demand and higher construction activity, according to Arif Habib Limited research based on industry data. Total cement dispatches increased 6 percent year-on-year to 4.48 million tonnes during the month. Local dispatches showed stronger performance, rising 17 percent to 3.78 million tonnes, reflecting better demand from domestic construction and infrastructure-related activity.

Export dispatches, however, declined nearly 30 percent to 0.71 million tonnes. The decline indicates that external demand remained under pressure, even as local market activity helped support overall industry performance.

AHL's detailed August 5 research report placed capacity utilisation at 55 percent in the North and 95 percent in the South, showing a sharp regional difference in plant operations. The brokerage expects cement dispatches to grow around 7 to 8 percent during FY2027. Industry observers believe the outlook will depend on domestic construction trends, economic stability, public development spending and export demand. They say sustained recovery in construction can support cement sales, but cost pressures and weak exports may continue to affect sector performance.



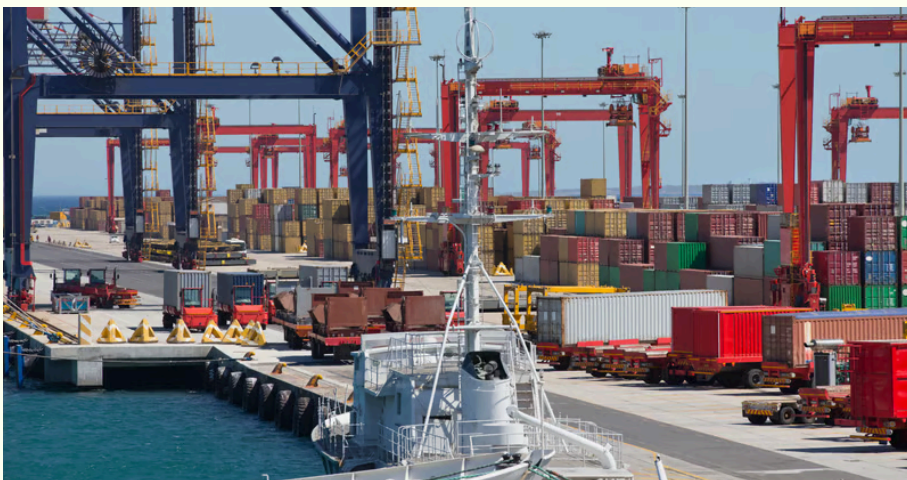
FBR announces sharp tax cuts, offering major relief to exporters

Officials said the government is considering additional relief in super tax and sales tax to support business activity.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): FBR Member for Strategic Transformation Dr. Hamid Ateeq Sarwar told a Senate Finance Committee subcommittee that the government is considering further reductions in the tax burden on businesses, including possible additional relief in super tax and sales tax.

FBR officials informed the committee that tax collected on export proceeds has already been reduced from 2 percent to 1.25 percent. The reduction is also reflected in the federal government's 2026-27 tax measures, aimed at easing pressure on exporters and supporting business competitiveness.

Officials further told the committee that around Rs361 billion in tax relief had been provided since 2025. This included relief for salaried taxpayers and changes to super tax, reflecting the government's attempt to balance revenue needs with economic activity and taxpayer facilitation.



The meeting also reviewed steps taken to address concerns of exporters, including the establishment of exporter facilitation committees in six major cities. Business observers believe further tax relief can support industrial confidence, improve export competitiveness and encourage formal economic activity. However, they say any relief measures must be backed by better documentation, wider tax compliance and a sustainable revenue strategy.

Pakistan receives Qatari LNG cargo after diversion from Strait of Hormuz

The LNG vessel Al Areesh arrived after facing disruption linked to tensions around the Strait of Hormuz.



Karachi: (Staff Reporter): Pakistan received a Qatari LNG cargo at Port Qasim on August 10, 2026, after the vessel Al Areesh faced disruption linked to tensions around the Strait of Hormuz. According to Port Qasim Authority's official shipping record, Al Areesh arrived at 11:30am with a manifest quantity of approximately 141,537 cubic metres of LNG. The vessel was scheduled to berth at the Pakistan GasPort terminal for unloading.

Arab News, citing a Port Qasim Authority spokesperson, reported that the QatarEnergy-controlled tanker had exited the Strait of Hormuz on July 30 but was diverted on July 31 amid heightened regional tensions. The development highlights how security concerns around major maritime routes can affect energy shipments and delivery schedules. The cargo was supplied under Pakistan's government-to-government LNG arrangement with Qatar and will provide additional supply for the country's gas and energy requirements. Energy sector observers believe timely LNG arrivals are important for maintaining fuel availability, supporting power generation and managing industrial and household gas demand. They say disruptions in key shipping routes can increase pressure on energy planning, making supply coordination and maritime monitoring essential for Pakistan.

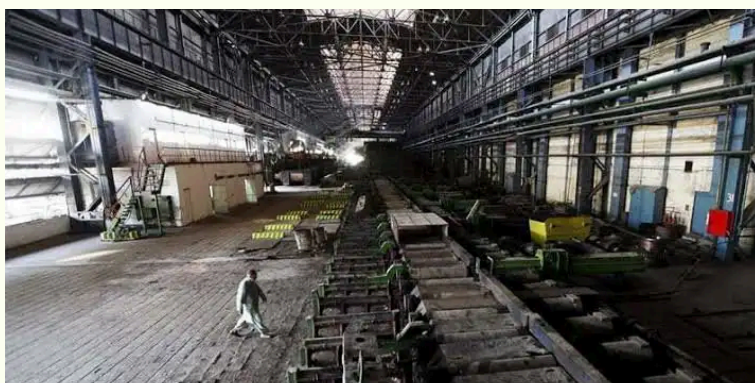
Federal govt moves to revive Pakistan Steel Mills, halt liquidation

Work is continuing with a Russian firm on restoration, modernisation, restructuring and feasibility assessment of the industrial unit.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): The Federal Government has moved toward reviving Pakistan Steel Mills instead of proceeding with its earlier liquidation plan, as work continues with Russian firm Industrial Engineering LLC on restoration, modernisation and restructuring of the industrial unit.

According to the available details, two protocols have been signed with the Russian company. The first covers revival and modernisation of Pakistan Steel Mills, while the second focuses on calculating operational and capital expenditure requirements for the proposed restoration plan.

An assessment of production costs and market feasibility has also been undertaken to support the next stage of decision-making. Officials are reviewing financial, technical and operational requirements before moving toward a practical implementation framework.



The Ministry of Industries and Production earlier confirmed that a comprehensive strategic, financial and operational roadmap had been finalised, while five companies had shown interest in the revival process. Pakistan and Russia have also discussed 2027 as the targeted start for the construction phase, subject to completion of the required EPC arrangements. Industrial observers believe revival of Pakistan Steel Mills could support local manufacturing, reduce import dependence and create jobs if implemented through a transparent and commercially viable plan.



NADRA rolls out ATM-style kiosks to reduce queues for CNIC services

The ATM-style machines aim to speed up routine CNIC and Family Registration Certificate services while reducing queues.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): The National Database and Registration Authority has rolled out self-service kiosks at registration centres to make routine identity services faster and reduce queues for citizens. The ATM-style machines allow applicants to verify their identity, select eligible services through a touchscreen and complete selected CNIC and Family Registration Certificate processes with less staff assistance. Officials said the automated system is designed to improve service delivery and reduce waiting time at busy registration centres.

NADRA spokesperson Syed Shabahat Ali said around 65 to 70 percent of citizens could potentially complete their required services through these automated facilities. The move is expected to ease pressure on registration counters and allow staff to focus on more complex cases requiring manual support.

The initiative follows NADRA's earlier plans to expand automated identity services beyond conventional counters as part of its wider digital service-delivery programme. NADRA's official platform also confirms that CNIC and FRC remain among its core citizen identity services. Public service observers believe the kiosks can improve convenience, transparency and efficiency if citizens are properly guided and the machines remain functional during peak hours.



Port Qasim plans 150-acre automotive processing zone

The proposed AIRE Park will bring vehicle imports, refurbishment, display and re-export activities under one integrated facility.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry has announced plans to establish a 150-acre automotive processing zone at Port Qasim, Karachi, aimed at strengthening Pakistan's vehicle trade and logistics capacity. The proposed Import-Refurbishment-Export Park, known as AIRE Park, will bring vehicle imports, refurbishment, display and re-export activities under one integrated facility. Officials said the project is designed to create a more organized system for handling automotive-related commercial operations near the port..

According to the plan, the zone will contain 264 operational units. These include 84 refurbishment workshops, 60 car display units, 70 auto spare-parts units, 30 commercial units and 20 machinery yards, providing space for different businesses linked with the automotive supply chain. The facility will be developed in phases and will have direct access to Port Qasim, potentially reducing inland logistics requirements and improving handling efficiency. Project proponents estimate annual exports of around \$500 million and a net foreign exchange surplus of about \$200 million once the facility becomes operational. Trade observers believe the project can support exports, create jobs and attract investment if implemented transparently with strong operational planning.



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GOVERNMENT POLICIES

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb reviews progress on Rs220.68bn PM housing loan scheme

The Access to Finance Steering Committee reviewed housing loan progress, digitised property records and mortgage lending reforms.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb chaired the second meeting of the Access to Finance Steering Committee to review progress under the Prime Minister's Access to Finance Plan 2026–2028..

According to the Finance Division, banks have approved more than Rs220.68 billion in loans under the Wazir-e-Azam Apna Ghar Program – Ghar Ho To Apna. Around Rs34.27 billion had been disbursed up to July, reflecting ongoing efforts to expand formal housing finance for eligible citizens.

The committee also reviewed measures to strengthen mortgage-based lending through digitised land and property records. Officials discussed title-document verification, clearer property-verification procedures and improved systems to reduce risks in housing finance.

The meeting further focused on greater engagement with developers to make housing finance more accessible and properly documented. Housing sector observers believe reliable land records and transparent verification can improve confidence among banks, buyers and developers. They say stronger access to formal loans can support home ownership, construction activity and real estate market stability if lending remains affordable and procedures are made easier for applicants.



Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz says Lahore Metro Bus service remains operational

The chief minister's official account rejected misleading claims as operations continued after talks between VEDA and PMA.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif's official social media account has said the Lahore Metro Bus service continues to operate without disruption, rejecting circulating claims about the public transport facility as misleading.

However, the threatened shutdown was later put on hold after renewed talks between VEDA and PMA. The 27-kilometre Metro Bus route was reported operating on its regular schedule on August 11, providing relief to passengers using the corridor for work, education and daily travel.



The statement came after an earlier notice from private operator VEDA warned that Metro Bus operations could be suspended from August 11 due to an unresolved fuel-supply and financial dispute with the Punjab Mass Transit Authority.

Officials and transport observers believe continued operation of the Metro Bus is important for public convenience and urban mobility in Lahore. However, negotiations over the underlying fuel arrangement were still continuing, with no permanent settlement publicly confirmed at the time of reporting. They say a timely resolution is necessary to avoid future uncertainty and maintain commuter confidence.

Punjab Food Authority continues star-rating programme for restaurants

The programme assesses restaurants on food quality, hygiene, safety, service and overall audit performance.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): The Punjab Food Authority continues to operate its Star Rating Programme for restaurants and eateries, assessing establishments on food quality, hygiene and safety standards to help consumers make more informed dining choices.

According to the authority's official programme page, the system is designed in line with international standards and aims to improve transparency in the food sector. The rating mechanism allows citizens to better understand the hygiene and safety performance of restaurants before choosing where to eat.



PFA's official Star Rating application evaluates restaurants on several factors, including food safety, cleanliness, management, service, washrooms, appearance and audit performance. The app was updated in July 2026, showing that the authority continues to maintain and improve the digital system.

Importantly, the Star Rating Programme is not an entirely new initiative. PFA first launched it as a pilot in January 2022, initially targeting 250 restaurants in major Punjab cities. Food safety observers believe the programme can improve restaurant accountability if ratings are updated regularly, inspections remain transparent and consumers actively use the system before dining.

Federal cabinet approves National Housing Policy 2026 with action plan

The policy promotes affordable housing, vertical development, better land use, housing finance and climate-resilient construction.

Islamabad : (Staff Reporter): The Federal Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, has approved the National Housing Policy 2026 along with its implementation action plan, giving Pakistan its first updated national housing framework since 2001.

The policy focuses on affordable and sustainable housing, better land utilisation, housing finance, modern construction technologies, low-income and rural housing, and climate-resilient development. Officials said the framework is aimed at addressing Pakistan's growing housing needs through coordinated planning and improved policy direction.

Authorities have also been directed to ensure compliance with zoning regulations and prioritize vertical development where appropriate. The policy further calls for incorporating energy-efficiency standards into future housing projects to support sustainable urban growth and reduce long-term environmental pressure.



Separately, official Finance Division data shows banks have approved over Rs220.68 billion under the Wazir-e-Azam Apna Ghar Programme, while around Rs34.27 billion had been disbursed up to July 2026. Housing sector observers believe the new policy can support home ownership, construction activity and planned urban development if implemented through clear regulations, transparent financing and strong coordination between federal and provincial institutions.

Experts say the National Housing Policy 2026 can become more effective if it is linked with practical reforms at city and district levels. Clear land records, transparent approval systems and easier mortgage access will be important for both developers and homebuyers. The focus on vertical development can help reduce pressure on agricultural land and improve urban planning. Energy-efficient construction may also lower long-term utility costs for residents. Observers believe rural and low-income housing should remain a major priority to ensure wider public benefit. They say regular monitoring will be necessary to track progress under the implementation action plan. If applied consistently, the policy can help create safer, affordable and more sustainable housing across Pakistan.



Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz brings 43 cities under Safe City network

The digital system connects Safe City facilities across 41 districts and two tehsils, covering 43 cities.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter):

Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif digitally inaugurated the Punjab Integrated Safe City Network, connecting Safe City facilities across 41 districts and two tehsils, covering a total of 43 cities.

Punjab Safe Cities Authority Managing Director Ahsan Younis said the integrated system combines artificial intelligence, intelligent surveillance, Emergency 15, traffic management, real-time command and control, and predictive policing. Officials said the network is designed to improve public safety, emergency response and digital monitoring across the province.

The chief minister said the entire province could now be monitored through an integrated digital system. She also announced plans to extend Safe Smart Cities to every tehsil and union council, aiming to expand technology-based policing beyond major urban centres.

Referring to the riverine belt, Maryam Nawaz claimed that more than 70 areas had once been considered no-go zones but that no such area now remained, including Katcha. She also cited a recently organised cricket tournament there as evidence of improved security conditions. Security observers believe the integrated network can strengthen policing, traffic management and emergency response if technology, field coordination and data systems are maintained effectively.



Gilgit-Baltistan plans disaster-resilient housing component

The chief minister directed officials to include resilient housing in a Rs16 billion climate project for calamity-prone areas.

Gilgit: Staff Reporter): Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Amjad Hussain Advocate has said that 200 houses are currently being constructed for families affected by natural disasters with support from the Sindh government.

He made the remarks during a Planning and Development Department briefing on a separate Rs16 billion Climate Resilience Project, which is being prepared with support from international development partners. The broader project includes climate-resilient infrastructure, safe drinking water, sewerage systems and easier-access loan schemes.



During the briefing, the chief minister directed officials to add a disaster-resilient housing component to the project. He said reconstruction should be prioritized in calamity-prone areas where families remain vulnerable to floods, landslides and other climate-related disasters. Experts say disaster-resilient housing is especially important in mountainous areas where floods and landslides can repeatedly damage homes. They believe safer construction designs, proper site selection and climate-focused planning can reduce future displacement.

Amjad Hussain Advocate also noted that a housing colony had previously been established in Bubar for flood-affected families with federal government assistance. Development observers believe resilient housing can reduce future losses, protect vulnerable families and improve community safety in disaster-prone regions. They say climate-focused planning, durable construction and timely funding will be essential for long-term protection in Gilgit-Baltistan. Access to clean water, sewerage and small loans can also help affected families rebuild their lives with dignity. The project may become more effective if local communities are included in planning and monitoring. Strong coordination with development partners will be necessary to complete the work on time.

METRO POLITAN

CDA gives 199 illegal Islamabad housing societies chance to seek legalisation

Societies seeking regularisation will have to meet legal requirements, remove violations and address planning deficiencies.



Islamabad: (Staff Reporter):

Islamabad: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has said that 199 illegal housing societies in Islamabad will be given an opportunity to enter the Capital Development Authority's regulatory framework before enforcement action is taken.

According to Naqvi, CDA teams are examining these housing schemes individually to assess their legal status, planning issues and compliance gaps. Societies seeking regularisation will have to fulfil legal and planning requirements, remove violations and address deficiencies before any approval process can move forward.

Officials said the process is aimed at bringing unauthorized housing schemes under proper regulation while protecting public interest. The minister also made clear that penalties and other enforcement action could follow where rules are not met or violations continue.

CDA's official regulations state that private housing schemes require approval of their layout plan followed by a No Objection Certificate before development and sale of plots can legally begin. Urban planning observers believe the proposed process offers a route toward compliance, not automatic legal status for all 199 societies. They say transparent scrutiny, strict planning standards and clear public information will be essential to protect buyers and improve Islamabad's housing sector governance.





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 BAHRIA TOWN LAHORE

CDA warns Bahria Town buyers as construction on open spaces declared illegal

The warning concerns land reserved as open space in the approved layout plan, not the entire Bahria Town scheme.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): The Capital Development Authority has issued a public-awareness warning over a building or structure constructed on land designated as "Open Space" in the approved layout plan of Bahria Town Phase II, III, V and VI in Zone-5, Islamabad.

According to the notice circulating at the site, construction, allotment or transfer of property on land reserved as open space is illegal under the approved planning framework. The warning is aimed at informing the public about the status of the specific land and preventing further illegal transactions or development.

CDA's official records show that Bahria Town Phase II, III, V and VI has an approved layout plan and an issued No Objection Certificate. This means the warning does not declare the entire Bahria Town scheme illegal; it concerns land or structures that conflict with the approved layout plan. Urban planning observers believe such warnings are important for protecting buyers and maintaining planned development standards. CDA regulations and previous official decisions state that parks, open spaces and public amenity sites cannot be converted into residential or commercial property without lawful approval. They say strict enforcement is necessary to preserve public spaces, prevent misuse of approved layouts and maintain confidence in Islamabad's housing regulation system.



ParkView City Lahore offers ready-to-possess 5-marla plots in Topaz Block

The possession-ready plots in Topaz Block allow buyers to move towards construction without waiting for a future phase.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): ParkView City Lahore has announced the availability of 5 Marla ready-to-possession residential plots in its Topaz Block, giving buyers an opportunity to move towards construction without waiting for a future possession phase. The offer has been promoted through ParkView City Lahore's official social media channels, which specifically identify Topaz Block and confirm the availability of 5 Marla possession-ready plots. Such options are often important for buyers who want quicker construction planning and a more immediate path toward home development.

According to the project's official information, ParkView City Lahore is located around three kilometres from Thokar Niaz Baig on Main Multan Road. The developer markets Topaz Block as a developed residential area aimed at buyers seeking an established community environment. Real estate observers believe possession-ready plots can attract end-users and investors looking for clearer development timelines. However, they say promotional claims regarding luxury lifestyle, future price appreciation or guaranteed investment returns should be assessed carefully. Buyers are advised to verify possession status, development charges, transfer rules and all legal documentation before making any property decision.



Experts say buyers should also compare the offered plot price with nearby developed blocks and review the society's approved layout details before booking. They believe possession-ready property can be useful for quick construction, but decisions should still be based on legal verification, payment clarity and realistic market assessment. Market observers say the availability of ready-to-possession plots may also increase activity in Topaz Block if buyers find the location, access and development status suitable. They add that clear possession timelines, transparent documentation and visible on-ground development can play an important role in building buyer confidence.

Royal Swiss City Lahore offers plots on four-year instalment plan

The project is offering 3.5-Marla and 5-Marla residential plot options under a four-year payment plan.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Royal Swiss City is marketing residential plots through a four-year installment plan, with current promotional material listing 3.5-Marla and 5-Marla options for prospective buyers. Recent market listings place the total advertised price at around Rs1.85 million for 3.5 Marla and Rs2.5 million for 5 Marla. Payments are being promoted over 48 months under the advertised plan, making the project attractive for buyers looking for smaller residential plots with staged payments.

According to the Ravi Urban Development Authority's official record, Royal Swiss is located on Lahore Jaranwala Road, Mouza Tariddewala, Tehsil Sharaqpur, District Sheikhupura. The project covers 800 kanals, placing it within an area where several housing and development activities are being marketed to buyers. Importantly, RUDA records the project's regulatory status as Provisional Planning Permission Granted, with soft launching allowed. The official page does not list it under Final Sanction on this record. Real estate observers say buyers should understand that PPP status is different from final approval, and they should verify legal documents, payment terms, development timelines and possession details before making any booking decision.



Peshawar revitalisation plan speeds up Palosi flyover construction under KP govt supervision

The project aims to reduce congestion, improve traffic flow and strengthen connectivity around the Palosi area.

Peshawar: (Staff Reporter): Construction work on the Palosi Flyover is progressing rapidly under the Peshawar Revitalization Plan, aimed at improving urban mobility and easing traffic pressure 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 flyover is part of broader efforts to modernize Peshawar's road infrastructure and provide better travel facilities to citizens.

Once completed, the Palosi Flyover is expected to improve traffic flow in and around the Palosi area. The project can help reduce congestion, shorten travel time and make daily movement smoother for commuters using this important route.

Urban development observers believe the flyover can support better connectivity between residential areas, commercial activity and nearby road networks. They say timely completion, construction quality and effective traffic management will be important for delivering long-term benefits. If implemented properly, the project can contribute to a more organized and efficient urban road network in Peshawar while improving public convenience for daily travellers.





Al-Kabir Developers highlights Al Kabir Orchard's connectivity to GT Road, motorways

The project is being promoted as a connected residential destination near Kala Shah Kaku with access through Golden Interchange.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Al-Kabir Developers is positioning Al Kabir Orchard near Main GT Road, Kala Shah Kaku, as a strategically connected residential destination with access through Golden Interchange. According to the developer, the project offers convenient connectivity to key road networks and transport links. These include Lahore-Islamabad Motorway M2 and Lahore-Sialkot Motorway M11, which can improve access for residents travelling between Lahore, nearby cities and major commercial routes. According to the Ravi Urban Development Authority's official record, Royal Swiss is located on Lahore Jaranwala Road, Mouza Tariddewala, Tehsil Sharaqpur, District Sheikhupura. The project covers 800 kanals, placing it within an area where several housing and development activities are being marketed to buyers. Importantly, RUDA records the project's regulatory status as Provisional Planning Permission Granted, with soft launching allowed.

The developer also highlights access to the airport, metro and bus stations, railway station and other important destinations as part of the project's location advantage. Such connectivity is often considered an important factor for buyers looking at residential convenience and future development potential. Real estate observers believe improved road access can support daily commuting, increase accessibility for residents and strengthen the long-term appeal of a housing project. However, they say buyers should also verify the project's legal status, approved layout, development progress, possession timeline and payment terms before making any investment decision. Strong connectivity can add value, but legal clarity and on-ground development remain equally important for buyer confidence.

FBR adds Islamabad's Sector E-8 to property valuation table

Sector E-8 has been added to the federal valuation table for property-related tax calculations and transaction documentation.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): The Federal Board of Revenue has updated Islamabad's immovable property valuation framework through S.R.O. 1335(I)/2026, adding Sector E-8 to the relevant valuation table for federal tax purposes.

According to secondary reporting on the amendment, the update brings E-8 properties, including certain residential and commercial categories, under the applicable FBR benchmark valuation regime. These benchmark values are used in property-related tax calculations and transaction documentation.

The report further states that the amendment revises the earlier S.R.O. 644(I)/2026 and includes a specific entry for Category C Shops, Class-III Shopping Center, E-8, Naval Headquarters. The inclusion is relevant for property buyers, sellers, owners and investors dealing in transactions within Sector E-8.

Real estate observers believe valuation updates can affect transaction planning, tax assessment and documentation costs in the property market. They say buyers and sellers should review the applicable FBR values before completing any deal to avoid confusion during registration or tax filing. Clear valuation records can also support better documentation and improve transparency in Islamabad's real estate transactions.



WEATHER

Monsoon rains persist across Punjab as PDMA forecasts more showers in next 24 hours

The authority shared its latest rainfall update and advised citizens in vulnerable areas to remain cautious.



Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Punjab's Provincial Disaster Management Authority has shared its rainfall update for the past 24 hours while forecasting further monsoon rainfall across most districts during the next 24 hours. The latest weather situation comes amid an active monsoon pattern affecting Punjab and other upper and central parts of Pakistan. Officials said rain and thundershower activity may continue in several areas, increasing the need for preparedness in low-lying and rain-affected localities.

The Pakistan Meteorological Department has also reported continuing rain and thundershower activity during the current monsoon spell. Such conditions can create risks of urban flooding, water accumulation on roads, traffic disruption and pressure on drainage systems, especially during heavy downpours.

Citizens, particularly those living in vulnerable and low-lying areas, have been advised to remain cautious and follow official weather and emergency updates. Disaster management observers believe timely warnings, active field teams and strong coordination among district administrations, rescue services and civic departments can help reduce public inconvenience. They say people should avoid unnecessary movement during heavy rain and report emergency situations to relevant authorities without delay.



Punjab issues alert as sixth spell of monsoon rains approaches

Rain is expected in most districts from the night of August 16 to August 21, with warnings of urban flooding, landslides and disruption in vulnerable areas.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): The Provincial Disaster Management Authority Punjab has issued a weather alert for the sixth spell of monsoon rains across the province, forecasting widespread rain and thunderstorms in most districts from the night of August 16 until August 21 with occasional gaps. According to the advisory, upper and central parts of Punjab are likely to receive rain, wind and thundershowers, while isolated heavy falls are also expected in several areas. Districts likely to be affected include Rawalpindi, Murree, Galliat, Jhelum, Chakwal, Attock, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Sialkot, Mandi Bahauddin, Lahore, Kasur, Okara, Sheikhpura, Nankana Sahib, Sargodha, Khushab and Mianwali, among others. Rain is also expected in Faisalabad, Jhang, Toba Tek Singh, Layyah, Bhakkar, Sahiwal, Pakpattan, Bahawalnagar, Bahawalpur and Dera Ghazi Khan.

The authority has warned that low-lying areas of Lahore, Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Gujrat and Sialkot may face urban flooding, while landslides are possible in Murree and Galliat during the forecast period. Tourists have been advised to remain cautious and avoid vulnerable routes. PDMA has directed all relevant departments, district administrations and line agencies to remain on alert, ensure drainage clearance, maintain emergency response systems and issue timely public advisories to minimize losses during the active monsoon spell.
